

Welcome to the 86th BBC Active Language Teachers' Newsletter

An especially warm welcome to new members who joined at the SSAT Chinese Network Conference or the CILT Summer/AE conference. I hope you enjoy receiving the newsletter, and will send me feedback, top teaching tips or useful resources as you see fit. Just drop me a line at: susanna.jones@pearson.com.

First of all, some exciting news...our new website is now live! For all those who ever struggled to find the relevant resources for their courses, they are now clearly presented and divided by language. See what else is new by going to: www.bbcactivelanguages.com and clicking on the Teachers' Home.

Susie

Contents

News from BBC Active

New website; *Talk Grammars* published; *The French Experience* and *Sueños World Spanish* offer; *Talk* and *Get By* offer in WH Smith; Summer languages promotion from Amazon.

News from the BBC

Mini *MVL* and brand new teaching tips; fiesta phrases; quick fix for your mobile; languages on TV.

National News

Primary languages missing the mark; language departments closing at UWE; bright students avoiding languages; carrying on with French at 16: a case study; and more...

Events

EUROCALL; European Day of Languages; Japanese day for schools; Links events; the Real2 project.

Resources

Storytelling; Eurovision for you; French resources on the environment; Arabic website; a dictionary of Dutchness; and much more...

Surveys and Competitions

The Mini Books Project needs your help; contributors wanted for the Scottish Language Review; Language blogs; a Russian library for London; and more...

NEWS FROM BBC ACTIVE

Our new website is now live!

Some incredibly exciting news, especially if you're me: our new languages website is now live! Why not bookmark: www.bbcactivelanguages.com today, and go and have a look! For all those of you who ever struggled to find the relevant resources for your BBC Active courses, including for *Talk* or *Talk 2* courses, they are all perfectly presented by language under the 'Free Resources' section of the Teachers' Home page. You can also access PDFs of all the old editions of the newsletter from 20 onwards at:

<http://www.bbcactivelanguages.com/TeachersHome/TeachersClub/Newsletters/tabid/91/Default.aspx>, or send you friends and colleagues the link to join the Club, as they can now sign up online!

The Audible booklets that accompany our *Get By* series are also available to download from the website at:

<http://www.bbcactivelanguages.com/OurProducts/GetBy/tabid/158/Default.aspx>.



Talk Grammars - in the shops in the next few weeks

The *Talk Grammars* caused quite a stir at the CILT Summer conference at the beginning of July, and I am delighted to tell you they will imminently be out there and in the shops! They should be available in all good bookshops (ask your local bookshop to order them in if necessary) or online - you could even buy them through our new website:

<http://www.bbcactivelanguages.com/OurProducts/TalkGrammar/tabid/160/Default.aspx>.

Averaging 269 pages, the *Talk Grammars* are available in French, Italian and Spanish at £7.99 each. They are colourful and engaging with activities and examples to get your students feeling confident, undaunted and keen to learn. Although they form an ideal companion to the Talk and Talk 2s, they can be used alongside any French, Spanish or Italian course.



The French Experience and Sueños World Spanish - special offer to pass on to your students

Our much-loved classic courses have already helped millions learn French and Spanish. To celebrate the *French Experience Tutor's Guide* and the *Sueños World Spanish Instructor's Manual* being made available to download for free from our website, we are offering 25 % off the book and CD packs and 50 % off the activity books of these

courses when you or your students buy through our website!



All you need to do is go to www.pearson-books.com/KR003A. If you pass this URL on to your students, then they will be treated to the same special discount, and can get themselves kitted out for the new term at a bargain price.

This offer applies to:

9780563472612 *The French Experience 1* book and CD pack **£29.57 instead of £39.42**

9780563472575 *The French Experience 1 Activity Book* **£4 instead of £7.99**

9780563519119 *The French Experience 2* book and CD pack **£29.99 instead of £39.99**

9780563472513 *Sueños World Spanish 1* book and CD pack **£29.99 instead of £39.99**

9780563472476 *Sueños World Spanish 1 Activity Book* **£3.50 instead of £6.99**

9780563519140 *Sueños World Spanish 2* book and CD pack **£29.99 instead of £39.99**

The French Experience and *Sueños World Spanish* are both available at beginner and intermediate level. Apart from the *Tutor's Guide* and *Instructor's Manual*, they also have some great free online resources available from the BBC Languages website.

