

LANGUAGE NEWS!

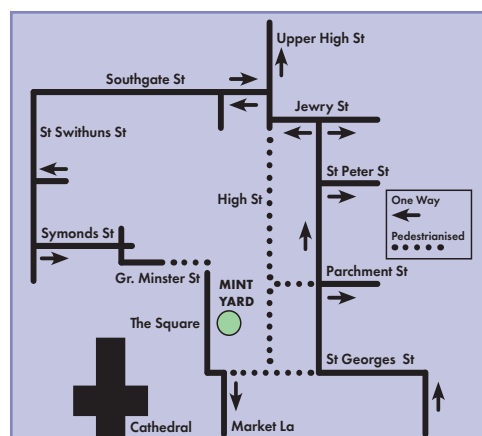
Hampshire's very own newsletter for people who love language and language learning

Language Academy Courses in Winchester

The Language Academy (TLA), Winchester, based at Mint Yard (off The Square), Winchester, which is also the new home of English Naturally, which has been present in the town since 1999.

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TLA provides courses for locals in a range of languages, including French, Spanish, Italian, German, EFL (English as a Foreign Language) as well as occasional special courses in languages such as Latin, Greek, Polish, Turkish. We also organize special events, including Film Nights and Foreign Language Book Clubs.

We claim that our courses are “fun, bite-sized and curated”. Is this just spin, or does it mean anything?! Well, we think we are talking sense!

FUN – making mistakes and the “have a go!” mentality are part and parcel of language learning. So get into the spirit and have a laugh along the way! Our teachers deliver varied lessons that include language games, songs, tongue-twisters as well as serious course-book work (but course books these days are a lot more lively and relevant than in the past!)

BITE-SIZED – most courses are part-time and short (usually 6 weeks, to fit with school half-terms). So you don't have to make a bit commitment initially – although we hope you will stay with us for a year or longer!

CURATED – our courses are planned out by our R&D team (currently made up of Chris Polatch and his dog Charlie, who often sits under his desk by way of an internship!). In many language schools, teachers are told “Here's the book – get on with it!” We prefer to map things out against what is known as the CEF (Common European Framework for Languages) which defines competence/skill at 3 levels, A-C, with each split into 2 “bands”. We also devise our own courses, such as our Verbs Workouts, which give intensive practice in specific areas.

We are introducing new courses all the time.

TLA publishes a leaflet that goes through doors before each new set of courses starts and you will also see Facebook and Instagram ads popping up!

OUR WEBSITE IS

WWW.LANGUAGE-ACADEMY.UK

MY LANGUAGES JOURNEY

Clare Pay talks about her language learning experience, interviewed by **Chris Polatch**



Clare Pay manages the third strand of our business: Chris Polatch Language Courses www.cp-fl.com Some of the UK's top companies trust us to deliver their language training and we also organize courses for individuals at their homes or online.

How did you first get interested in languages?

When I was a child in the 1960s and 70s, my parents used to tow a caravan around Europe for our family holidays. I remember being fascinated by the sound of foreign languages being spoken around me, especially in the markets we often visited to discover the local wares. I was also intrigued by signs written in French or Spanish or whichever country we happened to be passing through and I always tried to carry with me a tiny dictionary so that I could translate – even just the odd phrase. I remember coming very unstuck when we found ourselves in Yugoslavia, though, as I couldn't decipher a single word!

You speak French and have worked in that language, I believe. Tell us about that.

French has always been my favourite language. I started learning it at senior school and had the most brilliant teacher, Mrs Prior, who organised full immersion courses in the Loire Valley. After studying Modern Languages at Oxford Brookes (then Oxford Polytechnic), my first job was as a Bilingual Secretary at the Banque Nationale du Canada in London which I loved. This indirectly led to me working for a French horse breeder whose horse, Trempolino, won the Arc de Triomphe in 1987! It was an exciting time as the job involved trips to my boss's stud farm in Normandy and to his office in Paris which remains my favourite city to this day.

You have taken a few short courses in other languages as part of your role at cp-fl.com. Can you tell us about your experiences? How does taking a course in the country where the language is spoken differ from doing one back home?

There's nothing like a full immersion course to improve your language skills and I discovered that from those early visits to the Loire Valley. With cp-fl.com I was lucky enough to

attend week long courses in Cadiz, Berlin and Hyeres. Staying with a host family that doesn't speak a word of English is ideal, even if you do end the day feeling utterly exhausted! On all 3 occasions, I attended group lessons each morning and this was the perfect combination. German is my weakest language and I couldn't really conduct a conversation in the language before my week in Berlin so that was a big breakthrough. Whilst attending a course in the country of the target language is the fastest way to improve, I have also found attending conversation classes in the UK to be of huge benefit as well as an enjoyable social event and a chance to meet people with similar interests.

Which other languages might you like to study?

I would love to learn Italian. It's a bit of a cop out as I can already understand it up to a point thanks to my French and Spanish but I would love to speak it as it's such a beautiful language. I once tried learning it on my own with the help of CDs but didn't get very far. Self access learning is fine as long as you are very disciplined! Much as I admire people who learn them, personally I am a bit daunted by non European languages.

Any advice to language learners?

Spend as long as you can in a country where the target language is spoken and listen, listen, listen! There's a huge choice of free, easily accessed, material now available online so find a podcast that you like, watch films, with or without subtitles, or discover an artiste whose music you enjoy. Much of my French vocabulary was learnt by listening to the music of Maxime le Forestier back in the 1970s whose songs I still love listening to now.

