

Haiku written by students on courses with  
**Brasshouse Languages**

# Languages: Haiku Project



written by students on courses at  
**Birmingham Adult Education Service**

# Languages: Haiku Project

Many thanks to all learners who contributed to the Haiku Project. We were delighted to receive more than 50 contributions from learners at all levels. Some of the haiku in this booklet are traditional, some innovative and all are a pleasure to read.

The idea for the project comes from our collective love of language and our exploration of how we can communicate even with limited knowledge of language. We felt a short poem would help learners to express their thoughts and the following pages show the creative results. For the Languages Team, our learners' enthusiasm, and desire to convey meaning motivates us to support them on their language learning journey.

In 17 syllables, our contributors have conveyed their excitement and frustrations about learning a language and hinted at the resilience required – but they have also demonstrated the art of communication. We hope you experience the joy of language through these haiku and in all your interactions in foreign languages.

Haiku are known for their ability to paint a vivid picture in just a few words, and the haiku in this booklet do just that. Please do read some, or all of them, and then have a go at 'painting your own picture' and write a haiku poem.

**Pauline Desch**

Head of Faculty - ESOL & Languages

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# Français



# French

La langue est une clé

L'entrée dans un monde  
nouveau

Quelle route prendrez-vous?

**Adrian Parnell**

*French - Post Intermediate*

Language is a key  
The entry into a new world  
Which road will you take?

Une langue est une clé,  
Qui ouvre une porte au monde.  
Je veux y entrer.

## Aimee Donnison

*French - Advanced Conversation & Culture*

A language is a key,  
That opens a door to the world.  
I want to enter there.

J'adore le français  
Mais, c'est très difficile  
Encore, je vais essayer

## Christine Graves

*French - Lower Intermediate*

I love French  
But, it's very difficult  
However, I will try

Toujours inspirant.

Les pairs deviennent amis.

Une joie de vivre.

## Heather Miller

*French - Lower Intermediate*

Always inspiring.

The peers become friends.

A joy of living.

Une langue étrangère:

Séductrice mélodieuse

Des esprits ouverts

## Ian Richards

*French - Advanced Conversation & Culture*

A foreign language:

Melodious seductress

Of open minds

A six heure et demie

Le mercredi c'est français

Bien, je suis ici

## Josephine Adams

*French - Beginners Plus*

At half past six

On Wednesday it is French

Well, I am here

Pour commencer, timide

La fleur étreint le soleil intense

Et puis, elle fleurit

## Laura Dowling

*French - Improvers*

To begin with, shy

The flower embraces the intense sun

And then it blooms

Avant d'étudier

Le français était bizarre

Maintenant c'est clair

## Maria De Leon

*French - Beginners*

Before studying

French was weird

Now it is clear

C'est exigeant, non?

...Deux, trois, quatre, cinq,  
six, sept.

D'innombrables phrases.

## Marjorie Jackson

*Brasshouse Languages Reception Team*

It's demanding, right?

...Two, three, four, five, six, seven.

Countless sentences.



Pratiquer les verbes,  
Apprendre l'orthographe, et  
Faire des sons, parler.

## Patricia Stephenson

*French - Beginners*

Practise verbs,  
Learn spelling, and  
Make sounds, speak.

Pour jeunes et moins jeunes,  
L'étude des langues brillera.  
Éclaircir des choses.

## Peter Thornley

*French - Lower Intermediate*

For young and less young,  
The study of languages will shine.  
To clear up some things.

Me comprends-tu? Oui?  
C'est un moment de vraie joie.  
On est connectés.

## Stephen Lloyd

*French - Advanced Conversation & Culture*

Do you understand me? Yes?  
It is a moment of true joy.  
We are connected.

La langue française,  
Comme un papillon sur la  
langue,  
Flottant dans la chambre.

## Anonymous

*French - Lower Intermediate*

The French language,  
Like a butterfly on the tongue,  
Floating in the room.

Long apprentissage

Peur de sombrer. Enfin... joie:

Nager comme un cygne

## Anonymous

*French - Advanced Conversation & Culture*

Long apprenticeship

Fear of sinking. Finally... joy:

Swimming like a swan

# Deutsch



# German

Deutsch ist nicht einfach.

Manchmal klinge ich albern.

Mach einfach weiter.

## Beth Cumber

*German - Beginners*

German is not easy.  
Sometimes I sound silly.  
Just carry on.

