

Press Release

England wins bronze in the Language Perfect World Championships!

Language students from England finished ahead of their European counterparts in the Language Perfect World Championships, winning a bronze medal in the global language competition. Australia won gold overall, followed by New Zealand with silver. Students from around the world answered over 36 million questions in the week long competition, which took place 09-16 September 2011, just as rugby teams from around the world converged on New Zealand for the Rugby World Cup. English students beat the rest of Europe for the second year running, after their fantastic win in the ALL European Language Olympics in 2010.

The Association for Language Learning (ALL), based at the University of Leicester, represents a nationwide community of language teachers - teachers of all languages, working in all sectors. The Association teamed up with ALL Corporate Member *Language Perfect*, based in New Zealand, and many other language organisations around the world to run the Language Perfect World Championships: an intense online competition to learn vocabulary, verbs and common phrases from a wide range of foreign languages.

Students from 916 schools all over the world got involved in the competition, and their response has been hugely positive. One UK teacher told us that she was: "sat in the library today with a little year 7 boy. This is his second proper week of language learning and he felt down as he felt he didn't know much and said 'but I'm rubbish at spelling, Miss'. 40 minutes later (with lots of encouragement) and he had conquered numbers 1-10, animals and colours in French using the Language Perfect World Championships." Another told us that: "This has been a great way to kick-start vocab learning as students prepare for their GCSEs - to put it in their own words: "Awesome", "Brilliant" and "Amazing"." Many students went to extraordinary lengths to take part, working all hours of the day and night to ensure that they scored more points than their rivals!

The top English School was **Wallington High School for Girls**, with a score of **262,116**. An English student, **Qays L** from **Bristol Grammar School**, brought home the first prize in Russian, with a score of **4,581**. **Bristol Grammar School** and **Wallington High School for Girls** were also the top schools in Russian and Spanish respectively. But schools from other parts of the UK also did extremely well: **Ysgol Dyffryn Taf** in Wales had an average score per student of **1554** with just 65 students, one of the highest in the competition. And students at **St Leonard's School** in Scotland, the only Scottish school taking part in the championships, were still up and competing in the tournament at 2:30am on the final day!



Overall, the competition was about fun learning, connecting the world together and illustrating the relevance of learning languages. It was also about finding new ways to inspire students to fulfil their potential in languages. We are extremely proud of what our students have achieved.

It is a testimonial to our fantastic language teachers, our schools, our investment in technology and most of all our young language learners, that UK students were able to accomplish so much in this online international learning competition. It's a huge boost for languages, for schools, for our education system, and for young people – and it proves not only that British students love languages, but that we have some of the best linguists in the world!

To find out more, visit the website: <http://www.languageperfect.com/worldchamps>.

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Notes to Editors:

1. The Language Perfect World Championships

An intense online competition learning vocabulary, verbs and phrases from a range of languages.

For the main competition site: www.languageperfect.com/worldchamps

For feedback from teachers and students: <http://languageperfectworldchamps.posterous.com/>

For more feedback from students: www.facebook.com/pages/Language-Perfect/153922731296356

For the UK scores: [www.all-](http://www.all-languages.org.uk/news/news_list/language_perfect_world_championships_2011_final_results)

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2. The Association for Language Learning (ALL)

ALL is the UK-wide subject association for language teachers – of whatever language, at any level. It is run by teachers and other professionals actively involved in language learning and teaching; and exists to represent and support language teachers. www.all-languages.org.uk

3. Language Perfect

Language Perfect is a software company which produces language vocabulary software for learning and for international vocabulary competitions. Students, teachers, travellers, businesspeople, and families use this popular web-based language vocabulary tool. www.languageperfect.co.nz

4. ALL European Language Olympics 2010

For more information about last year's competition, go to: <http://tiny.cc/ALLELO>