

## **Welcome to the 87th BBC Active Language Teachers' Newsletter**

And welcome back to what will be for many of you the start of another academic year! Hopefully this newsletter will enthuse you with the thrill of a new term, and make all of you still on holiday look forward to starting back ... hopefully!

I'm afraid the newsletter will be taking a break in September, so the next newsletter you receive will be at the end of October. This is because I am on honeymoon for much of September, so I hope you will appreciate that it's for a good reason! However, if you would like tickets to this year's Language Show, you can still email me on: [susanna.jones@pearson.com](mailto:susanna.jones@pearson.com) stating your delivery address and the number of tickets required, and I will endeavour to send them out on my return.

In the meantime I offer you a nice long newsletter full of discounts and ideas for the new year, as well as an interesting perspective from Alwena Lamping on our new *Talk Grammars*. I hope it gets off to a flying start, and will be writing to you all again in October.

Susie

## **Contents**

### **News from BBC Active**

Spread the word; link to us; sample *Talk Grammar* pages; Twitter; more offers on our courses; article from Alwena Lamping on the new *Talk Grammars*.

### **News from BBC**

New *Mi Vida Loca* teaching tips; language howlers; new look *Talk Italian* and *Talk German*; EAL Quick Fix; and more...

### **National News**

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### **Resources**

WordSearchMaker; Chinese bridges animation; recommended Japanese websites; new Languages Work resources; MFLE Spanish podcast; new MFL online learning module; and more...

### **Surveys and Competitions**

UK-German Youth Council; representative needed for ECML workshop; Yomiuri photo contest.

### **Wedding websites of interest**

Explore the customs and vocabulary of weddings all over the world ...

## **NEWS FROM BBC ACTIVE**

### **Help a new colleague this new year**

Do you know someone who would like to receive the Newsletter?

I was approached at the CILT Summer conference by a teacher asking for flyers about the Teachers' Club to distribute to her new intake of language teachers, to help support them in

their new roles. Are you in a similar position? Would you like to offer friends or colleagues the chance to read and possibly contribute to the Newsletter? If so, drop me a line at: [susanna.jones@pearson.com](mailto:susanna.jones@pearson.com) with your address and how many flyers you would like, and I will put them in the post to you. Alternatively, you can direct them to: <http://www.bbcactivelanguages.com/TeachersHome/TeachersClub/tabid/86/Default.aspx> and they can sign up online.

### Why not link to our website?

Now our beautiful new website is up and running, why not add a link to it from your website? It has all the newsletters from issue 20 onwards, a function for signing up to the newsletter online and some great resources to accompany our most popular courses. Just add: [www.bbcactivelanguages.com](http://www.bbcactivelanguages.com) to your list of useful links and spread the word!

### Follow BBC Active on Twitter!

I have taken the plunge and BBC Active languages now has a Twitter account! My tweets will doubtless be few and far between, but if you are on Twitter and fancy receiving the odd tweet about our new publishing, surveys or website updates, then why not follow us? We're on the as BBCActiveLangs: <http://twitter.com/BBCActiveLangs>.



### Spanish - special offer

Our much-loved classic French and Spanish. To and the *Sueños World* to download for free from CD packs and 50% off the students buy through our



### The French Experience and Sueños World to pass on to your students

courses have already helped millions learn celebrate the *French Experience Tutor's Guide Spanish Instructor's Manual* being made available our website, we are offering 25% off the book and activity books for these courses when you or your website!



All you need to do is go to: [www.pearson-books.com/KR003A](http://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 Talk in Waterstone's

From 3 September-7 October Waterstone's are offering £5 off all *Talk* packs. This offer

includes all the (green) level 1 *Talks* (except *Talk Arabic*), and the three new (blue) *Talk 2s*. This means that there will be £5 off: *Talk French, German, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Mandarin Chinese, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish*; and *Talk French 2, Talk Spanish 2 and Talk Italian 2*. The CD packs include the course book and two audio CDs and usually retail for £14.99, so this discount will mean they are only £9.99 per pack.