Deutsch ist sehr super.

Sprechen mit meinen Freunden,

Macht mich so glücklich.

## Jenny Wong

*German - Beginners Plus*

German is very great.  
Talking with my friends,  
Makes me so happy.

Es ist sehr schwierig,  
Eine Sprache zu lernen,  
Doch macht so viel Spaß :)

## Maxime Lacoult

*German - Post Intermediate*

It is very difficult,  
To learn a language,  
But it's so much fun :)

Englisch ist seltsam.  
Es gibt viele Ausnahmen.  
Deutsch macht viel mehr Spaß!

## Todd Specht

*German - Beginners Plus*

English is strange.  
There are many exceptions.  
German is much more fun!

I know no German

Wir lernen mit Renata

Ich spreche klein Deutsch

## Anonymous

*German - Beginners*

I know no German

We study with Renata

I speak little German

# Ελληνικά



# greek

Το φθινόπωρο,  
εχει σκοτεινή βροχή.  
Και μαθήματα.

## Andrew McNaughton

*Greek - Lower Intermediate*

Autumn,  
It is dark rain.  
And lessons.

Ναι, σιγά σιγά.  
Μαθαίνω και μιλάω  
στο μάθημά μου.

## Claire Moran

*Greek - Intermediate*

Yes, slowly.  
I learn and speak  
In my lesson.

Πάμε στο Brasshouse,  
Θα σου πω τι θα μάθεις,  
Ό,τι θέλουμε.

## James Sean Austin

*Greek - Lower Intermediate*

Let's go to the Brasshouse,  
I'll tell you what you'll learn,  
Whatever we want.

Ήμασταν μαθητές  
δεθήκαμε στη γλώσσα  
είμαστε φίλοι.

## John Stevenson

*Greek - Post Intermediate*

We were students  
We bonded over the language  
We are friends.



Έλεγε συχνά  
η πρώτη μου δασκάλα  
“No truth, only Greek!”

## Karen Walford

*Greek - Post Intermediate*

She often said  
My first teacher  
“No truth, only Greek!”

Όλος ο κόσμος  
γιορτάζει και χαίρεται  
τα Χριστούγεννα

## Mary Martin

*Greek - Post Intermediate*

The whole world  
Celebrates and rejoices  
At Christmas

Foreign Languages  
*immerse*



...into a world of diverse cultures and customs

Learning a new language is an incredibly rewarding experience. You'll learn new things about yourself, improve your job prospects, meet new people, and gain the confidence to travel to exciting places all over the world.

Whether you want to learn to embrace differences, increase your health by keeping your mind agile, broaden your horizons and seek out new adventures, make travelling more fun or simply to boost your career. There is no downside to learning a new language!

At **Brasshouse Languages** in **the Library of Birmingham** we have courses available in an unrivalled choice of languages. Our qualified and experienced tutors teach classes at a range of ability levels, from Beginners through to Advanced Conversation & Culture courses.

Call our Information & Admissions Team on **0121 303 4318** or email [information@baes.ac.uk](mailto:information@baes.ac.uk) if you would like more details or some help to find the right course for you.

Ω Ελληνικά!

Είστε τόσο δύσκολα

Αλλά όμορφα

## Roz Combley

*Greek - Lower Intermediate*

Oh Greek!  
You are so difficult  
But beautiful

Είμαστε μαζί

Φίλοι μου, μαθαίνουμε.

Θέλεις σουβλάκι;

## Saleem Chaudhri

*Greek - Post Intermediate*

We are together  
My friends, we are learning.  
Do you want a souvlaki?

Τα ελληνικά,  
Μ' αρέσουν πολύ, αλλά,  
Είναι δύσκολα!

## Susan Chatora

*Greek - Intermediate*

The Greek,  
I really like it,  
But it is difficult!

Όμορφη γλώσσα  
Για την όμορφη χώρα  
θέλω να μάθω!

## Susan Cooper

*Greek - Intermediate*

Beautiful language  
For the beautiful country  
I want to learn!

Θέλω να μιλώ

Αλλά δεν έχω τις λέξεις

Πάμε! Μαθαίνω

## Terry Norfolk

*Greek - Improvers*

I want to talk

But I don't have the words

Let's go! I'm learning

Ξεκινώ αργά

Πολλά μικρά βήματα

Τελικά μιλώ!

