

We have thought for a long time that  
using the language of the classroom is  
so important because...

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- because it's spontaneous, you don't initially need materials!!

## **KS3/4 Textbook and examination language examples**

- I clean my teeth at 7.30
- I've got medium length curly hair
- There are not enough rubbish bins in our town
- He is fat
- They are more stubborn than their friends
- I quarrel with X because she criticises me all the time
- My parents are divorced

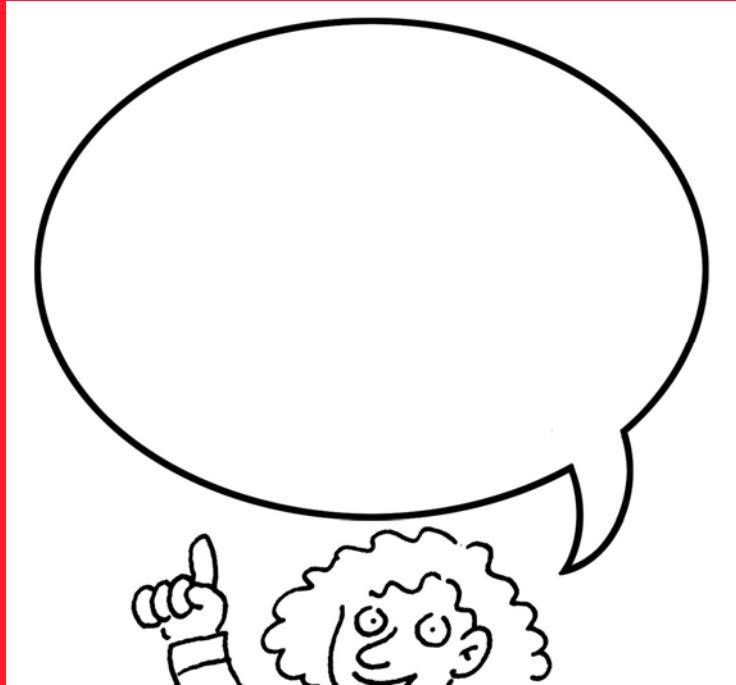
### **Example of questions:**

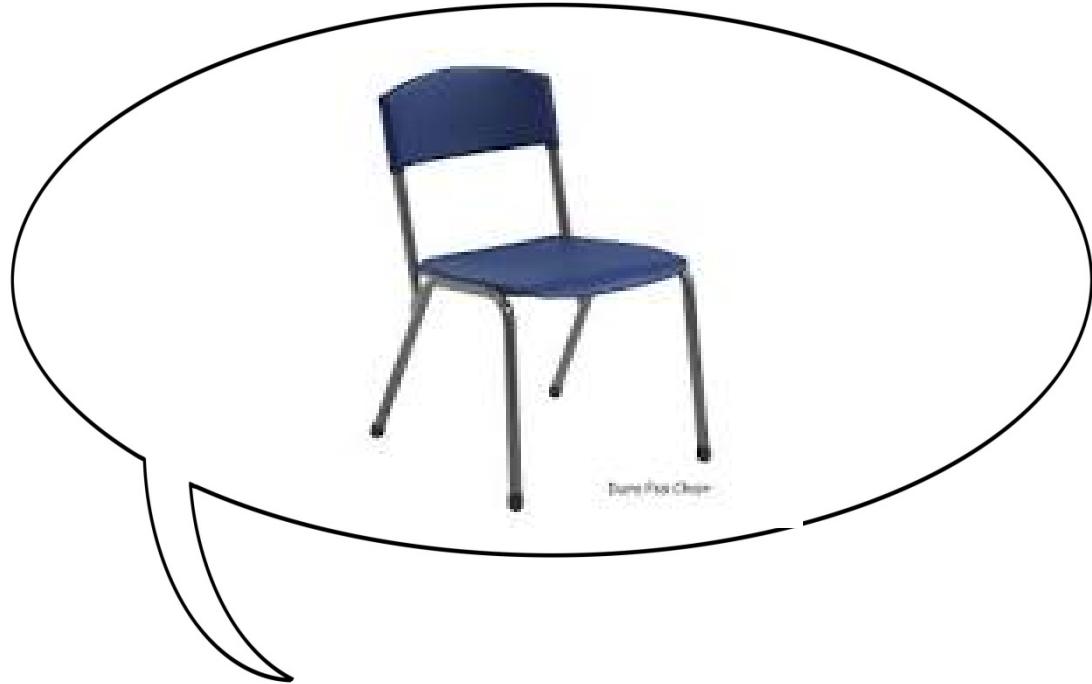
- Say where you live, describe your house and bedroom
- Describe someone you live with
- Say if you get on with them and why
- If not, why not.

Boredom and embarrassment are not experiences we would wish language learning to be associated with  
– but unfortunately it can happen.