To find your nearest Waterstone's, go to:

<http://www.waterstones.com/waterstonesweb/displayFindBranch.do>.

#### **£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, which has been extended by another month, 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](http://www.amazon.co.uk) and going via the 'Travel & Holiday' section of their book department.

#### ***Talk Grammars* - an introduction**

Alwena Lamping, *Talk* series editor and renowned MFL champion, has written a brief article about the new *Talk Grammars*, to explain their clear new approach from a language teacher's perspective:

##### **The *Talk Grammars* are here!**

We're delighted to announce the arrival of the *Talk Grammars*, in French, Italian and Spanish. Using the same clear and straightforward approach as *Talk* and *Talk 2*, they complement them perfectly, guiding learners through key linguistic structures in a way that's really easy to follow, even for those with no experience at all of grammar and its terminology. They will also work alongside any other French, Spanish and Italian course; with their colourful and attractive layout they provide remarkable value at only £7.99 for 272 pages for French and Spanish, 264 for Italian.

The *Talk Grammars* offer much more than an ordinary grammar book, with hundreds of useful examples, learning tips and strategies, full tables of commonly-used verbs, consolidation activities to reinforce language patterns, dictionary guidance and systematic references to the most significant differences between the target language and English. Alongside all this there's a parallel focus on vocabulary building, with Word Power pages offering simple but effective strategies for boosting vocabulary.

The *Talk Grammars* should now be available in all good bookshops (ask your local bookshop to order them in if necessary) and online, including our new website:

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

think you'll really like them because, like the rest of the *Talk* series, they take account of feedback, information and advice from experienced tutors, the people who know what learners want and need. Thank you to everyone who has been in touch with us over the years – keep giving us your feedback and do let us know what you think of the *Grammars*.

#### **Sample pages - online**

You might also be interested to see that sample pages from our three new *Talk Grammar*

books are now available to download from the website, so you can see what you are getting!  
Just go to:

<http://www.bbcactivelanguages.com/OurProducts/TalkGrammar/tabid/160/Default.aspx> and have a look at the pages under 'Show Me'.

I am putting an increasing number of sample pages up on our website, so do keep checking if you are interested in exploring the content of any of our books.



## NEWS FROM BBC

'Usage is the best language teacher' - Marcus Fabius Quintilianus.

### **\*New\* Don't Try This Abroad!**

Ever confused your 'kalamari' with 'kalimera' or been flummoxed in la pharmacie? Learn from other peoples' mistakes with these short, entertaining videos highlighting language-related mishaps, faux pas, humiliating blunders'n'howlers and embarrassing moments in a foreign language:

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/yoursay/dont\\_try/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/yoursay/dont_try/).

### **Your Say**

Tati, ton thé t'a-t-il ôté ta toux? Try tongue twisters, pick up learning tips, join a debate on language and identity and find out about other people's experiences of moving abroad:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/yoursay/>

### **Tutors - teaching tips & new *Mi Vida Loca* in class**

Check out teaching tips and the new 'Teaching with *Mi Vida Loca*' section where you can share ideas about how to make the most of our Bafta-winning 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](http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/yoursay/mi_vida_loca_tutors.shtml).

### **European Day of Languages - Quick Fix**

Celebrate the European Day of Languages on 26 September with printable, downloadable Quick Fix phrases in no less than 36 languages!

To listen, print them off or download them to your MP3 player:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/other/quickfix/>.

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

### **\*New look\* *Talk Italian & Talk German***

We've revamped these popular and practical courses for beginners with improved quality videos. The activities will add variety and interest to a lesson, ensuring learners enjoy a stimulating and motivating language learning experience:

*Talk Italian*: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/italian/talk/>.

*Talk German*: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/german/talk/>.

*Talk Italian* Tutor's guide: <http://www.bbcactivelanguages.com/talk/Italian/itintro.htm>.