The French Experience comes with the following free resources:

Level 1 - *Tutor's Guide* can be downloaded from:

<http://www.bbcactivelanguages.com/TeachersHome/ResourcesFrench/tabid/96/Default.aspx>

and this page also has links to the relevant TV Transcripts and online activities.

Level 2 - for links to the TV transcripts and online activities for this course, go to:

<http://www.bbcactivelanguages.com/TeachersHome/ResourcesFrench/tabid/96/Default.aspx>.

Sueños World Spanish comes with the following free resources:

Level 1 - *Instructor's Manual* can be downloaded from:

<http://www.bbcactivelanguages.com/TeachersHome/ResourcesSpanish/tabid/97/Default.aspx>

and this page also has links to the relevant TV transcripts and online activities...

...or you can use these courses with the latest interactive resources from BBC Languages, *Ma France* and *Mi Vida Loca*!



£5 off selected *Talk* packs and £2 of selected *Get By* packs in WH Smith
From July-September, WH Smith are offering £5 off on some of our *Talk* packs (includes a book and two audio CDs). This offer includes: *Talk French, Spanish, German, Italian* and *Portuguese*; and *Talk French 2* and *Talk Spanish 2*. This makes all packs £9.99 each.



From the beginning of August, WH Smith are also offering £2 off selected *Get By* packs (includes a book and audio CD). This offer includes: *Get By In French, Spanish, German, Italian, Greek, Portuguese* and *Polish*. It brings all the packs down to £7.99 each.

To find your nearest WH Smith, go to <http://www.whsmith.co.uk/Support/StoreFinder.aspx> or phone 0870 444 6 444 and select option 5. To read more about any of the titles in this offer, visit our website at <http://www.bbcactivelanguages.com>.

BBC Active Summer Languages - up to 50% off with Amazon

Some of our most popular titles are currently in Amazon's summer promotion, offering great savings to you and your students. *Talk, Get By, Get Into, Quickstart* and the *Phrase Book and Dictionaries* are all included in the offer with up to 50% off on some titles.

You can see what's on offer by going to: <http://tiny.cc/biu1n> and clicking on the relevant links for BBC Active, or by going to www.amazon.co.uk and going via the 'Travel & Holiday' section of their book department. Perfect for getting set for next term or getting ready for your Summer holiday!

NEWS FROM BBC

'Those who know nothing of foreign languages, know nothing of their own' - Johann Wolfgang von Goethe.

***New* Mini Mi Vida Loca**

Try the new, shorter videos of this Bafta-winning course with the added bonus of improved quality and full-screen option. Use them as a fast track through the course, to prepare for the full episodes or as revision. Immerse yourself now in this mystery thriller and become a part of the action: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/spanish/mividaloca/mini/>.

Quick Fix phrases for your mobile

Está calor, não acha? If you're heading abroad for your summer holiday don't forget to take your Quick Fix phrases with you - on your phone! Download essential phrases in French, Spanish, German, Italian or Portuguese before you go and access them wherever, and whenever, you want.

For download to your phone: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/mobile/>.

Full list of Quick Fix phrases: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/other/quickfix/>.

Tutors - teaching tips & new Mi Vida Loca in class

Looking for some teaching tips? Start preparing for the new term with our Tutors' pages and check out the new 'Teaching with Mi Vida Loca' section where you can share ideas about how to make the most of our flagship course in your classroom:

Tutors' pages: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/tutors/>.

New Mi Vida Loca section:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/yoursay/mi_vida_loca_tutors.shtml.

***New* Spanish festival phrases**

¡Esta canción está de miedo! With the summer festival season in full swing, improve your street cred and keep your cool while clubbing in Ibiza or impress the locals at fiestas with our new Spanish festival phrases. Test your knowledge of Spanish tomatoes ahead of messy la Tomatina with a quirky quiz.

