

BBC Active Languages Teachers' Email 99

### **Welcome to the 99<sup>th</sup> BBC Active newsletter**

Welcome to the 99<sup>th</sup> BBC Active Newsletter.

Hello and welcome to all our new members. I hope you all had a good break in the sunshine over Easter and the new term is going well. If you have any comments or feedback on the newsletter, my email address is [jo@jodickie.co.uk](mailto:jo@jodickie.co.uk)

The next newsletter will be sent out in July 2011.

In the meantime, please enjoy this one!

Jo

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#### **News from BBC Active**

Take a look at the great promotions on the BBC Active range

#### **News from the BBC**

Euro tongue in a twist? Try the BBC Languages' Eurovision Quiz!

#### **National News**

Languages course could be scrapped under budget cuts; learning a language can delay dementia; and can you get by with a vocabulary of just 100 words? And more....

#### **Events**

SCILT annual conference, Language World and many more events going on...

#### **Resources**

Wide range of innovative language teaching resources now available on LinkedUp; plus lots more links to free resources...

#### **Surveys and Competitions**

Language learning in UK universities survey; a European survey on languages competences.

#### **News from BBC Active**

Amazon.

Our BBC Active Language Store continues with great discounts on the full range of BBC Active Language product.

[http:// http://amzn.to/j9sXML](http://amzn.to/j9sXML)

Book Depository.

Our Phrasebooks promotion continues with The Book Depository throughout May, again with some great prices.

<http://www.bookdepository.co.uk/dealsAndOffers/promo/id/387>

The Book Depository will also be running a Get By offer in June and July.

W H Smith Retail.

We have a Get By promotion running throughout W H Smith Retail during May and June with up to £3 off a selection of the packs and books.

(NB. Talk Promotion to come July/ Aug, £5 off selected Talk Packs).

## News from the BBC

1. \*New\* A Guide To Chinese2
2. 14 May - Eurovision Tongue Contest
3. Grand Prix Quiz
4. 17 May–5 Jun: The French Open
5. 2. 11-22 May: Cannes Film Festival
6. Languages on TV
7. Learn a language over the summer!

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### 1. \*New\* A Guide To Chinese

What are Chinese characters and how many do you need to read the papers? Find out the answers, discover fascinating facts and get your head around Chinese tongue twisters and jokes with this colourful Guide To Chinese!

A Guide To Chinese: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/chinese/guide/>

Also added recently:

A Guide To Dutch: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/other/dutch/guide/>

A Guide To Japanese: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/japanese/>

A Guide To other languages: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/guide/>

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### 2. 14 May: Eurovision Tongue Contest

"Diggi-loo, diggi-ley?" "La la la"? Don't get your Euro tongues in a twist! Düsseldorf plays host to this year's Eurovision Song Contest. Get in the mood for a night of songs from over 40 European countries with some handy Quick Fix phrases:

Pick up some German phrases: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/german/quickfix/>

Get A Guide to German: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/german/guide/>

Where would Düsseldorf be without its umlaut? Watch a comedy clip:  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/german/comedy/alphabet.shtml>

Learn phrases in other European languages: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/other/quickfix/>

Try a quirky quiz! <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/eurovision/>

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3. Motorheads can get set for a jam-packed month of Grand Prix galore, with the Turkish, Spanish and glamorous Monaco Formula One events all taking place in May:

Get your language into gear with a Grand Prix Quiz!

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/formula1/>

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#### 4. 17 May–5 Jun: The French Open

Un revers ? Un jeu décisif ? Learn essential tennis vocab in time for this year's tournament.

You'll be 'ace' in no time!

'Warm up' and take 'advantage' of these tennis terms and vocab:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/mafrance/html/tennis/>

See if you're 'served' a good hand of cards and 'match' the meanings in the tennis-themed solitaire game: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/mafrance/html/tennis/solitaire.shtml>

Intermediate? 'Let' le mot-croisé (the crossword challenge) test your knowledge of the game!

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/mafrance/html/tennis/crossword\\_green.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/mafrance/html/tennis/crossword_green.shtml)

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#### 5. 11-22 May: Cannes Film Festival

La Palme d'Or est le premier \_ \_ \_ \_ ? du festival. Can't do Cannes? Give a crossword a go and pick up expressions and phrases related to the wonderful world of French cinema:

Try the crossword (for intermediates):

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

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#### 6. Languages on TV

Keep an eye on [bbc.co.uk/languages](http://bbc.co.uk/languages) for interesting language and culture-related programmes on TV and radio.

Have you checked out these clips yet? Search the Learning Zone Clips library for short language videos: [bbc.co.uk/learningzone/clips](http://bbc.co.uk/learningzone/clips)

Have you checked out these clips yet? Search the Learning Zone Clips library for short language videos:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningzone/clips/>

If you'd prefer not to receive newsletters from [bbc.co.uk/languages](http://bbc.co.uk/languages), follow the instructions to unsubscribe on this page:

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

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#### 7. Learn a language over the summer!