## Anonymous

*Greek - Post Intermediate*

I'm off to a slow start

Many small steps

I'm finally talking!

# Italiano



italian

Ho imparato  
Haiku in italiano  
Non vanno bene

**Anna Wilton**

*Italian - Lower Intermediate*

I learned  
Haiku in Italian  
They are not good

Come un sogno.  
Vengono le parole.  
Poi scompaiono.

## Eddie Mayo

*Italian - Advanced Conversation & Culture*

Like a dream.  
The words come.  
Then they disappear.

A volte sbagli  
Va be', non preoccuparti  
Domani riesci

## Elena Cancelas

*Italian - Post Intermediate*

Sometimes you make a mistake  
Alright, don't worry  
Tomorrow you'll succeed

Che bella lingua!

Mi piace imparare

Parole nuove.

## Giuseppe Macerola

*Italian - Intermediate*

What a beautiful language!

I like to learn

New words.

Disanimata.

Poi c'è ispirazione.

Ora, le stelle!

## Gráinne Fadden

*Italian - Improvers Plus*

Disheartened.

Then there is inspiration.

Now, the stars!



La lingua bella,  
Imparando in pandemia,  
Aperto nuovi mondi.

## Jenny Ford

*Italian - Improvers Plus*

The beautiful language,  
Learning in pandemic,  
Opened new worlds.

Io studio molto  
Non è sempre facile  
Ma lo amo...

## Lili Ivanova

*Italian - Beginners Plus*

I study a lot  
It's not always easy  
But I love it...

Questa lingua è

Lo specchio dove io,

lo vedo te.

## Lucia Molina-Iniesta

*Italian - Post Intermediate*

This language is  
The mirror where I,  
I see you.

Il freddo è blu.

Le foglie che cadono.

Nuovi inizi.

## Rachel Pook

*Italian - Lower Intermediate*

Cold is blue.  
The falling leaves.  
New beginnings.

L'italiano!

La lingua molto bella

Ma non facile!

## Sheila Harrison

*Italian - Lower Intermediate*

Italian!

The very beautiful language

But not easy!

Aspettami lì

Dove mi hai lasciato

Tornerò. Spero

## Tara Desai

*Italian - Advanced Conversation & Culture*

Wait for me there

Where you left me

I'll be back. I hope

日本



japanese

海の上

話す言葉は

橋になる

**Faustine Ladeiro-Levent**

*Japanese - Improvers Plus*

On the sea,  
The words to speak,  
Become a bridge.

普通話



Mandarin

热衷于角色，  
书籍、论文、行和列，  
旅行，远在网上

**Emma D'Amato**

*Mandarin - Beginners*

Keen for characters,  
Books, papers, rows and columns,  
Travelling, far online

中国字 - 迷人

中国话 - 星火燎原

中国菜 - 天堂

## Jim Durdin

*Mandarin - Intermediate*

Chinese Characters - Charming

Chinese Words - Catching Fire

Chinese Cuisine - Paradise

沿路慢慢走

当你到达山顶时，

景色会很美。

## Lauren Minto-Simpson

*Mandarin - Beginners Plus*

Walk the road slowly.

When you arrive at the peak,

You will find beauty.

# Español



Spanish

Lengua cansada  
Buscando el cambio  
En idioma

**Daniel Armstrong-Hill**

*Spanish - Beginners Plus*

Tired tongue  
Looking for change  
In language

Qué interesante

Es aprender español

Y me divierto

## Hayley Gwilliam

*Spanish - Improvers*

How interesting

Is learning Spanish

And I have fun

Lengua nueva,

Con palabras extrañas.

Más confianza.

## Heather Pearson

*Spanish - Intermediate*

New language,

With strange words.

More confidence.



El idioma

Es una rosa bella

Con la espina.

## Inés Villalobos Finigan

*Spanish - Improvers*

Language

It is a beautiful rose

With the thorn

Otra cultura

Aquí para aprender

Habilidades

## Karen Duffy

*Spanish Beginners*

Other culture

Here to learn

Skills

El Español es guay

Difícil y rápido

¡No hablo este!

## Marion Murray

*Spanish - Beginners*

Spanish is cool

Difficult and fast

I don't speak this one!

Me gusta mucho

La clase de español

Es divertida

## Anonymous

*Spanish - Improvers*

I like it a lot

The Spanish class

It is funny