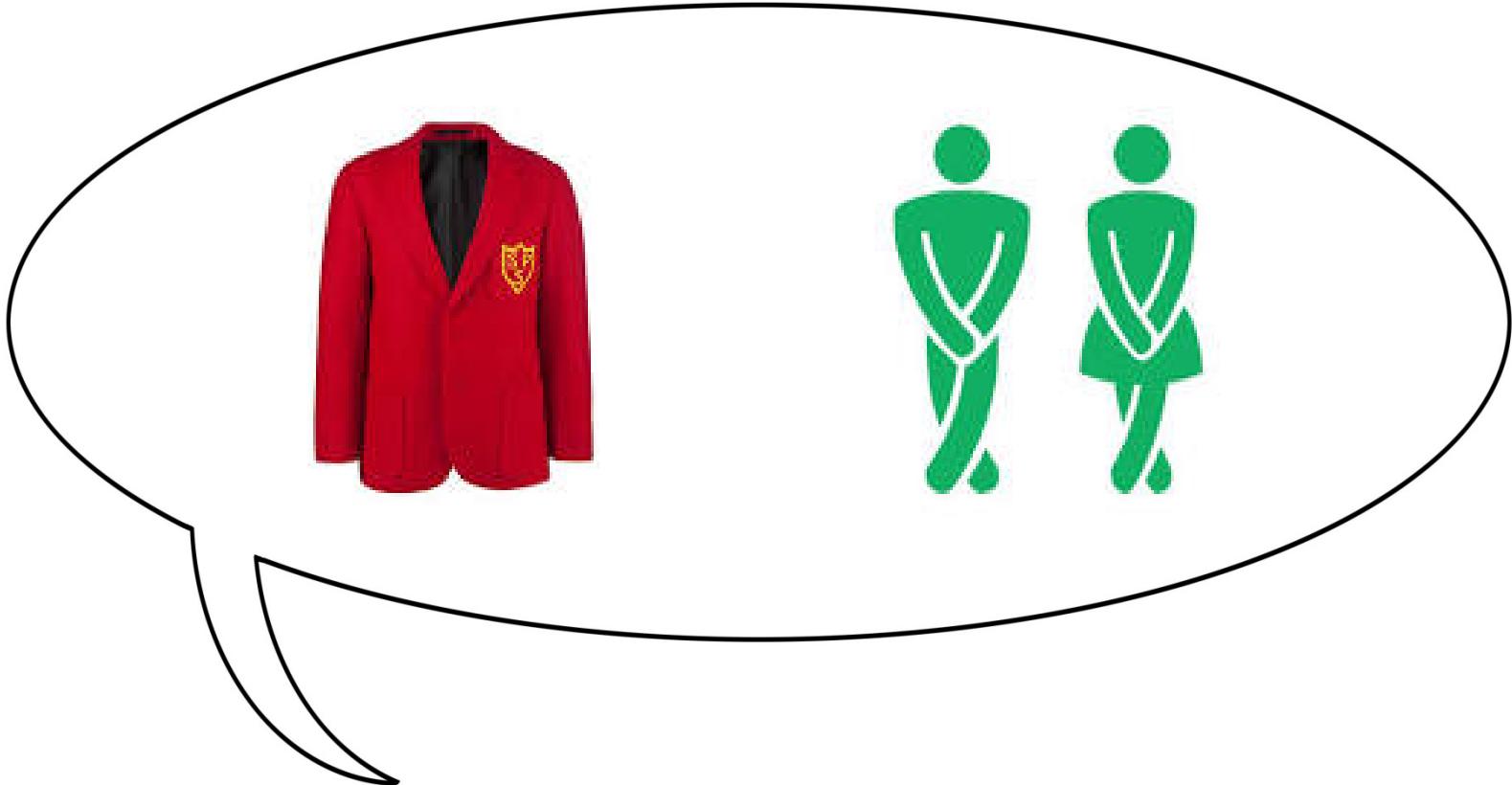
**Why not focus instead on what learners really want and need to say?**