Off to France with the family? Sunning yourself in Spain? Or maybe you're doing business in Germany or taking a cultural break in Italy. Time to take your first steps in the language. You can study at your own pace or sign up for weekly email tips to help you learn the basics in just 12 weeks:

French: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/lj/>

Spanish: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/spanish/lj/>

Italian: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/italian/lj/>

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

Email tips: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/steps/>

### **Talk Greek**

If you're going to Greece this summer why not give Greek a go with our online course for beginners - a gentle introduction to basic Greek in 10 short parts? Watch the slideshows and learn useful phrases along with tips on pronunciation and grammar:

Talk Greek: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/greek/talk/>

### **National News**

As the international language of business, the teaching of English has turned into an industry worth £1 billion a year.

<http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/public/roadtorecovery/article615630.ece>

Glasgow University could scrap language courses because of budget cuts.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/higher/glasgow-university-could-scrap-language-courses-because-of-budget-cuts-2270634.html>

Speaking a second language can delay dementia onset for years.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/speaking-a-second-language-can-delay-dementia-onset-for-years-2219280.html>

A long-standing idea that human languages share universal features that are dictated by human brain structure has been cast into doubt.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-13049700>

England's Italian football manager Fabio Capello claims he can manage his players with just 100 words. So how far could you get with a vocabulary of that size?

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-12894638>

Teachers TV disappears but teachers 'rescue' resources

<http://agent4change.net/resources/online-services/905-teachers-tv-disappears-but-teachers-rescue-resources.html>

Teachers TV relaunches as Schools World Education - channel reaches deal with government to continue as free online service despite loss of public funding

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/media/2011/may/04/teachers-tv-relaunches-schoolsworld>

The Cornish Language Partnership says it is facing an uncertain future unless the government approves its bid for funding.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-cornwall-13059389>

The internet slang term "LOL" (laughing out loud) has been added to the Oxford English Dictionary, to the mild dismay of language purists.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-12893416>

University language departments are warning that the increase in tuition fees in England could undermine their ability to recruit students.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-12893629>

A language war has broken out amid the normally placid lakes and mountains of Italy's German-speaking South Tyrol region.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/italy/8473351/Language-wars-in-South-Tyrol.html>

The entire workforce of British company Thermal Ceramics based in France has gone on strike because the boss only speaks English.

<http://www.metro.co.uk/news/861474-french-workers-walkout-in-protest-of-language-barrier-with-english-boss>

A blind girl who is fluent in four languages has become the youngest interpreter to work at the European Parliament – at the age of ten.

<http://www.metro.co.uk/news/860967-blind-ten-year-old-becomes-european-parliaments-youngest-interpreter>

Oxford University mission to save a language spoken by three people

A team of academics from Oxford University have been sent to a remote area of Indonesia in order to save a language spoken by only three people.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/science/science-news/8463840/Oxford-University-mission-to-save-a-language-spoken-by-three-people.html>

Teaching English as a foreign language can lead to a gap-year experience that lasts a lifetime.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/student/study-abroad/teaching-english-as-a-foreign-language-can-lead-to-a-gap-year-experience-that-lasts-a-lifetime-2275693.html>

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## **Events**

Creative Chinese Workshop 22 May 2011

<http://www.ukfcs.info/ukfcs%20eng%20website/english%20main.html>

SCILT Annual Conference 8 June 2011

The Lighthouse, Glasgow

Challenging Mindsets: Breaking down Barriers

<http://www.strath.ac.uk/scilt/events/conferences/>

£9000 a year for what? Languages and area studies under the new fees regime in England  
20<sup>th</sup> May 2011

[http://www.strath.ac.uk/scilt/events/otherevents/headline\\_399489\\_en.html](http://www.strath.ac.uk/scilt/events/otherevents/headline_399489_en.html)

Research Perspectives on Modern Foreign Languages in UK schools 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2011  
[http://www.strath.ac.uk/scilt/events/otherevents/headline\\_389256\\_en.html](http://www.strath.ac.uk/scilt/events/otherevents/headline_389256_en.html)

How to teach linguistics of Modern Foreign Languages 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2011  
[http://www.strath.ac.uk/scilt/events/otherevents/headline\\_363674\\_en.html](http://www.strath.ac.uk/scilt/events/otherevents/headline_363674_en.html)

Taking Languages to the next level 16<sup>th</sup> June 2011  
[http://www.strath.ac.uk/scilt/events/otherevents/headline\\_357076\\_en.html](http://www.strath.ac.uk/scilt/events/otherevents/headline_357076_en.html)

British Chinese Language Teaching Society (BCLTS) Conference 28<sup>th</sup> June – 1<sup>st</sup> July  
[http://www.strath.ac.uk/scilt/events/otherevents/headline\\_406567\\_en.html](http://www.strath.ac.uk/scilt/events/otherevents/headline_406567_en.html)