Spanish festival phrases: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/spanish/quickfix/festival.shtml>.

La Tomatina quiz: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/spanish/tomatina/>.

Languages on TV

Languages programmes on BBC Two's Learning Zone won't return until next year but in the meantime, keep an eye on <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/> for interesting language and culture-related programmes on TV and radio.

NATIONAL NEWS

Primary languages missing target

Almost a fifth of primary schools in England could miss a government target to offer language teaching by next year, a report says: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/8136968.stm>. This could be linked to the scrapping of compulsory languages at GCSE: http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life_and_style/education/article6650995.ece.

Wales found wanting in MFL

Schools in Wales should do more to encourage pupils to learn modern languages, say education inspectors: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/wales/8131193.stm> and: <http://www.tes.co.uk/article.aspx?storycode=6018050>.

Cross-curricular case study: Malaysia

Malaysia has decided to abandon a six-year experiment in using English in state schools to teach maths and science. The plan was intended to produce a new generation of global communicators, but government officials say it has stalled attainment and exposed a dearth of teachers able to deliver classes in English: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/jul/10/malaysia-tefl>.

Bringing language learning to life

Dr Terry Lamb on the importance of recapturing interest in language learning: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/bringing-language-learning-to-life-1738547.html>.

UWE's language classes face axe

The spokesman for the University of the West of England (UWE) said it had received only 39 acceptances for degrees in modern languages. "Low student numbers and the need to provide wide provision has meant UWE has had to subsidise language provision by around £1m annually," he said. It will now stop recruiting for French, Spanish and Chinese half-degrees: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/bristol/8116921.stm>. The BBC follows it up with their report on how low numbers have shut language courses around the UK: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/8124905.stm>.

High-attaining pupils 'shun languages'

A report from Cambridge Assessment claims that the number of high-attaining pupils taking a language at GCSE is falling, and that making them non-compulsory is part of the problem: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/8128426.stm> and http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life_and_style/education/article6608863.ece and <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/britains-top-pupils-are-shunning-language-gcses-1725750.html> and <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/5699715/Foreign-language-GCSEs-fall-to-20-year-low.html>.

'Utter umlaut confusion'

Sacha Baron Cohen's latest film causes major consternation at the Guardian: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2009/jun/29/language-umlauts-marsh>.

German language adds 5,000 words

Around 5,000 new words have been officially added to the German language - many of them from the English-speaking world: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/8163541.stm>.

Jack, 16: why I'm continuing with French

An article from the website for the Diploma in Languages and International Communication,

written by a 16-year-old boy who has decided to keep up his French studies:
http://www.diploma-in-languages.co.uk/index.php/news_intro/3/51.

Swine flu fears stop schools

There are reports that foreign tourists and schools are cancelling their trips to the UK because of fears of swine flu: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/health/swine-flu/5827796/Foreign-schools-cancel-British-trips-due-to-swine-flu.html>.

(Grand)mother tongue

One woman's story of how, after her Polish grandmother died, she did not speak Polish for 40 years...but something changed: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/lifeandstyle/2009/jul/16/first-person-polish-grandmother>.

NI children to have Polish lessons

Primary school pupils in Northern Ireland will be offered lessons in Polish from September: http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/northern_ireland/8154020.stm.

Language diploma students urged to explain personal motive

Teenagers taking the new languages diploma will be asked to write about their personal motivation for learning that language, which could include their holiday plans or a love of a particular country's music: <http://www.tes.co.uk/article.aspx?storycode=6017957>.

Slovaks defiant over language law

Slovakia has dismissed protests by neighbouring Hungary over a new language law which would impose fines for using minority languages: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/8162643.stm>.

Pensioner picks up Spanish degree

An 87-year-old woman has recently graduated from the University of Sheffield with her second languages degree. See what she has to say at: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/8162812.stm>.