**-Language for immediate and practical purposes**

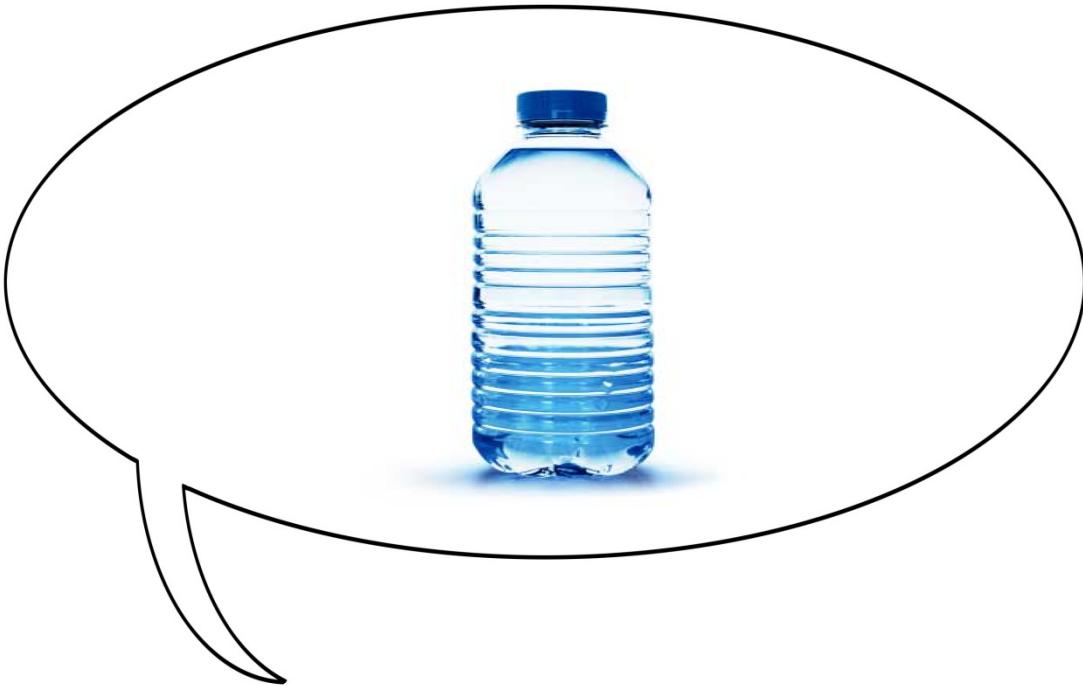




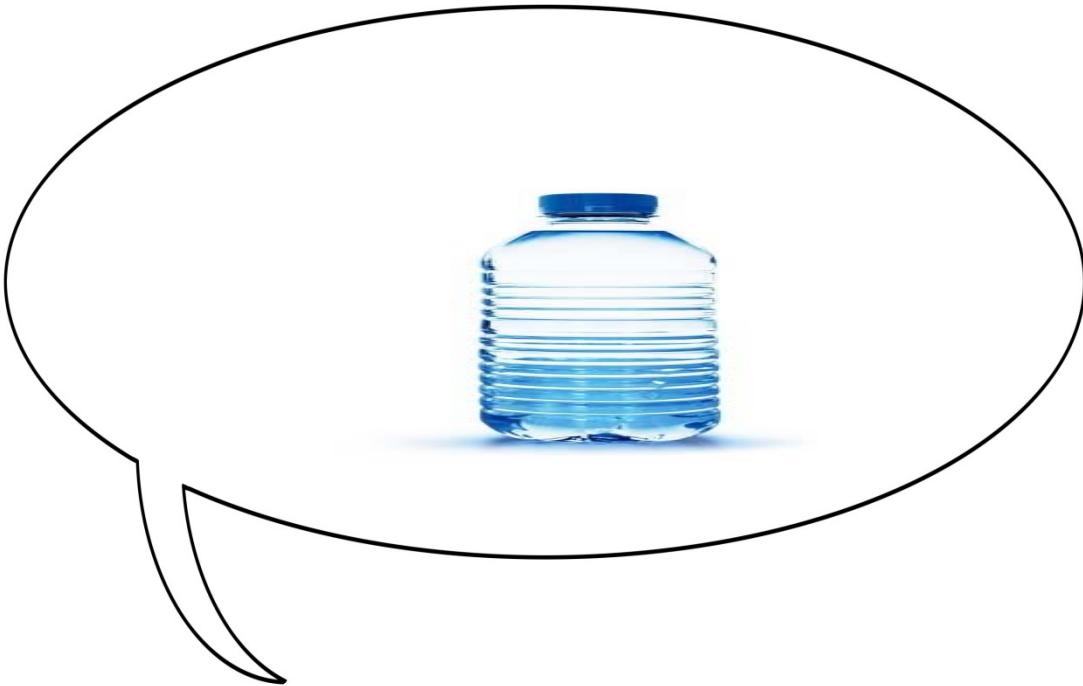
motivation



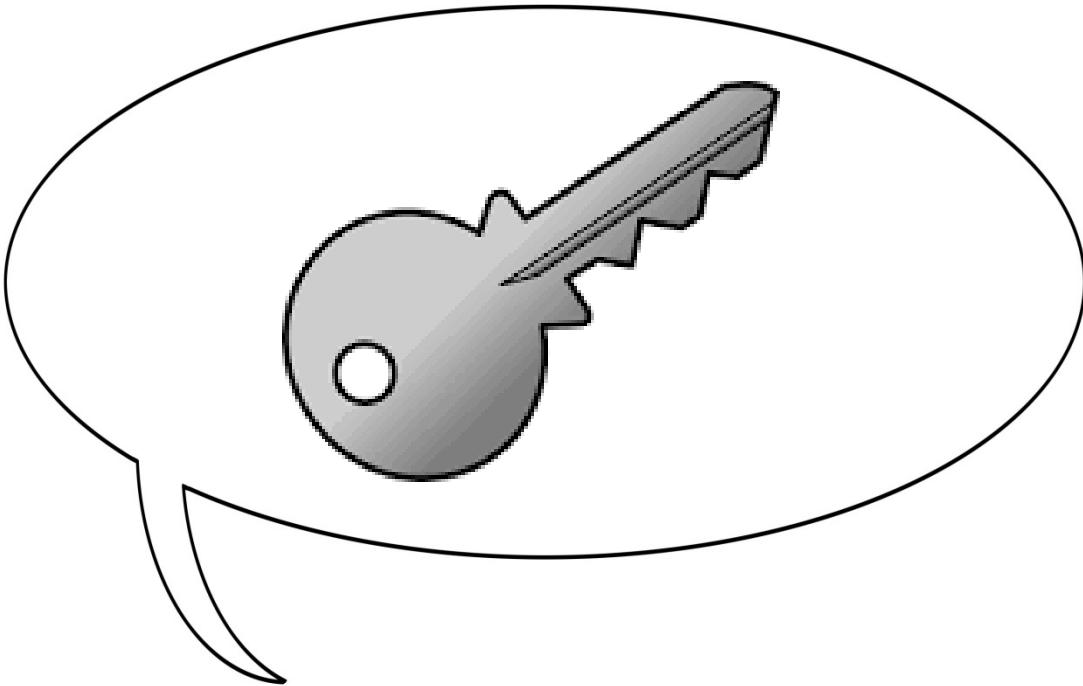
motivation



easy



everyone on message?



look for opportunities

## **Involve the learners!**

Listen to what they say as they come into  
the classroom. Make notes

## **Discuss with them....**

What are the most common things they want  
to say?

Why should they try to say them  
in the target language?

## **USING LANGUAGE FOR A PURPOSE**

### **Genuine interaction**

learners are asked to focus on vocabulary, phrases and structures that are enabling;

learners should be able to do something with the language they have learned.

# Ofsted 2011

Judging the use of the target language by teachers and students...

## **Outstanding (1)**

- **Learners seek to use the TL as the normal means of communication** when talking to the teacher or informally to each other.
  - Teachers informally monitor and assess **spontaneous TL use**, keeping track of learners' progress in order to ensure their expectations increase as they move through the school.

## **Activating the curriculum: grammar**

At later stages, when specific grammar points are 'due' to be taught as part of the formal curriculum, the teacher can make reference to already well-known examples.

Learners will already have absorbed the rhythm of complex structures and have acquired a feeling for what sounds right.

The ability to recognise familiar patterns can make otherwise difficult grammar points seem less daunting.

It also demonstrates clearly the connection between language practice and language use.

# **What to look for in MFL lessons**

## **(Ofsted advice to Inspectors)**

consistency in requiring and encouraging pupils to use the target language in every situation for which they have learnt appropriate language or could use their existing knowledge to cope;

opportunities for pupils to take the initiative in realistic situations

enabling pupils to acquire sufficient understanding of grammar, and skill in applying it

## **Use the target language because...**

- inspectors are looking for it?