*Talk German* Tutor's guide: <http://www.bbcactivelanguages.com/talk/German/geintro.htm>.

### **The Oktoberfest Challenge**

Beer, beer, we want more beer ... How much do YOU know about German Bier? Even if you're not going to the famous Munich festival, it runs from 19 September-4 October, giving

you plenty of drinking time to pick up some interesting facts with a quiz (and it'll be better for your head!):

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/german/oktoberfest/>.

### **Les Fêtes des Vendanges**

They've been soaking up the sun all summer long and now it's harvest time for those juicy grapes. Learn about the cultivation of wine and tasting from a Rhône Valley winegrower in *Ma France* and tantalise your tastebuds with a challenging crossword.

*Ma France*: [http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/mafrance/html/wine\\_talk/summary.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/mafrance/html/wine_talk/summary.shtml).

Crossword:

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/news/crossword/flash/index\\_vendanges.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/news/crossword/flash/index_vendanges.shtml).

### **Learning Zone Broadband Class Clips/Languages on TV**

Have you checked out the new Learning Zone Class Clips yet? Simply search the database for useful, rich audio-visual material to use in your classroom. The short videos have been selected to match the curriculum and can be used in a variety of ways.

Learning Zone Broadband Class Clips: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningzone/clips/>.

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**

### **Key milestone for the Diploma in Languages and International Communication**

Latest news: 'The Diploma in Languages and International Communication is an exciting new qualification for students aged 14 to 19, due to be launched in schools and colleges from 2011. It will give students an insight into languages, culture and the wider world. Following research and consultation with a wide range of stakeholders, a final Line of Learning Statement (a description of the learning content, see: <http://www.diploma-in-languages.co.uk/files/1233829880.pdf>) and final Line of Learning Criteria (which are used by Awarding Bodies to develop qualification specifications, see: <http://www.diploma-in-languages.co.uk/files/1239961731.pdf>) were approved and published on 31 July.

'Project Manager David Summers commented, 'We're delighted with progress to this point, and immensely grateful to all those who have contributed. The Diploma Development Partnership, alongside QCDA, DCSF and others, will now focus on working with Awarding Bodies to develop the qualification, and will prepare the ground for consortia to submit proposals in Autumn 2009 to teach this diploma from 2011. Look out for more information for both consortia and Awarding Bodies on the Diploma in Languages and International Communication website in the coming weeks'.'

For more information, go to: <http://www.diploma-in-languages.co.uk/>.

### **British Academy's University Challenge: stop the monoglot**

The British Academy has written to universities across the UK pressing for action to address the rapid decline in foreign language learning. The move was announced by Academy President, Baroness Onora O'Neill, as she stepped down from her presidency following a four-year term. Speaking at the Academy's Annual General Meeting, Baroness O'Neill emphasised the urgent need for universities to 'lead where government policy has failed' by introducing a foreign language requirement for university study. She also criticised the closing of language departments as 'short-sighted'. The letter follows the British Academy's Language Matters report (June 2009) which revealed the effect the fall in modern language learning is having in education, research, and on the wider economy.

The Academy is also contributing to the Review of Modern Foreign Languages Provision by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) – setting clear and practical guidelines for universities to address the crisis through: adopting a wider definition of 'internationalisation' rather than focusing simply on the recruitment of overseas students; ensuring that internationalisation (in its broadest sense) and language learning are at the heart of their strategies; emulating the example set by University College London (UCL), which from 2012 will require students on entry to degree programmes (regardless of



discipline) either to hold a GCSE (or equivalent) in a modern foreign language or to take a language qualification during their degree; and encouraging their students to take time out of their studies to work or study abroad. For more information, or to see a copy of the Language Matters report (June 2009), please visit: <http://www.britac.ac.uk/reports/language-matters/index.cfm>.

