



European Day of Languages 2026

Ideas for Secondary

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Let us know how you celebrate the European Day of Languages and we will post it on our **EDL 2026** blog!
Email scilt@strath.ac.uk with all your EDL news.



European Day of Languages 2026

Ideas for Secondary

Starters and plenaries

Activity	Suggested timeframe	Description
 Disney's Frozen - "Let It Go" Multi-Language Full Sequence	5 mins	Enjoy the multilingual version of 'Let it go' song from Disney film favourite 'Frozen'.
Teach your classmates or family one word a day for EDL week!	5 minutes	Use any of the following flashcards: Mandarin French German Spanish Italian Gaelic
Tongue twisters	5 minutes	Try a tongue twister in another language.
Telling jokes	5 minutes	French German Spanish Italian
Want to learn to sign ?	10 minutes	Simply select a country, watch and learn the sign.
Quiz	10 minutes	Interactive resource that could be used for groups or the whole class.
Spin the wheel	EDL week	Not sure what to select for today's challenge? Why not spin the EDL Challenge wheel!



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Ideas for Secondary

Starters and plenaries



Activity	Suggested timeframe	Description
Games in the target language	10 minutes	Who wants to be a millionaire? Pictionary Guess who Buzz Simon says... Yes/no games I spy
Make bunting	10 minutes	Over the course of the week, learners make bunting of words in other languages, adding one section per learner per lesson. Templates readily available online (see example). Hang the completed bunting at the end of the week.
False Friends	10 minutes	Have fun with literacy and languages using the link to create a list of these words and their meaning to display in your classroom.
Teachers talking languages	Preparation time 15 mins in class	Ask your seniors to find teachers who speak another language (even if it is a little bit). Get them to record these teachers speaking the language, share them with your classes and ask pupils to guess who the teacher is, and identify/guess the language being spoken.

Cultural activities



Activity	Suggested timeframe	Description
Into Film	2-3 periods	Into Film have an EDL pack which contains a guide to seven films in four different languages. The guides include discussion questions and activity ideas to encourage learners to ask and answer questions about films that reflect different cultures and ways of life around the world.



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Cultural activities



Activity	Suggested timeframe	Description
Writing poetry: MTOT	2 periods	As well as EDL, it's also National Poetry day in October. Browse the Mother Tongue Other Tongue poetry resources page for links to poems in other languages, lesson ideas and other resources for writing short form poetry in the target language.
Enjoying poetry: French	15 minutes	Ready for winter coming...share this poem with an S1/S2 class. Or teach global citizenship with an older class by sharing this poem .
Chinese fortune sticks	1 period	These are one of many fun things to do during the Moon Festival. Get more information about the festival.
Research project on famous people or inventions	2-3 periods	Research 5 famous people or inventions from a country of your choice & present some basic facts about them to class in a different language.
Want to be a superstar or the next karaoke king/queen?	2 periods	Interested in finding out the reality show talents in Germany? You could do a class survey to find the most popular song or source the lyrics and create a gap fill activity. Try using LingoClip to help, the website lists lots of current songs in different languages, with activities to go with them.
Community language sharing	1 or more periods	Invite people from the community/ parents/ others to share their own language and culture



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Cultural activities

Activity	Suggested timeframe	Description
Suitable for all ages and stages Research challenge	30 mins +	Challenge to discover the many countries of the world/how many people around the world where your target language(s) is/are spoken. Could be a challenge that is done in against the clock or as a homework task, individually or collaboratively.
TV/film critic	After school	Pupils watch a TV show or film in another language and write a review for class/friends/family.
Languages in your class	1 period	Identify pupils who have EAL and find out if they would be happy to give a short talk on their country, language, culture – perhaps bringing in photos and/or props.
Olympic dream team	1 period +	Pick your ideal Olympic team – list the sports that you would include in the language of your choice, and add the name and nationality of your favourite sportspeople. You could create a poster or information booklet to show off your team.
Suitable for BGE Life in the European Union	15 mins+	Selection of online interactive games to help you explore various aspects of life, ranging from currency to lifestyle in the European Union.
Interactive reading	20 mins+	Order or download this storybook about the EU. Activity guide also available.
Marvellous Menus	1 period/ homework task	Research school meals in the country of your choice. Create a menu for a school meal in the target language.



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Ideas for Secondary

Cultural activities

Activity

Suggested timeframe

Description

Suitable for Senior Phase

Fashion show

Up to 1 week

Children prepare a fashion show which reflects clothing from countries of the world or narrate the fashion show, describing the outfits in your target language.