- pupils use grammatical structures naturally?
- it's the perfect preparation for exams - pupils are already comfortable using the language

# New GCSE

- A greater focus on spontaneous talk
- At least 10% of the marks available must be allocated to knowledge and application of grammar

**To make a start...  
you (and your learners) could  
pick out just...**

- one context?
- one sentence a week?

## **In order to prepare for...**

examples of **textbook/examination language**...

you could...

use **classroom language**

For example:

# **Imperfect tense:**

**Textbook context:** where you used to live

**Classroom context:** reasons for absence

J'étais en retard

Nous étions à la répétition

Je faisais un examen

Je jouais au foot

# **Perfect tense:**

**Textbook context:** travel, holidays

**Classroom context:** work, no pen

**J'ai fini**

**J'ai oublié mes devoirs**

**J'ai perdu mon stylo**

# **Perfect tense: J'ai dû**

**Textbook context:** tidy my room

**Classroom context:** reasons for absence

**J'ai dû aller à une réunion**

# **The near future:**

**Textbook context:** sport

**Classroom context:** activities

**Qu'est-ce qu'on va faire aujourd'hui?**

**On va faire un quiz?**

# **Reflexives:**

Textbook context: daily routines, relationships

Classroom context: various

**Je me lave les mains?**

**Je peux me laver les mains?**

**Je m'occupe de l'ordinateur?**

**Comment ça s'écrit?**

**Je me suis trompé/e**

**Je me suis fait mal à...**

**Elle s'est foulé la cheville**

# **Negatives:**

**Textbook context:** comparing French/UK schools  
problems in home town

**Classroom context:** items, protesting

**Je n'ai pas fini**

**Il n'y a plus de colle**

**Je n'ai rien fait**

**Je ne faisais rien**

# **Adjectives:**

**Textbook context:** looks, personality, houses

**Classroom context:** various

cassé(e)(s)

absent(e)(s)

fermé(e)(s) à clé

mouillé(e)(s)

# **Indirect object pronouns:**

**Textbook context:** pocket money

**Classroom context:** various

Je l'ai perdu

Je l'ai oublié

Je l'ai oublié... en maths

Je l'ai oublié... à la maison

Il me dérange

Ça je l'ai déjà fait... regardez!