### **A Levels**

A fall in those sitting French and German, a rise in those taking Spanish and community languages: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2009/aug/20/a-levels-a-grades-results> and [http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life\\_and\\_style/education/student/article6803049.ece?token=](http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life_and_style/education/student/article6803049.ece?token=null&offset=12&page=2)[ull&offset=12&page=2](http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/crunch-inspires-economics-boom-1775249.html) and <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/crunch-inspires-economics-boom-1775249.html>.

Fewer than a quarter of pupils get good GCSEs in all core subjects:

[http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life\\_and\\_style/education/school\\_league\\_tables/article6807007.ece](http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life_and_style/education/school_league_tables/article6807007.ece).

### **GCSEs**

The annual hand-wringing and finger-pointing gets underway after record GCSE results overall, but a decrease in the number of entrants for French and German:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/8223855.stm>; cohort size partly to blame for dip in numbers, but rises have been seen in Arabic, Bengali and Russian:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2009/aug/27/gcse-results-pass-rate-up>; numbers taking Spanish remain steady:

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/teenagers-score-record-gcse-results-1777868.html>; Christine Blower of the NUT places the blame for decline in MFL take-up squarely with the decision to make languages optional, but there are also reports of disappointing diploma results:

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/teenagers-score-record-gcse-results-1777868.html>; for the Telegraph it's a 'plummet' rather than a 'steady decline':

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/6096650/GCSE-students-awarded-record-results.html>.

### **IB or not IB - the qualifications quandry**

At this time of year, qualification options are being reviewed, and there is evidence of a backlash against the 'sat-nav approach' to learning:

[http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life\\_and\\_style/education/article6808542.ece](http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life_and_style/education/article6808542.ece).

### **Tongue-tied and trapped**

The importance of language learning is highlighted by this story of a British tourist who spent a night trapped in a French town hall after mistakenly thinking she could book a room at the 'hotel de ville': <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/8218069.stm>.

### **The play's the thing**

One writer muses on whether it is possible to enjoy a play performed in a language you do not speak, especially when that language is Polish:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/stage/theatreblog/2009/jul/31/foreign-theatre-festivals>.

### **Esperanto: the power of hope**

As the community of Esperanto speakers prepares to mark the 150th anniversary of its author's birth, the BBC examines its continuing appeal:

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle\\_east/8159082.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle_east/8159082.stm).

### **GCSE oral 'cheats' inquiry**

Three teachers have been suspended over claims they helped pupils with questions in oral GCSE language exams: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/manchester/8193115.stm> and [http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life\\_and\\_style/education/article6790171.ece](http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life_and_style/education/article6790171.ece).

### **Diplomas more expensive than GCSEs or A-Levels**

Schools and colleges are paying more to enter pupils for new qualification, regulator finds: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2009/aug/07/diplomas-more-expensive-gcses-alevels>.

### **All change in Scotland: Spanish overtakes German**

Spanish has overtaken German as the second most popular language in Scottish schools, new figures show: <http://www.strath.ac.uk/scilt/news/#d.en.200326>.

### **What's in a word? Language may shape our thoughts**

The link to this Newsweek article was posted on the Linguanet forum. It suggests that language is not necessarily neutral, and may shape our attitudes to the things we describe: <http://www.newsweek.com/id/205985>.

### **Let's parler Franais**

When Charles Timoney and his wife moved to France 25 years ago, he spoke to the children only in English and Inès only in French. As the kids grew up, they learned to play this system – and get their own way: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/lifeandstyle/2009/aug/15/bilingual-family-french-children>.

### **Back from the dead**

The global cultural body UNESCO has agreed to change its classification of the Manx Gaelic language as "extinct" following protests from the island: [http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/isle\\_of\\_man/8210192.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/isle_of_man/8210192.stm).

### **The importance of Arabic**

The Syrian capital, Damascus, is becoming a popular destination for foreigners who want to learn Arabic. The BBC's Paul Moss, who spent time there earlier this year, was inspired to study hard by his encounters with the city's people: [http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/from\\_our\\_own\\_correspondent/8211446.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/from_our_own_correspondent/8211446.stm).