Idioms

1 period

Here are some links about idioms in different languages – pupils can be given a list and have to work out what the equivalent English idiom would be. It's never usually a direct translation! They can be given a jumbled list of the correct answers as support.

[French](#)

[Spanish 1](#); [Spanish 2](#)

[German](#)

[Italian](#)

[Mandarin](#)

Activities involving ICT

Activity

Suggested timeframe

Description

Suitable for all ages and stages

QR code treasure/scavenger hunt

1 hour + to prepare and try out

Create a treasure hunt around classroom/school/school grounds using QR codes.

Questions or answers to incorporate target language(s) as appropriate to learners' ages and stage.

Find step-by-step instructions for how to create a QR code treasure/scavenger hunt [here](#).

Making music

1 period

Use the [Suno AI](#) tool to create a song in a different language! Let your friends listen to it and see if they can tell you what your song is about!



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Activities involving ICT

Activity

Suggested timeframe

Description



Social media

10 mins

Learners create a concise message about language learning in English or better still in the target language. Share it on or around 26 September using #coeEDL

Social media campaign

2 periods

Learners design a social media campaign on the platform of their choice to encourage people to learn/use languages more. Present the idea to the class, and/or try it out in action!

Online and interactive games

2 periods

Teacher or Senior pupils prepare a multiple-choice quiz on different European countries for younger pupils (e.g. select France – true or false – their currency is the Euro/less than 80 million tourists visit France every year). Play internet games in target language or English about aspects of daily life in the European Union.

[French](#)

[English](#)

[Spanish](#)

[German](#)

Online gift shopping

1 period

Give students a shopping online challenge and a list of foreign stores, such as Carrefour; Monoprix; Co-op, etc and get them to select a birthday present for 3 imaginary people, give the pupils a brief profile of each character and allocate a fixed budget. Use the target language for an added challenge!



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Activities involving ICT

Activity

Suggested timeframe

Description

Travel Challenge

3 periods plus presentation time

Some “customers” want you to book a holiday to ...

Research best place to visit giving reasons for your choice. Make up a short travel itinerary along with some essential phrases to help them during their trip.

Consider using travel brochures, postcards, maps and other reference materials such as encyclopedias and foreign magazines.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/index.shtml>

<http://www.digitaldialects.com>

Online food shopping

1 period

Teacher checks the Carrefour website (or equivalent) in advance and makes up a set of challenges for the pupils to work out: e.g. How much are bananas per kilo this week? What is the special offer on toiletries?

Virtual Tours

1 period

Visit different cities around the world and see famous landmarks up close.

Use Google Earth to find these landmarks and direct your way around famous cities.

Viewing ‘street view’ will give you an idea of local people, height of monuments and distance between one area and another.

Teachers could set different challenges – fastest person to stand virtually under the Eiffel Tower, travel from the Eiffel Tower to the Louvre Museum

Country profile

Up to 1 week

Carry out research to create a detailed profile about one of the countries where your target language is spoken. Choice of media.

Suitable for
all ages and
stages



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Activities involving ICT

Activity

Suggested timeframe

Description

Transport challenge

1 period

Look at city transport across Europe, like the subway routes, and give pupils challenges to work out for examples which line they should take to reach different destinations

[Madrid metro](#)

[Paris metro](#)

[Berlin transport](#)

Duolingo Challenge

Days or weeks running up to EDL

See who can get the most XP on Duolingo in their class/year/school.

Interdisciplinary learning

Activity

Suggested timeframe

Description

PE

1 period

Organise a Zumba, dance or tai-chi class together with PE or other interested colleagues.

HE

2 periods

Themed cuisine: prepare food such as cupcakes with flags or Madeleines for a bake sale and all proceeds go to suitable charity.

Languages café

Half day event

Pupils host a café with food, drink, menu, ordering and decorations in the appropriate target language. Invite pupils, staff, parents & visitors who are encouraged to order in the target language.

Suitable for all ages and stages

Suitable for BGE



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Interdisciplinary learning

Activity

Suggested timeframe

Description

Suitable for BGE

[PSE: Careers](#)

2 periods

Use the SCILT website to promote all the different types of careers people pursue with languages. Pupils can make an attractive display from their findings to be featured in the Modern Languages corridor.

Art

2 periods

Research works by artists from Europe and create a piece of art in the same style as one of them.

Music

2 periods

Organise a Eurovision- style song contest with songs in different languages

[Let's explore Europe game and brochure](#)

15 mins +

Play the online game to explore Europe or read an online book to discover more about different languages and cultures.