# **Possessive pronouns:**

**Textbook context:** family, pets

**Classroom context:** various

J'ai oublié mon cahier

Je ne trouve pas mon fichier

Elle est à sa leçon de musique

Vous avez corrigé nos cahiers?

# **Prepositions of direction:**

**Textbook context:** round the town

**Classroom context:** round the school

Je peux aller à l'infirmerie?

Je peux aller aux toilettes?

Est-ce qu'on va à la salle d'ordinateurs  
aujourd'hui?

# **Giving reasons for absence or late arrival.**

## **Be on the lookout for...**

Il/elle est absent(e)/en retard parce qu'..

il/elle est chez le dentiste

il/elle est chez le directeur

il/elle est à la chorale

il/elle est à la répétition

il/elle est à sa leçon de musique

il/elle est à son cours de lecture

il/elle est en voyage scolaire

il/elle est en France

il/elle est malade

il/elle joue un match de foot

il/elle a un examen

J'étais absent(e)/en retard parce que..

j'étais chez le dentiste

j'étais chez le directeur

j'étais à la chorale

j'étais à la répétition

j'étais à ma leçon de musique

j'étais à mon cours de lecture

j'étais en voyage scolaire

j'étais en France

j'étais malade

je jouais un match de foot

j'avais un examen

# **Making excuses - no pen**

Je l'ai perdu

Je l'ai oublié

Je l'ai oublié... en maths

Je l'ai oublié... à la maison

Je l'ai prêté... à Michel

Michel l'a pris

# **Making excuses - no homework**

**J'ai oublié mes devoirs**

**Je l'ai laissé dans le bus**

**Je n'ai pas fait mes devoirs**

**Je n'ai pas eu le temps**

**Je n'ai rien compris**

**J'ai dû aller chez ma grand-mère**

**J'ai dû m'occuper de mon petit frère**

**Le chien l'a mangé**

**J'étais malade**

**J'avais trop de devoirs de maths**

**Il y avait trop de bruit à la maison**

**Suggestions for  
practice...**

Pick just one sentence.  
You could...

...draw attention to the (near) cognates



Je peux aller à ma leçon de musique?

...compare the pronunciation - music



Je peux aller à ma leçon de musique?

...draw attention to the punctuation



Je peux aller à ma leçon de musique?

...draw attention to the same sounds



Je peux aller à ma leçon de musique?

...draw attention to silent letters



Je peuxx aller\_ à ma leçon de musique?

...draw attention to nouns



Je peux aller à ma leçon de musique?

...draw attention to the pronoun



Je peux aller à ma leçon de musique?

...draw attention to the verbs



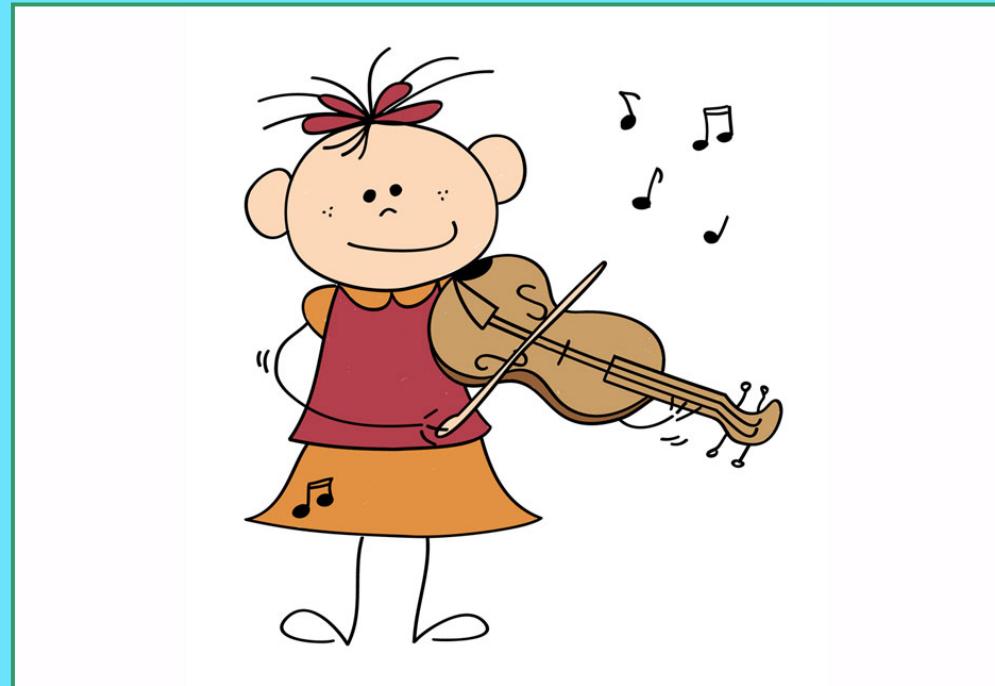
Je peux aller à ma leçon de musique?