### **The language of business**

The importance of understanding the cultural conventions of the local recruitment market: <http://careers.guardian.co.uk/careers-blog/working-overseas>.

### **Mobile phone for Welsh speakers**

A mobile phone exclusively for Welsh speakers that enables users to send messages in the language is to be sold for the first time: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/technology/mobile-phones/6022154/Mobile-phone-for-Welsh-speakers-to-go-on-sale.html>.

## **EVENTS**

### **New events page**

I have just built a new events page on our website that carries information on the various language events and conferences I will be attending. I do hope to be able to meet many of you in the coming year! You can see it at: <http://www.bbcactivelanguages.com/TeachersHome/Events/tabid/167/Default.aspx>.

### **The Language Show**

This will be taking place October 30-1 November in the usual location of London Olympia. We should be getting a stack of free tickets to give away as in previous years, so if you would like a free ticket then just drop me a line with your delivery address on: [susanna.jones@pearson.com](mailto:susanna.jones@pearson.com). I will send out the tickets on my return from honeymoon! Remember, you can ask for multiple tickets if you want to take colleagues/partners/your entire class along with you. In the meantime, read about The Language Show at: <http://www.thelanguageshow.co.uk/>.

### **London Greek Film Festival**

The 2nd London Greek Film Festival will be held 30 October-1 November 2009 at the Hellenic Centre in Marylebone. The festival 'leads us to discover and explore the idea of globalisation through a Hellenic glance', and includes a large number of UK premieres of Greek films. Read more about the festival, the venue and the films on offer at: <http://www.londongreekfilmfestival.com/>.

### **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](http://www.cilt.org.uk/edl).

### **Routes Into Languages regional events**

There are a whole raft of regional events coming up over the next few months, courtesy of the Routes Into Languages centres. Have a look at the full list here:

<http://www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk/national/news/ebulletin/912>.

### **5th London Spanish Film Festival**

18 September-3 October 2009, at Ciné Lumière: a selection of some of the best Spanish films from last year. 'The line-up includes Fesser's controversial Camino, the big winner at the last Goya Awards and the last film directed by Agustín Díaz Yanes, Sólo quiero caminar, a director who we know, and welcome back for his successful feature Alatriste. As usual, we've also paid special attention to films by emerging talents (Un novio para Yasmina, Myna se va, La noche que dejó de llover). Vampir cuadecuc, an avant-garde film made in 1970 by producer and experimental filmmaker Pere Portabella, also features exceptionally in the selection as this film was in fact first shown on Spanish screens in 2008. There are also films from Galicia and the Basque Country, and a small "Catalan Focus" that will culminate with a round table focusing on the theme of "collective memory", something that has haunted Spanish cinema for many years but, more prominently, during the last few years. This year's special feature will be dedicated to one of the most fascinating Spanish actresses, Angela Molina, focusing on a small selection of her long and remarkable career, which spans over 100 films. We have included a special screening of Almodóvar's latest film Los abrazos rotos preceded by his short La concejala antropóloga.

'And finally, to celebrate the festival's fifth year and Spanish cinema as a whole, Pedro Almodóvar has personally selected five films that, in some way, he has found particularly inspirational. You can find more information about the programme online:

[www.londonspanishfilmfestival.com](http://www.londonspanishfilmfestival.com).'

### **14-19 National Conference**

In pursuit of excellence in 14-19 language teaching and learning, the conference will take place on 3 December 2009 at Aston University, Birmingham. Go online to read more about this event and to book your place at: [http://www.cilt.org.uk/cpd/14\\_19.htm](http://www.cilt.org.uk/cpd/14_19.htm).

### **Languages Without Borders - closing time**

The Languages Without Borders project has its "closing event" in Berlin this September, 17-19. Read more at: <http://www.goethe.de/ges/spa/prj/sog/enindex.htm>.