STUDENT OF THE SESSION!

Each Language Academy session (usually a 6-week period) we name our "Student of the Session"; someone who has shown great commitment to learning. Our most recent winner is:

Tracy Haskett

Could **YOU** be our next Student of the Session? Yes, you could, but you will need to sign up for a course to stand a chance! There is no such thing as a déjeuner gratuit!



TRAIN TO TEACH ENGLISH (TEFL/TESOL)!

Do it the safe way, with a validated course!

You speak English, so you can teach it, right? Obviously, er, no! To help students with grammar/structure and phonology (pronunciation) you really need to know what you're doing! You also need to know how to structure and deliver a lesson. There are loads of TEFL/TESOL courses out there, but which to go for? The simple answer is to take a validated course (Trinity Cert TESOL or a CELTA by Cambridge). You will be sure that your course is validated and recognized.

There are lots of opportunities for trained English teachers, from teaching online to working in language schools globally! A recognized qualification really is a passport to paid work overseas.

English Naturally offers the Trinity Cert TESOL to local people on a part-time basis – it's still quite intensive but can be fitted around a full-time job or other commitments.

To read more and apply, go to www.english-naturally.com

HOST FOREIGN STUDENTS FOR ENGLISH NATURALLY!

English Naturally, which, since 1999, has brought many thousands of students to the UK for courses of different types (and many £millions to the local economy!) has not had an easy time during the pandemic. However, there is a lot of pent-up demand and desire to travel and we expect to get moving again in 2022.

All of our students stay with host families, as this gives students much-needed informal practice. We know that a lot of our host families have "moved on" since they last hosted for us (2019!) so we need to recruit new ones!

There is a simple form to complete on our website

WWW.ENGLISH-NATURALLY.COM

– click on the "host for us" link.

Once we receive it, we'll be in touch to arrange an inspection online or in person.

LATIN – DEAD OR ALIVE?

Latin is very much alive! Apart from the fact that some academics who have no other common language actually still use it (!) it's embedded in our day-to-day language as well as being used by specialists/researchers and professionals such as lawyers.

English is a mish-mash of languages and Latin is quite a big part of both the mash and the mish. The roots of many of the words you use every day are Latinate. Different, education, salary, primary – the list is endless.

Aside from that, we often use Latin expressions such as etcetera, ad hoc, carpe diem, bona fide. Often this is because, Latin being so dense, such expressions sum up what can be a complex concept in a very few words. It also can make you seem quite posh, if that's your bag.

The Law is very fond of Latin. Again, concepts can be expressed pithily and with relatively little room for misunderstandings. "A priori", for example, can be defined as: "an argument derived before an event, without needing to have the knowledge about the event. Deductive reasoning from general principles". Latin's a lot quicker, innit?

Latin is widely used in taxonomy, or classification. For example, birds were given Latin names (these are words generated by using Latin, not words the Romans would have used themselves, with a few exceptions). We highly recommend reading this if you are interested: www.uk.rec.birdwatching. You will find a fascinating account of how a very clever Swedish chap, Carl Linnaeus, classified birds, among other things.

DO YOU KNOW WHICH BIRDS THESE ARE? (answers at the end of the newsletter)

Sturnus vulgaris

Turdus merula

(not the seagull, in case you were thinking that!)

Pica pica

Passer domesticus

Picus viridis

Our Latin course is divided into 3 parts – Primus, Secundus and Tertius (do you see what we did there?). Regular start dates.

COMPETITION! Win a Language Academy Course!

How would you like to win a free course at the Language Academy?

All you have to do is answer these language-related questions and follow the instructions below to enter:

- 1 Why are “por” and “para” the bane of students of Spanish?
- 2 The Russian Cyrillic alphabet has some letters that are not familiar to us as well as some that are. Of those that are, some relate to a similar sound in English while others don't. What sounds do the Russian letters H and P relate to?
- 3 What's the difference, in French, between “Bonjour” and “Bonne journée”?
- 4 How would you explain to a foreign student what the meaning/use of “do” is in the following: “Do you speak English?”
- 5 In Portuguese, the days of the week from Monday to Friday are numbered. What day is “quarta?” (fourth)?

Send your answers by email to:

bookings@language-academy.uk

by 30th April latest, giving your name and phone number. We will choose the best answer and contact you to offer you a course up to the value of £120.

You will be asked to pay the difference on any courses that are above this value. If the course does not run, you can select another course at a later date. The prize must be used by the end of 2023.

THE WINCHESTER ROOMS

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info@the-winchester-rooms.com

Call Sandra on 07810 592400

Answers to bird quiz:

Starling – Thrush – Blackbird –
Sparrow – Green Woodpecker

WRITE TO US!

We'd love to have your feedback on Language News and we also welcome contributions from local linguists!

Give us a call on **01962 859700** or email:

bookings@language-academy.uk (Language Academy)

info@english-naturally.com (English Naturally)

Follow the Language Academy on Instagram **@lang_acad** for language tidbits and course information and sign up for our email newsletter on the website.

Thanks for reading our newsletter. We love everything languages, and hope you found something to interest you! **Next edition? Soon!**

The Language Academy and English Naturally are trading names of **STEADY COURSE LIMITED**

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