...draw attention to the infinitive



Je peux aller à ma leçon de musique?

colour code!



je peux aller à ma leçon de musique

# Some activities...

...ask which words begin with...m?



Je peux aller à ma leçon de musique?

...squash the sentence



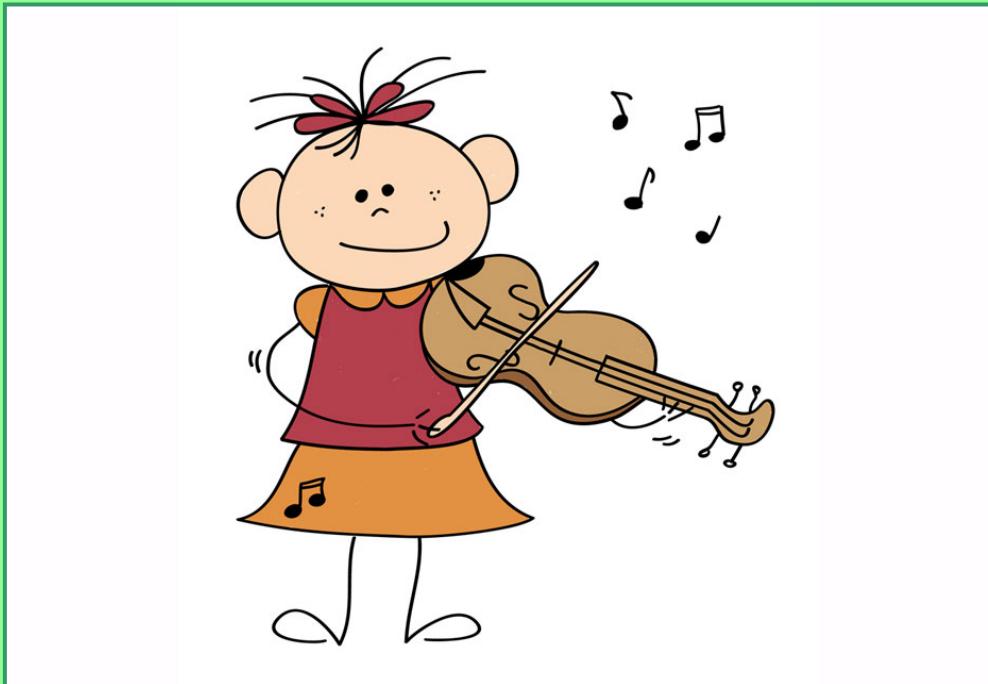
Je peux aller à la leçon de musique?

...jumble up the word order



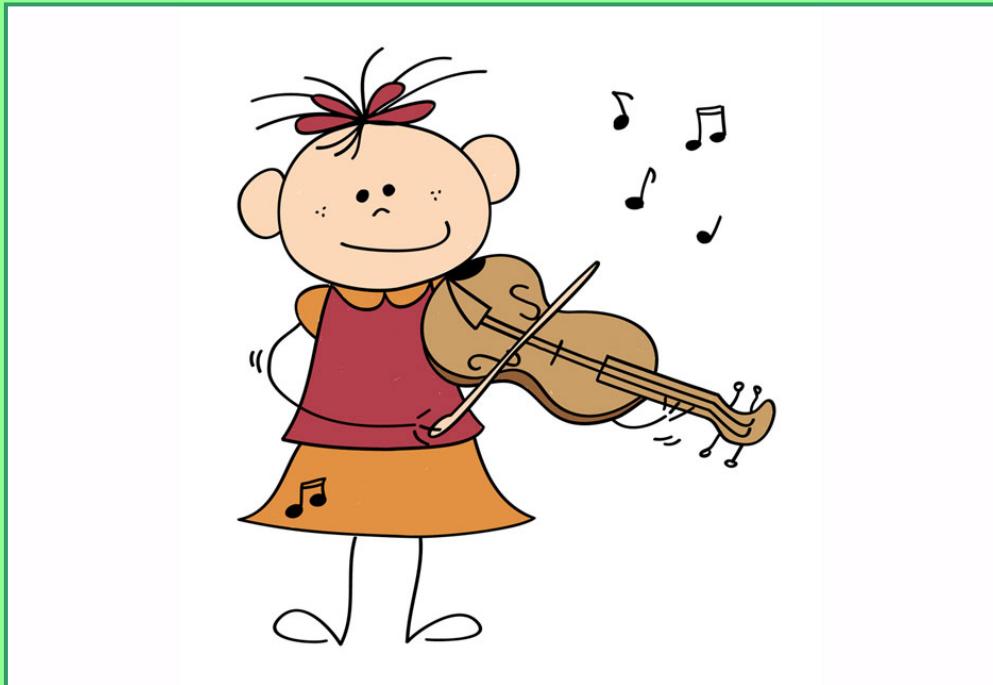
leçon /aller /je /à /musique /peux /de /ma?

...jumble the words



ej upxe larle à am neçlo ed quesumi?