### **London Latin American Film Festival - November 09**

The 2009 London Latin American Film Festival is to be held this year 6-15 November. You will eventually be able to read about the films and locations at:

<http://www.latinamericanfilmfestival.com/>.

### **National Primary Languages in Practice Conference**

On 15 September at the Crawford Theatre Complex, Jordanhill Campus, University of Strathclyde, Scottish CILT's annual conference is taking place. Read more at:

[http://www.strath.ac.uk/scilt/events/headline\\_193959\\_en.html](http://www.strath.ac.uk/scilt/events/headline_193959_en.html).

### **The Subject Centre's 5th Annual e-Learning Symposium**

Plan now for the LLAS's annual e-Learning symposium, scheduled for 28-9 January 2010.



Registrations will be open from September, but you can already read about it here:  
<http://www.llas.ac.uk/events/3251>.

### **TBLT 2009: Lancaster**

'Tasks: context, purpose and use', the 3rd Biennial International Conference on Task-Based Language Teaching, takes place 13-16 September 2009. You can read about the conference, the organisation and the surrounding area at:  
<http://www.lancs.ac.uk/fass/events/tblt2009/index.htm>.

## **RESOURCES**

### **New websites recommended by Japan Foundation London**

Here are some relatively new websites from The Japan Forum, which you may find useful for your Japanese lessons. Best of all, they are available in both English and Japanese! Click Japan: <http://www.tjf.or.jp/clicknippon/en/index.html>, includes these sections: Culture and People of Japan; Class Ideas for Japanese Language Study. High School Students' Photo Gallery: [http://www.tjf.or.jp/photogallery/index\\_e.html](http://www.tjf.or.jp/photogallery/index_e.html), features the daily lives and interests of Japanese high school students, using photographs taken by the students themselves.

### **Hours of fun with WordSearchMaker**

Joe Dale has been blogging like crazy over the last few days, and one of his posts includes a link to a website that lets you make your own wordsearches. Truly brilliant:  
<http://www.wordsearchmaker.net/>.

### **MFLE Spanish podcast**

The Modern Foreign Languages Environment has a series of 17 short movies on what it means to be Latino in modern America, available in intermediate and advanced. Download them from: <http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/mfle/mflblogsandpodcast/podcast/index.asp>.

### **New MFL online learning module**

A new online learning module to encourage creativity in language lessons is now available on the National Strategies area of the Standards Site. It aims to help teachers develop a clear understanding of what "creativity" means in the context of KS3 and to plan lessons with a more creative content. You can find within it examples of best practice, ideas and activities, video clips, comments and suggestions: <http://nationalstrategies.standards.dcsf.gov.uk/mfl>.

### **Social media and languages**

A page on resources linked to learning languages using various types of social media. This page has been 'sandboxed' following the demise of the DIUS, so looks pretty unattractive, but the links still seem to be working (at the moment at least):  
<http://sandbox.dius.gov.uk/code/demo/bookmarklist/?mastertag=socialmedia&tag=languages>.

### **Chinese bridges animation**

I came across this animation on the Confucius Institute Online. It focuses on the Chinese cultural fascination with bridges, and also has links to other pages on Chinese culture:  
<http://www.chinese.cn/resources/10107>.

### **New resources on Languages Work website**

There are some exciting new classroom resources on our Languages Work website, ready for you to download and start using in French, Spanish and German lessons across years 7-11. The resources have been produced in partnership with the Association for Language Learning as part of a TDA funded project to support careers education through subject teaching, and each one comes with a related teacher note. In keeping with Languages Work key messages, the resources aim to raise awareness of how useful languages can be in working life. They cover topics like CV building, job adverts and international brands and products, and will show pupils how important a part languages could play in establishing a successful future. The resources can all be found on the Languages Work website at: <http://www.languageswork.org.uk/>.