EVENTS

EUROCALL 2009

Thanks to Graham Davies and his colleagues, there is now a EUROCALL 2009 conference blog, which includes Twitter and CoverItLive feeds: <http://virtualeurocall09.blogspot.com> and <http://twitter.com/EuroCALLVirtual>.

Information on the EUROCALL 2009 Virtual Strand can be found here: <http://eurocall.webs.upv.es/eurocall2009/vsinfo.php>.

European Day of Languages 2009

The European Day of Languages (EDL) is a time to celebrate the 6,000+ languages spoken in the world, promote understanding, kick-start learning and have multilingual fun!

Everyone can participate and celebrate it on the 26 September (or the Friday 25 September at school). Read more at: www.cilt.org.uk/edl.

and

This year's EAL award winners

Information on the inspirational UK language projects which have won a European Award for Languages 2009 is now available on the CILT website:

www.cilt.org.uk/eal/application/2009/Winners/2009Winners.htm.

If you are involved in a language project which is innovative, effective and replicable, why not apply for an award yourself? Information on how to apply for a European Award for Languages 2010 will be available soon on CILT's website, or email: eal@cilt.org.uk.

Links events

Links South East is planning a wide range of events for the new academic year, including the launch of the Links core training courses:

<http://www.linksintolanguages.ac.uk/events/courses.html>.

Also launching in September is the Linked Up award scheme. The scheme will offer funding

for various development projects, helping to address issues of concern to teachers. For more details, go to: <http://www.linksintolanguages.ac.uk/linkedup/index.html>.

The REAL2 project - 2009/2011

REAL2, co-funded by the European Commission (Lifelong Learning Programme), is led by CIEP, French 'établissement public' for international matters in the field of education, and the Association for Language Learning (ALL), along with a core group of associations. But participation in REAL2 is not just limited to these eight associations.

The first initiative, REAL1, began with a feasibility study in which data was collected from language teachers associations across the EU. 138 associations representing over 150,000 language teachers confirmed their interest in the REAL network, and their support for an umbrella group of the kind REAL proposes. All associations represented were keen to be involved in REAL2, some in an active "second circle" of participants, others in an outer circle where they will receive regular updates on the project's progress and the chance to send in their views, take part in activities and network with similar organisations.

For more information about REAL2, and how to get involved, please go to the website: <http://www.real-association.eu/>.

Japan Conference for Schools

This one-day conference has run annually for a number of years and is organised by the British Council, the Embassy of Japan, the Japan Foundation and the Japan Society. It is funded by the Department for Children, Schools and Families. The Conference will be held at the British Council, 10 Spring Gardens, London SW1A 2BN on Friday 16th October 2009. The Conference is free to attend, and open to all teachers and local authority advisors. It aims to allow them to network and share practical ideas about introducing Japan and Japanese in their schools. It also aims to give experienced schools ideas on taking their Japanese activities further.

This year we are particularly interested in including participants who are thinking about Japanese teaching or developing a link with Japan but who have not yet done so, and those who have not attended the Conference before.

The Japan Foundation will send out further details of the conference programme and application forms in September. In the meantime, to reserve your place on the conference, please email: weili.cai@britishcouncil.org with your name and school name. If you have any queries, please contact Weili Cai on 0207 389 4883 or at the email address above.

RESOURCES

Storytelling resources

The following sites have been recommended on the Linguanet Forum as full of useful resources: <http://www.minimodules.co.uk/> and <http://www.growstorygrow.com/>.

Eurovision for you!

A recent discussion on the MFL Resources forum has unearthed the fabulous idea of some sort of inter-form singing competition (in the target language, naturally), and also the fact that there is a schools' version of Eurovision called 'Schoolovision'. You can read more about it at: <http://schoolovision2009.blogspot.com/>. Mark Purves also directed people to his blog, where he has several posts on singing and language learning: <http://souffler.typepad.com/>.

Fun French news site

This funky French news site is recommended for any age group: <http://www.monjquotidien.com/>.