Language World 8-9 July 2011 Imperial College, London  
[http://www.all-languages.org.uk/events/language\\_world\\_2009/language\\_world\\_2011\\_all\\_together](http://www.all-languages.org.uk/events/language_world_2009/language_world_2011_all_together)

Language College Presentation Day 9th Jun 2011  
[http://www.all-languages.org.uk/events-list/details/read/language\\_college\\_presentation\\_day](http://www.all-languages.org.uk/events-list/details/read/language_college_presentation_day)

'Breeding Better Language Learners' - Training for Teachers of Languages to Adults  
11th Jun 2011  
[http://www.all-languages.org.uk/events-list/details/read/breeding\\_better\\_language\\_learners\\_training\\_for\\_teachers\\_of\\_languages\\_to\\_adults\\_2](http://www.all-languages.org.uk/events-list/details/read/breeding_better_language_learners_training_for_teachers_of_languages_to_adults_2)

Una giornata all' italiana: ALL FOR ITALIAN - ITALIAN FOR ALL 25th Jun 2011  
[http://www.all-languages.org.uk/events-list/details/read/una\\_giornata\\_all\\_italiana\\_all\\_for\\_italian\\_italian\\_for\\_all](http://www.all-languages.org.uk/events-list/details/read/una_giornata_all_italiana_all_for_italian_italian_for_all)

ALL Italian Day 15th Oct 2011  
[http://www.all-languages.org.uk/events-list/details/read/all\\_italian\\_day](http://www.all-languages.org.uk/events-list/details/read/all_italian_day)

## **Resources**

Thanks to forum users for some of the resources listed below.

Free language teaching resources now available from LinkedUp.  
The resource finder makes it easy to access a wide range of innovative teaching materials from the LinkedUp Award Scheme.  
<http://www.linksintolanguages.ac.uk/resources>

10-minute guide to accelerated language learning using phonics for Primary and KS3 teachers  
<http://www.linksintolanguages.ac.uk/resources/1775>

French Key Stage 1 teaching resources  
<http://www.tes.co.uk/ks1-french-primary-teaching-resources/>

Spanish Key Stage 1 teaching resources  
<http://www.tes.co.uk/ks1-spanish-primary-teaching-resources/>

A site for A level students to discover useful German weblinks and join the Deutsch-Klub  
<http://www.goethe.de/ins/gb/lon/prj/asa/enindex.htm>

Resources for German Language teaching  
<http://www.goethe.de/lhr/mat/enindex.htm>

Videos of French speakers - ideal for French GCSE revision  
<http://www.thisislanguange.com/>

A Level French Listening Practice  
<http://french-resources.org/sheet-Eurolab+French+Plus+example/3230?buttons=title,facebook,set,adapt,create#ref=mflres>

A Level French Pronunciation Practice  
<http://french-resources.org/speaking/passe+compose+with+avoir+++etre/sheet-L%27Arabe+Ali%3A+Pronunciation+Practice/3006/?buttons=title,facebook,set,adapt,create#ref=mflres>

A site with audio and video for beginners and advanced learners of French and Spanish  
<http://www.frenchspanishonline.com>

Selection of websites for anyone looking to start teaching Italian

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

<http://www.lifeinitaly.com/flash>

<http://italian.about.com/library/fare/blfare201.htm>

[http://www.iluss.it/verb\\_mach\\_free/index.htm](http://www.iluss.it/verb_mach_free/index.htm)

<http://www.orbilat.com/Languages/Italian/Grammar/>

<http://www.italianculture.net/english/music.html>

[http://www.smartphrase.com/Italian/it\\_money-banks\\_phr.shtml](http://www.smartphrase.com/Italian/it_money-banks_phr.shtml)

<http://www.italianstudies.org/links.htm>

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

## **Surveys and Competitions**

Language study in UK universities 2011

The survey is being organised by the UK Subject Centre for Languages, Linguistics and Area Studies, based at the University of Southampton and is being funded by the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) .

If you are studying a modern foreign language at a university or a College of Higher Education in the UK we would like to hear about your experiences. You might be studying a language at an evening class, a lunchtime course or as an 'extra' option as part of a degree in another subject.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/languages2011>

European Survey on Language Competences

ESLC is a European Commission research project, providing information about foreign language learning in Europe. It assesses the language proficiency of pupils at the end of secondary education in 14 European countries, and allows researchers to collect extensive background information about foreign language teaching, which can be used to make comparisons between participating countries.

[http://www.all-](http://www.all-languages.org.uk/news/news_list/the_european_survey_on_language_competences_eslc)

[languages.org.uk/news/news\\_list/the\\_european\\_survey\\_on\\_language\\_competences\\_eslc](http://www.all-languages.org.uk/news/news_list/the_european_survey_on_language_competences_eslc)