### **Primary community languages pages**

You can now access the brand new community languages pages on the CILT primary languages website:

[www.primarylanguages.org.uk/teaching\\_and\\_learning/community\\_languages.aspx](http://www.primarylanguages.org.uk/teaching_and_learning/community_languages.aspx). This new section includes curriculum models and case studies of community languages being taught as part of the KS2 primary languages entitlement, alongside detailed information and advice on classroom practice, enhancing the curriculum, resourcing, forging partnerships and professional development – all the pages are full of practical ideas, guidance, questions to prompt your thinking and links to sources of further support.

### **French songs - Les Voix de Daïa - Ma Famille**

Someone on the MFL Resources Forum has recommended the following link, describing it as classic tunes with contemporary lyrics: [http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x9efrx\\_clip-france-bleu-les-voix-de-daia-m\\_music](http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x9efrx_clip-france-bleu-les-voix-de-daia-m_music).

### **EFL to MFL**

Another person on the MFL Resources forum has recommended the website of an EFL specialist as being full of activities that can be easily adapted for the relevant target language. Have a look at: <http://www.jamiekeddie.com/>.

### **High praise for online Arabic dictionary**

An Arabic teacher has been extolling the virtues of Word Reference's new Arabic-English online dictionary. Make up your own mind at: <http://www.wordreference.com/enar/>.

### **Desktop verb conjugators**

These have been recommended on the MFL Resources Forum as useful resources to have at your fingertips. You can download them for free at: <http://wareseeker.com/download/1.2.-free-spanish-desktop-conjugator-1.0.rar/393272> (Spanish) and: <http://wareseeker.com/download/1.2.-free-spanish-desktop-conjugator-1.0.rar/393272> (French).

## **SURVEYS AND COMPETITIONS**

### **Apply for the UK-German Youth Council 2009-2010 - deadline 10 Sept**

The UK-German Youth Council consists of around 20 selected members from the UK and Germany who are all passionate about the future of UK-German youth relations. They represent and speak on behalf of young people in their country and are essential in helping to shape UK-German youth projects, activities and services offered by UK-German Connection. The Youth Council was established in 2007 and lies at the heart of UK-German Connection's work. You can find out more, including how to apply, at: [http://www.strath.ac.uk/scilt/events/headline\\_198954\\_en.html](http://www.strath.ac.uk/scilt/events/headline_198954_en.html) or [http://www.ukgermanconnection.org/microsites/?location\\_id=783](http://www.ukgermanconnection.org/microsites/?location_id=783).

### **Representative needed for the 6th ECML Workshop**

CILT are currently looking for a delegate to represent the UK in the sixth ECML (European Centre for Modern Languages) workshop, 'Content-based teaching for young learners', which will take place on 5-7 November 2009 in Graz, Austria. It is an opportunity for a high-calibre professional involved in the teaching and learning of modern languages at primary level to reflect upon the development and improvement of primary materials in an international context.

ECML is an international body that supports the implementation of language education policies based on the recommendations of the Council of Europe. It aims to facilitate and stimulate discussion around language learning by inviting language experts, trainers and researchers to participate in workshops around Europe.

As the UK delegate for the Centre, you will get familiar with the project's concept and materials, participate in a reflection on the improvement of materials, be willing to disseminate and to pilot/evaluate the materials/modules, and be willing to report on their experiences and to make suggestions in order to improve the materials. The workshop will be conducted in

French and German with simultaneous translation.

If you are interested in putting yourself forward for the next workshop, please do get in touch. CILT will be choosing the UK delegate, so you will need to write to Alice at [Alice.Moran@cilt.org.uk](mailto:Alice.Moran@cilt.org.uk) to request an application form. This form should be completed and sent back to CILT by 2 September 2009.

You can find out more about the workshop here: <http://eplc.ecml.at>.

### **Yomiuri photo contest**

The Japanese Foundation has flagged this photography contest for any students of Japanese who are also interested in photography, as they may be interested in the Yomiuri Photo Grand Prix. This year, the contest is accepting entries from students outside of Japan. There are some great prizes on offer, including a trip to Japan!