French resources on the environment

The following site urging people to keep the seas and oceans clean and take care of other aspects of the environment has been recommended as being full of downloadable resources for the classroom: <http://www.surfrider.eu/fr/education/outils-pedagogiques.html>.

MFL Resources Forum

You may have noticed that more and more of the recommended resources in the newsletter are coming from the MFL Resources Forum. The forum is moderated by Helen Myers, and all

you need to join is a valid reason:

Are you struggling to come up with a lesson plan? Need a worksheet? Do you have a good lesson plan or resources which you want to share with others? Join now and let's all cut our lesson planning in half!!

The purpose of this group is for language professionals to share ideas and resources relating to teaching languages in a relaxed, friendly and supportive environment. We have set up Forum Rules so that all mflresources members can get the most out of it. Please remember the rules when posting messages. They are long but they are important. When you join, please introduce yourself to us all so that we know who you are and which languages you teach.

You must be approved by a moderator before you will be able to post. You must also take the time to give an appropriate reason for wanting to join the group or your application will not be approved and you will be asked to apply again. Go to:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/mflresources/> to find out more.

Lola Rennt - a guide for German learners

Die Lola-Seite has been recommended as being a good guide to the film Lola Rennt for German learners. There are exercises, useful links and articles and information about the filming locations: http://german.about.com/library/blloola_start.htm.

New guidance on linking literacy and primary languages

New guidance has recently been published on making links between primary languages and literacy. 'Developing language in the primary school: Literacy and primary languages' (DCSF, 2009) is available as a series of pdf downloads on the National Strategies website is for Primary literacy and language advisers and consultants who are looking to develop mutually supportive language learning skills in children's first and additional languages.

The guidance demonstrates how the objectives in the Primary Framework for literacy align with those in the KS2 Framework for Languages, making explicit the commonalities in language learning strategies in both Frameworks and highlighting teaching and learning strategies that can support their development. Links with the CPD materials in Excellence and enjoyment: learning and teaching for bilingual children in the primary years are also made.

You can access the pdf downloads and related links from here:

<http://www.primarylanguages.org.uk/home/news/news%20articles/literacy%20%20languages%20guidance.aspx>.

Arabic website

The SSAT Arabic Language Consultant has recommended the following site as having 'links to Arabic, Literature, Songs and music, magazines...etc.'. See:

<http://www.assaha.ca/artservics.htm#familyb5>.

Les Quatre Cents Coups - resources

Danièle Bourdais has recommended the following resources for teaching this film:

<http://www.abc-lefrance.com/fiches/400coups.pdf> and

http://www.lesyeuxverts.com/archives/documents/college/400_coups/400_coups.pdf.

Le 14 juillet resources - in time for next year!

Apologies for not getting these resources to you in time for this year's 14 juillet, but they are worth bearing in mind for next year! They have been put together by Sara Vaughan, who posted them on the Linguanet Forum. You can download them here:

<http://sdvaughan.edublogs.org/workshop-resources/>.

A dictionary of Dutchness

The Dutch Language School has flagged this dictionary of everyday Dutch acronyms, expressions, and terminology that might be useful for anyone learning Dutch who already has a good level and would like to supplement their vocabulary with some everyday terminology:

<http://www.dutchnews.nl/dictionary/>.

LanQua

The Language Network for Quality Assurance (LanQua) is developing a toolkit for assuring and enhancing quality in language education. It is producing a European quality benchmark, a series of case studies and a set of recommendations that will be of interest to higher

education learning and teaching staff and quality assurance agencies. See: <http://www.lanqua.eu/index.html> for more details.

The HumBox Project

The HumBox project is part of a wider Open Educational Resources initiative funded by the JISC (Joint Information Systems Committee) and the HEA, to showcase UK Higher Education by encouraging teachers within HE institutions to publish excellent teaching and learning resources openly on the web. The HumBox project focuses on the Humanities and is a collaboration between four Humanities Subject Centres (LLAS, English, History and Philosophical and Religious Studies), and at least twelve different institutions across the country. You can read more at: <http://www.llas.ac.uk/humbox> or explore HumBox itself at: <http://humbox.eprints.org/>.