...write the words backwards



?euqisum ed noçel am à rella xuep eJ

...miss out the vowels



J p x llr m lçn d msq ? OR

J\_ p\_ \_x \_ll\_r \_m\_ l\_c\_n d\_ m\_s\_q\_ \_?

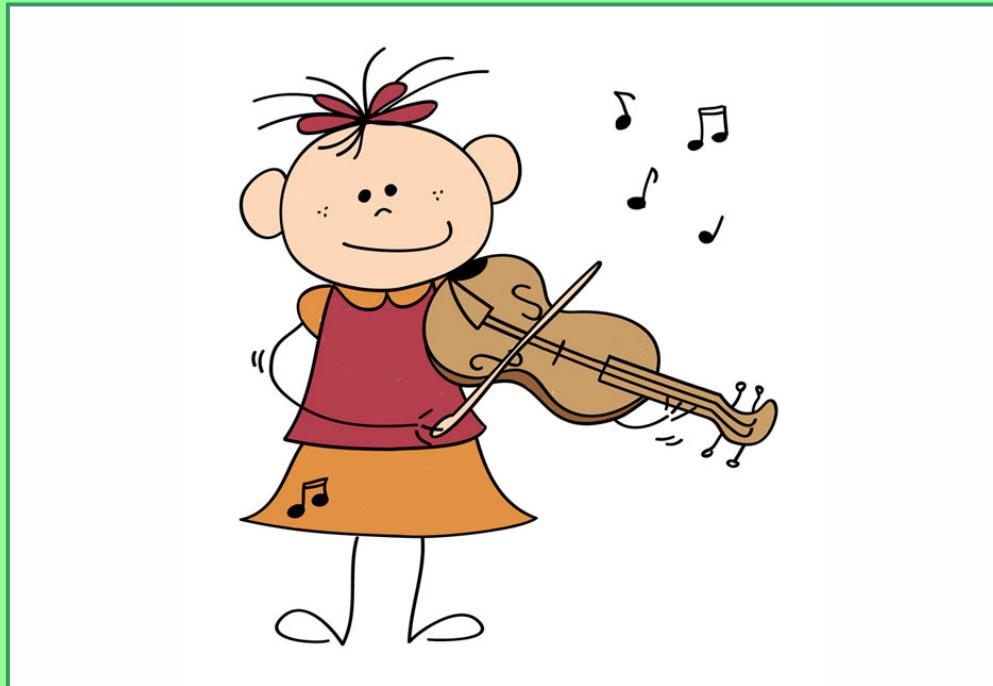
...miss out the consonants



e eu ae à a eo e uiue? OR

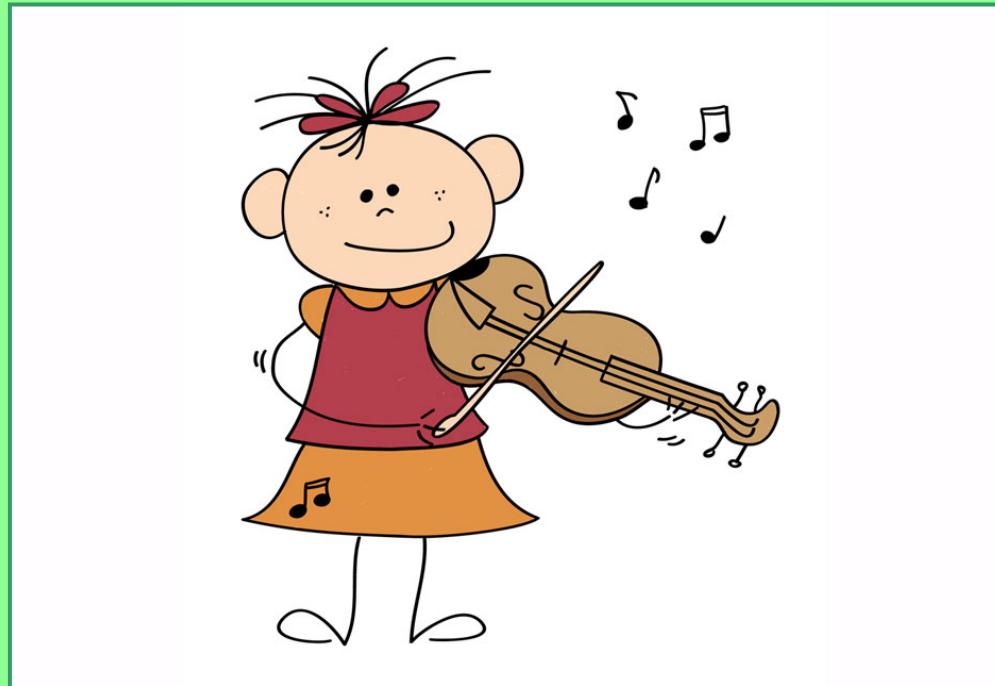
\_e \_eu\_ a\_ \_e\_ à \_a\_e\_o\_ \_e\_u\_i\_ue?

