

# RESOURCES

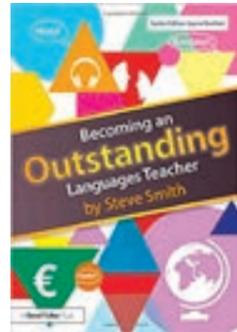
The latest in language support materials  
Compiled by: Karine Harrington, Resources Editor



**Book review**

## BECOMING AN OUTSTANDING LANGUAGES TEACHER

**Words:** David Shanks, ALL Council Member and Harris Federation MFL Consultant



Following on from co-authoring *The Language Teacher Toolkit* (2016), Steve Smith has written another excellent book packed full of practical and easy-to-implement language teaching ideas.

*Becoming an Outstanding Languages Teacher* goes light on explicit discussions of research, opting instead to place the practical 'dissecting a lesson' chapters front and centre. These chapters shine a welcome light on possible teaching sequences, example activities and the minutiae of teacher-student interactions.

Chapters such as 'Running a room', 'Purposeful games', 'Getting grammatical', 'Teaching all abilities' and 'Moving them forwards' help

ensure that Smith's ideas don't sit in abstract isolation and that they are linked to the realities of today's languages classroom. Plentiful tables, boxes and tech tips support each chapter to good illustrative effect, and up-to-date case studies in the final chapter offer some interesting methodologies as food for thought.

In summary, Smith has offered up a veritable smorgasbord of language teaching ideas for us to choose from, free from any methodological dogma. I suggest we enjoy the feast.

**MORE INFORMATION**  
 ● **By:** Steve Smith  
 ● **Price:** £16.99  
 ● **Format:** Paperback, Kindle

**Book review**

## Learning Foreign Languages in Primary School

**Words:** Nadine Chadier, Editor of Francophonie and French teacher at Rhodes Avenue Primary School

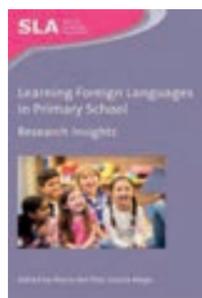
This collection of 12 evidence-based research papers both challenged me and gave me much sought-after food for thought, while making me look differently at my primary pupils' social, linguistic and cognitive

abilities. I was thrilled to explore in more depth a variety of concepts, such as Metalinguistic Language Awareness, CLIL, Intercultural Issues, Narrative Development, Oral Output and Diagnostic Tests, all researched within a primary

context. I would not recommend this as light bedtime reading, but as an essential reference for practitioners who wish to shed some light on key pedagogical questions that they encounter daily in the primary classroom. I

would love to hear from other ALL members how each piece of research can help them within the classroom.

**MORE INFORMATION**  
 ● **Edited by:** Maria del Pilar and Garcia Mayo  
 ● **Web:** www.multilingual-matters.com

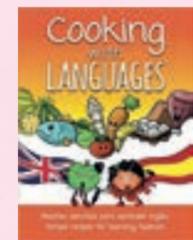


I couldn't find a picture of Evie - could you re-send please

**Book review**

## Cooking with Languages

**Words:** Evie Byng - pupil at Tollerton primary school, Nottinghamshire, and Rachel Byng - parent and language enthusiast



**Evie:** When I had a look through there were so many recipes I wanted to try. I decided on the giant cookies, and we bought lots of chocolate. The recipe was easy to read and I discovered lots of new Spanish words. The cookies were yummy - my friends really liked them.  
**Rachel:** The exercises are engaging and relevant and give children the opportunity to identify new vocabulary through pictures as well as words. Evie was able to follow the instructions independently in English, and I encouraged her to have a go at reading aloud the Spanish equivalent.

**MORE INFORMATION**  
 ● **Format:** Paperback  
 ● **Web:** https://cookingwithlanguages.com

**Sound advice: why phonics should be an integral part of language lessons** Page 26

**Museum review**

## Mundolingua

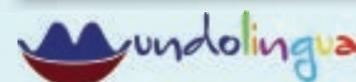
**Words:** Beth Apted, A Level French student at The Ashcombe School

In February 2017, Year 11 and 12 French students from my school went to Paris and visited Mundolingua, an interactive language and linguistics museum. I am a self-confessed Francophile and language nerd but what is really good about Mundolingua is that all the other students, many without much or any interest in linguistics, really enjoyed it too.

There is a choice of viewing the exhibitions and doing the interactive activities independently, or with a guide; our teacher chose a guided bilingual tour for some extra language immersion. During our visit, we played many games, such as giant Scrabble, and competitively guessing languages based on audio clips, and our guide, Laura, had us frantically, and badly, rolling our 'r's in Spanish tongue twisters. She also taught us about many interesting linguistic topics, such as how sign languages work and why Basque is so remarkable.

Afterwards we asked Laura any questions we had (from her animated answer to one of my questions it would appear that L'Académie française is NOT popular amongst French linguists!), and then we were free to wander between the many displays, turning dials, pulling levers and watching videos all about language.

**MORE INFORMATION**  
 ● **Web:** www.mundolingua.org  
 ● **Price:** Adults €7, students and over 65s €3 (€3 supplement per person for a guided tour)



**Book review**

## Talking the Talk French, German, Italian and Spanish

**Words:** Joanna Alexander, The University of Nottingham

*Talking the Talk French, German, Italian and Spanish* are a series of books aimed at helping the learner to feel confident chatting in social situations. Topics covered include getting to know people, lifestyle choices, making plans, sharing opinions and keeping in touch.

Each chapter is clearly laid out with content covering word banks, cognates and 'false friends', grammar points and example conversations. I particularly liked the checkpoint at the end of each chapter to check how much you have remembered.



The books are a really useful size to fit in a bag and take out to revise or swot up while on the go. There is also an audio support pack which you can download from the BBC website. If you want to improve your conversational skills, these guides are for you.

**MORE INFORMATION**  
 ● **Download from:** www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p04ts87g  
 ● **Audio support pack:** www.bbcactivelanguages.com/TTI

**Book review**

## Bon Voyage! A colouring book for lovers of all things French/Spanish

**Words:** Victoria Mitchell, Education Officer, ALL

This is a wonderful addition to the range of mindfulness colouring books, which are still popular with adults and children alike. Each picture contains a French proverb and I really enjoyed discovering some that I didn't previously know - and also thinking of what their English equivalent would be. One of my favourites was 'il faut casser le noyau pour avoir l'amande' (you can't make an omelette without breaking eggs). Students will particularly enjoy the hidden objects in each picture, revealed as you colour.



**MORE INFORMATION**  
 ● **By:** Lizzie Mary Cullen  
 ● **Publisher:** John Murray Learning  
 ● **Price:** £9.99  
 ● **Format:** Paperback

### THANK YOU! MERCI! GRACIAS! DANKE!

After five years as Resources Editor of *Languages Today* and Language Zones, Karine Harrington has decided it is time to pass on the baton. Her suggestions for reviews and her skill in finding reviewers has been invaluable in keeping members up to date. Many thanks, Karine, from everyone at ALL