Les couleurs de l'orchestre

This wonderful site for learning about the orchestra in French has been recommended: <http://www.capcanal.com/couleurs/index.htm>. It names the instruments and has related games and activities.

SURVEYS AND COMPETITIONS

Mini Books Project

Following the extremely successful Mini Books project, which last year won a European Award for Languages, ALL members Carol Hughes and Jane Breen are seeking your help to promote their project world-wide. The project is aimed at promoting reading and writing skills and increasing motivation amongst pupils, whilst also increasing the awareness of language learning amongst the general public.

The mini-books are made from one sheet of A4, on a variety of different topics; and the aim is to make 100,000 mini books by this year's European day of Languages, 26 September 2009. For more information and to get involved, go to: www.kegscommunity.org.uk/languages and follow the link to the World Mini Books Project.

Scottish Languages Review

Issue 19 of the Scottish Languages Review is now available on the Scottish CILT website at: <http://www.strath.ac.uk/scilt/slr/>.

The issue includes the following articles:

James Coleman: Language teaching lessons from the past: a footnote to Robin Adamson's SUFLRP Saga.

Hans-Jan Bosscha: The Competitive Advantages of Language Education and Cultural Knowledge for Graduates.

Dominique Vanneste et al: Languages and aspects of tourism education and training in Flanders.

John Lumsden: Modern Languages and Autism.

Sharon McQuillan: Au Café – A Curriculum for Excellence Project.

If you would like to contribute to a future edition please consult our website or contact the editor, Hannah Doughty: hannah.doughty@strath.ac.uk.

National Curriculum level descriptors

There has been a big consultation on the above that closed on 24 July. Helen Myers has been working hard Helen will be working with ALL Director Linda Parker to coordinate a response on behalf of ALL, with input from ALL members. You can see Helen's page on the consultation at: http://www.all-london.org.uk/level_descriptors_09.htm, and the consultation page at: http://www.qca.org.uk/qca_22260.aspx.

Review of Modern Languages in Higher Education

Professor Worton has now set up three online consultations where individuals and subject associations can give their views. Online Consultation is now available on the following websites:

MFL department questionnaire: <http://opinio.ucl.ac.uk/s?s=6599>.

For subject associations: <http://opinio.ucl.ac.uk/s?s=6631>.

For staff of Institution-Wide Language Programmes: <http://opinio.ucl.ac.uk/s?s=6630>.

Language blogs

Graham Davies has drawn attention to the 'Top 100 Language Blogs' competition. You can vote for Graham's blog or any of the others at: <http://tinyurl.com/kjswty>. The other categories are Language Learning, Language Teaching and Language Professionals.

Russian Library in London

Global Masters are planning to open a Russian Library in London and are conducting research on what sort of library the Russian speaking community would like. If the survey is still open, open (I am currently unaware of the closing date), they would be delighted if you would fill in their questionnaire at:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=MBXPK4BELp9Jd_2b8VuNLrtg_3d_3d.

Otherwise, see: www.globalmasters.co.uk for more details.

Début - undergraduate submissions welcome

Début, the undergraduate journal of Languages, Linguistics and Area Studies, is a new online journal aimed at showcasing scholarship and research carried out by undergraduate students. The first issue will be published in 2010.

They are therefore looking for scholarly papers written by undergraduate students in languages, linguistics and area studies. Papers could be based on dissertations, year abroad projects, class projects or independent research. If you think that your students would be interested in submitting their work, they can go to: www.llas.ac.uk/debut for more information.

What do YOU think?

We want to make this newsletter as useful as possible, so your opinions matter! What would you like to see in the newsletter? If you have any comments or feedback (good or bad!) then please let me know at susanna.jones@pearson.com. It is your newsletter - have your say.

NB You can subscribe at any time - it's absolutely free! If you are reading this newsletter and are NOT yet a member of the BBC Active Language Tutors' Club, then you can contact me at susanna.jones@pearson.com with your full name and educational institution, or sign up online at www.bbcactivelanguages.com.

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