

# Primary Languages Extra Newsletter

## Issue 10 (Special Issue ICT), March 2009

This Newsletter is devoted to guidance for co-ordinators and technicians on what needs to be set up to allow full use of ICT for languages. It has a description of each centrally purchased program, and of a new piece of kit that will help turn each classroom into a talking bilingual environment.

**Please print off four copies, one each for the languages co-ordinator, the headteacher, the ICT co-ordinator and your ICT technician.**

### **Clicker5 + speech engine.**

A single licence has been purchased for each school, plus a speech engine for French and Spanish. If you have not yet had a copy, please ask me. *Only fifteen schools have registered their copy with Crick. If you haven't, please do so now. If you lose the software, replacement disks cost under £20 if you've registered. If you haven't £225.*

To use Clicker 5 on more than one machine, you need to buy an extra licence for each. The cost is usually an extra £25, and is good value, as Clicker is equally good for EAL.

To network Clicker 5 requires a licence for each machine. It is better to install it in class machines, as children will probably not be using it independently.

To install Clicker 5, insert the disk and follow instructions. **To install the speech engine, you need an update disk, available from me.**

Run the update disk **twice**, with the original disk to hand, as the first update will ask you for it. The first run updates Clicker to receive the update. The second installs your speech engine.

You need to check the installation on each computer, as it sometimes hits snags. To do this, launch the program and go to File, then New Grid Set. Click on Sentence Building, repeat, then pick any grid size. If the program then switches to a blank grid the size you've selected, it's properly installed. Keep this grid on screen for the moment.

To check the speech engine installation, click Edit, then Edit mode. Click Speech. A drop down menu will appear, with a flag. Click on the arrow at the side, and scroll down to see if at least one voice has the flag of the country you've installed. If so, the speech engine installation has been successful.

Clicker grids are easy to make. See

### **Little Tails - Beelingua.**

Schools have a site licence for this. A copy has been sent by email with this newsletter. The same licence number applies to all Hackney schools. The Spanish copy loads from one disk, and you go to all sections of the program from the menu.

Sometimes the French version has the Talking Books section on a separate CD. This is installed on the program files. If so, teachers reach it by clicking on computer, then program files, then Beelingua, then Talking Books.

**Zim Zam Zoum.** French only. A straightforward network installation, but

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you need to check that it appears on each machine, as we have sometimes found that it does not.

**Pilote 1 (KETV).** French network version or CD. Spanish CD only. Pilote has been tricky to install on networks, and particularly to reinstall, as you need a new key. Ring KETV on 01304 202827. You can still operate the program from a CD if it does not work on the network.

**Mantra Lingua. NEW.** This is an updated version of a talking pen, which we have previously tried, with some snags. These seem to have been ironed out. The new pen is chunky, and easy to use - touch the spots on the introductory card, listen, and you're away. It can read dozens of books and stories in fifteen languages (adding a new language costs only £2.50). Then you can buy sheets of recording dots and labels (£10 for 234 dots). Touch a dot, record, then put the label on to anything from a door to the page of a book, and it reads it back. You can create a talking classroom - eg record la ventana, put a dot on a window, and it will say the word when touched with a pen. Make your own bilingual books. Read books to children with EAL. Pace the recording to match children's understanding, so that, for example, you could have different versions of a story at different speeds, or different versions of a GCSE text. And so easy to use - this really is the breakthrough.

Following a very enthusiastic reception from teachers who have seen it, The Learning Trust has ordered a recorder pen and a set of recordable dots for each primary school. I will visit to demonstrate. We will order additional resources to meet your needs – for example, Southend LEA found that the start of day poster, at £7.50, helped teachers whose own knowledge of the second language was not confident.

I've started recording the translation of *Not Now Bernard* from the Primary French Toolkit. The pen can be plugged into the normal loudspeakers used in Hackney classrooms for use with whole class. <http://www.mantralingua.com>

**Click to Meet.** This is not new, but is potentially valuable. A hub, operated by the London Grid for Learning, allows us to sign in wherever we are, and meet without leaving our schools. To set this up, each school needs a webcam, and a personal password, which has to be for a named person. I'm told each school has a webcam. To get a password, please email, *with your date of birth* [Stanislav.Drotar@learningtrust.co.uk](mailto:Stanislav.Drotar@learningtrust.co.uk)

It should then be possible for your technician to set up the webcam. We will use it for meetings, and to attend courses in other schools.

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