...miss out a word



Je peux à ma leçon de musique?

...give just the first letters of each word



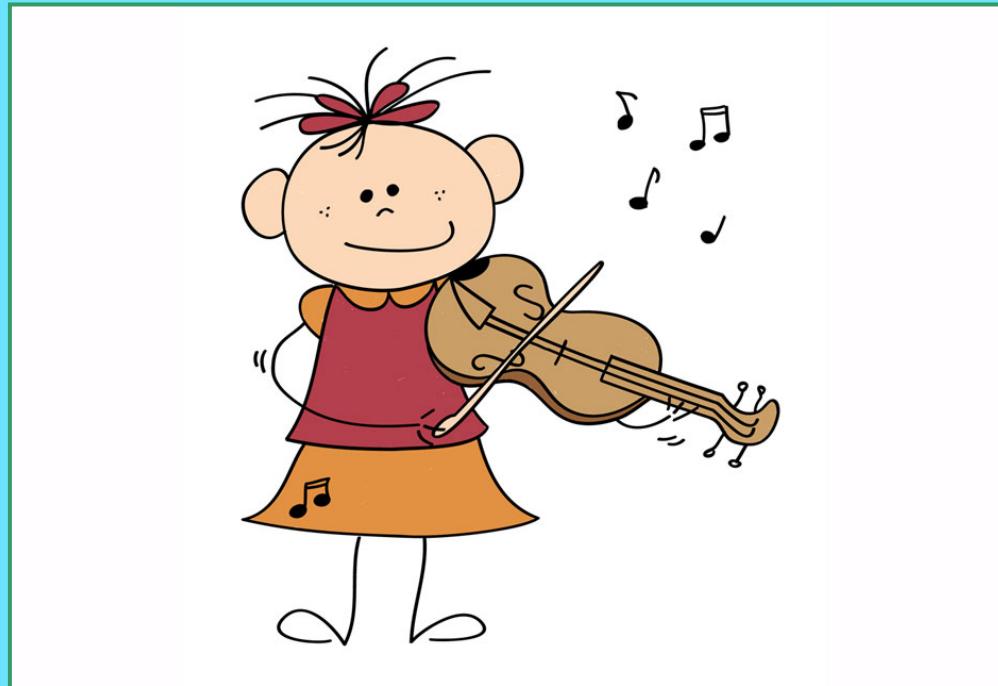
J. p... a.... à m. l.... d. m.....?

...spot the mistake - miss out one or more letters



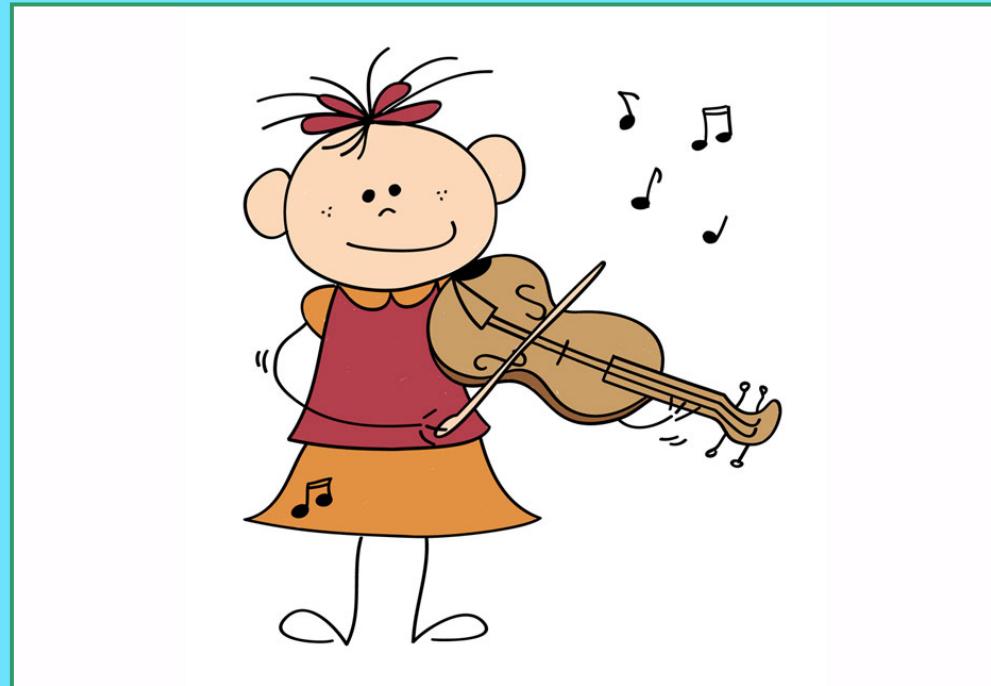
Je peux aler à ma leçon de musique?

...spot the mistake - put in an extra letter



Je peux aller à ma leçon de mussique?

...spot the mistake -  
put two letters the wrong way around



Je puex aller à ma leçon de musique?

...miss out punctuation, discuss the effect



je peux aller à ma leçon de musique