

A My Language Biography

Dear Student,

Welcome to your *Tune in Language Portfolio*. This portfolio is based on the *European Language Portfolio*, developed by the Council of Europe. The Council of Europe is an intergovernmental organisation, based in Strasbourg. Its goal is to promote European unity and protect the dignity of European citizens. One of the Council of Europe's main aims is to promote awareness of European cultural identity and to develop mutual understanding between people from different cultural and language backgrounds. The introduction of the *European Language Portfolio* is part of this work and is intended to recognise and support language learning and intercultural experiences. For more information about the Council of Europe and the *European Language Portfolio*, you can write to the following address or consult the website:

Language Policy Division
Directorate General IV
Council of Europe, Strasbourg, France
<http://coe.int/portfolio>

Like the *European Language Portfolio*, the *Tune in Language Portfolio* is divided into three sections. These are:

A My Language Biography

This section details your personal experience of language learning and your attitudes and approaches to learning. It offers you an opportunity to reflect on how you can learn more effectively and develop your skills. In this section you will prioritise your *Tune in 1* learning objectives and set targets for the year.

B My Language Dossier

In this section you can record your best pieces of work this year to demonstrate what you can do in English.

C My Language Passport

The Passport section is where you can document your language learning experiences and assess your skills in different languages using the *Common European Framework*. The *Common European Framework* is a description of six levels of language proficiency used and recognised throughout Europe.

We hope that using the *Tune in Language Portfolio* will help you become a more confident and effective learner of languages, especially English.

Best wishes,

Michael Downie
David Gray
Juan Manuel Jiménez

Use your *Language Biography* to reflect on your experiences as a language learner. Think about your attitudes to learning. Do you enjoy learning languages? Reflect on how you learn and try the practical ideas mentioned in this section to help you to learn grammar and vocabulary more successfully. Brainstorm techniques you can use to improve your skills work: Reading, Listening, Speaking and Writing. Prioritise your learning objectives and identify areas where you require more help and practice.

Section 1: My linguistic experiences

Write a paragraph to describe your experiences of learning languages. Use these ideas to help you:

- How many languages can you speak?
- What languages do you study?
- How long have you been studying them?
- Where have you studied: at school or at home?
- What can you remember about your teachers and classmates?
- What materials or course books have you used?

Section 2: My contact with other cultures and languages

Write a paragraph to describe the different cultures and languages you know. Use these ideas to help you:

- Can your friends and family speak different languages?
- Do you have any friends from other countries?
- What have you learnt about their countries?
- What languages do you use to communicate with these friends?
- Have you ever visited another country?
- When? Where? Why did you go?
- What languages did you use when you were there?