More information can be found at: <http://yomiuri.tjf.or.jp/>. The deadline for applications is November 10. If you have any questions, please contact the organisers directly at: [yfriends@yomiuri.com](mailto:yfriends@yomiuri.com).

### **S-Cool for school?**

The web company S-Cool have some revision resources online for students taking A-level French, GCSE French and GCSE German. They are asking for teachers to have a glance at their resources and report back on what needs to be done to update and improve the material. If you are interested in passing on your comments, the material can be found at [www.s-cool.co.uk](http://www.s-cool.co.uk). Links to the exam subjects are on the left of the page.

Please contact Adam Elgar of The Education Business Partnership West of England, on: [adam.elgar@btinternet.com](mailto:adam.elgar@btinternet.com), if you have any comments.

## **USEFUL LINKS ON WEDDINGS FROM AROUND THE WORLD**

In an act of wilful self-indulgence, this month's themed links are to wedding traditions, customs and vocabulary around the world. I hope you all find them as fascinating as I did!

Wedding traditions around the world - an overview from Cactus:

<http://www.cactuslanguagetraining.com/en/french/view/wedding-traditions-around-the-world>.

A website dedicated to nothing but world wedding traditions:

<http://www.worldweddingtraditions.com/>.

Readers have written in to add their particular slant on their country's wedding customs:

<http://www.topics-mag.com/internatl/weddings/wedding-customs.htm>.

A great website to learn about Chinese wedding vocabulary (for what seems to be an American wedding), with pictures and audio clips to help with pronunciation:

<http://www.nciku.com/theme/detail?catg1ID=13&catg2ID=43>.

A whole website of Chinese articles, exercises and photos based on a Chinese wedding banquet: <http://ml2.hss.cmu.edu/courses/suemei/banquet/banquet.html>. You can read the story behind the website at: <http://www.chinese-outpost.com/learn/the-wedding-banquet.asp>.

This website offers a Syriac-Aramaic picture vocabulary for weddings, although they can also be used for teaching family members more generally: [http://www.beith-morounoye.org/syriac/voc\\_wed.html](http://www.beith-morounoye.org/syriac/voc_wed.html).

A website that encourages learning by podcast offers you the chance to learn wedding vocabulary by listening to a civil marriage ceremony in Paris: <http://www.french-podcasts.com/?p=50>.

The Don Quijote website has an opportunity for some reading comprehension, with an article on Spanish wedding customs that is available to read in both Spanish and English:

<http://www.donquijote.org/culture/spain/customs/wedding.asp>.

A step-by-step guide to weddings in Poland is available here, along with a whole website full of information on Polish culture: <http://www.polishsite.us/lifestyle-and-entertainment/relationships-and-marriage/87-wedding-ceremony-in-poland-step-by-step-guide.html>.

Another useful reading exercise is this article about Russian weddings, available in both Russian and English (or both at the same time, if you prefer). Explore the rest of the website for other Russian language lessons and grammar tips:

<http://www.russianlessons.net/articles/russianweddings.php?lang=english>.

A blog with some interesting proverbs in Thai regarding marriage and relationships ... including when things don't work out: <http://thailanguagehut.com/blog/blog/thai-proverb-about-love-marriage-and-couples-%E0%B8%AA%E0%B8%B3%E0%B8%99%E0%B8%A7%E0%B8%99%E0%B9%84%E0%B8%97%E0%B8%A2/>.

A blog focusing on the language of love and relationships in German: <http://pukkagerman.com/themes/love-phrases-in-german.html>.

For those who also teach ESL, there is a relevant lesson plan at: [http://www.lessonplanspage.com/ESL\\_AdultWeddingCustoms.htm](http://www.lessonplanspage.com/ESL_AdultWeddingCustoms.htm).

**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](mailto: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](mailto:susanna.jones@pearson.com) with your full name and educational institution, or sign up online at [www.bbcactivelanguages.com](http://www.bbcactivelanguages.com).

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