[Scottish European Languages Portfolio \(ELP\)](#)

Ongoing

Learners can start using the Scottish ELP to record their achievements in languages at home, school and beyond.

Whole school activities

Activity

Suggested timeframe

Description

Suitable for all ages and stages

Assembly

1 period of preparation, 5 mins at assembly

Pupils create a short introduction for SMT to use to introduce an assembly. Senior pupils would prepare talks/activities on importance of languages.

Use a new language

EDL week

Pupils create a slide in a variety of languages stating the date, time and weather. Put this on the shared drive and encourage whole staff to introduce their classes using a different language (with slide as support).



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Whole school activities

Activity

Suggested timeframe

Description

Suitable for all ages and stages

Lunchtime language taster sessions

EDL week

Using staff/older pupils who speak different languages, offer drop-in lunchtime taster sessions in a range of languages not usually taught in your school

Whole school languages challenge

2 periods

Find out all the languages spoken in your school community. Use your artistic skills to create welcome signs in all of these languages. Best pieces of work judged by the art department can be displayed in your welcome area. Use this [link](#) to check your work!

Continental cuisine

3 periods

Collaborate with your school canteen to organise a range of continental dishes on offer on EDL. Allow your colleagues and young people to sample some of the following: Frikadellen/Patatas Bravas, Quiche or Spring rolls.

Associated Activities:

- Create menus in all of the languages for the dining tables
- Create advertising for the event by producing posters/introducing the event at assemblies in the target language (with 1 slide in English as support)

Tutor/class challenge – continental breakfast

1 period

Organise a breakfast or Spanish tapas. Pupils source authentic items and points/prizes could be allocated to tutor groups or classes who bring in the tastiest/most interesting/most original items.

Tutor time quiz

Tutor time

Use a [Kahoot](#) quiz for a quick language themed activity. Choose from thousands of others or create your own.



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Whole school activities

Activity

Suggested timeframe

Description

Whole school celebration

2 periods

Create an international look in the entrance to your school. Put up welcome signs or flags. Use the digital screen to promote the EDL for all to see as soon as they arrive to school. Enlist the support of your colleagues and pupils to make the school a hub of ML activity!

- Flag face painting at lunchtime – proceeds could go to charity.
- Non-uniform day: pupils and staff wear national dress of another country.
- Link up with cluster Primary schools. Secondary pupils perform prepared short activities (role-play, songs, poems, Simon Says) to the Primary class (and vice-versa if possible). Each can give feedback on which one they preferred most.
- Pupils could also give a short lesson to younger pupils and set them a challenge, which could then be done in class or sent to secondary pupils at a later date.
- Host a European Quiz and let both Primary and Secondary pupils compete against each other!

Challenge suggestions:

- Create a French comic strip story with the imaginary characters Pierre and Céline. The best storyline wins.
- Create a profile in French for your favourite music star or sports personality.
- Choose a selection of countries around Europe that you would like to visit and create a small information leaflet about them (include in French: name; nationality; landmarks; food; picture of flag; capital city and famous people).

Suitable for all ages and stages



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Ideas for Secondary

Whole school activities

Activity

Suggested timeframe

Description

Guess the language!

1 period

Pupils and staff across the school record a small piece in their native language. Split your young people into groups and ask them to guess the language or use the pre-recorded material [here](#).

Surveys

2/3 periods

Ask teachers in the school what languages they can speak. Have they ever lived/travelled/worked abroad? Do they have family who live abroad? Ask pupils to discover which teachers speaks which language. Create a grid for them to fill out which might provide clues.

Fashion Show

Up to 1 week

Children prepare a fashion show which reflects clothing from countries of the world or narrate the fashion show, describing the outfits in your target language.

Add to your uniform

Preparation at home

Ask your pupils to add something to their uniform which represents the language they are learning – a French beret, ribbons in hair in the colour of the flag of the country, stripey top.

Sharing language learning

30 mins

Upper school pupils plan and deliver a short lesson in the target language to younger pupils. The activity prepared could be to teach a song/rhyme, read a simple story or play a game.

Languages Ambassadors Fun Day

Half day event

Invite senior pupils to help plan and deliver language activities for EDL for primary learners. For example, show younger pupils how to play boules, teach a tongue twister or deliver a PE lesson in the target language.

Suitable for all ages and stages

Suitable for Senior Phase



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Ideas for Secondary

View our EDL blogs from previous years for even more practical ideas from Scottish schools:

[EDL 2025](#)

[EDL 2024](#)

[EDL 2023](#)

