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## **Real Special News**

### **New Products for language learning and teaching**

If you are interested in learning or teaching a foreign language or work with students who are learning English, we now have a whole range of software resources. Try a free online lesson from over 120 different languages and/or learn to say hello in 115 languages!

The English language resources have also proved highly effective with special needs students, those with autism and also as part of speech therapy (e.g. the 'Talk Now' software). The visual images in conjunction with audio and the written word help to provide a multisensory learning approach.

Please see the link on our website 'Home' page and also the 'Reading' section for product details.

### **Special Offers**

For a limited time, we have special low prices on the new Nessy V4 Learning Programme, the Nessy tales CD or books and Surer Steps behavior software.

#### **Nessy V4**

Nessy Version 4 is a complete system of learning for reading spelling, and writing for use by all students age 5 – 16 and particularly those with dyslexia and SEN.

It combines computer games with printable resources and includes:

A4 printed Teaching manual full of information about dyslexia and 5,000 words and sentences,

Nessy V4 also has 20 computer games, a library of interactive mnemonics and word endings, 120 lesson plans with strategies for learning, and the facility to record and play games with your own words.

Nessy V4 also includes over 1000 printable games and worksheets, an interactive comic that explains 'What's it like being dyslexic?', printable certificates, punctuation, reading accuracy, dictionary skills, grammar plus writing and planning strategies, etc.

### **SPECIAL LOW PRICE!**

Single user version was previously \$337.50 inc. GST, now \$298.13 inc. GST

### **Nessy Tales: CD-ROM or books**

Nessy Tales is a set of 5 stories about the comical adventures of Muggins, Jim and Nan. They are available as an interactive computer CD and/or in 5 books. All 5 books have only 300 words in total. Nessy tales are particularly useful for reluctant readers and those with special needs.

Nessy Tales CD-ROM:

\$35.56 + GST (total \$40) PC version only

Nessy Tales set of 5 books:

\$35.56 + GST (total \$40). Now \$30 + GST, total \$33.75

### **Surer Steps Behavior Software**

We have special lower prices on five of the Surer Steps software products for behavior (ends 31.05.10). All of these are primary school site licenses so are great value (especially the multipack CD).

Please see the 'Reading' section and the 'Behaviour' section of our website for more details of these products.

## Featured websites



This month's choices are:

Free computer training  
Free read-aloud books  
Free Japanese lessons

### Computer Training

<http://www.gcflearnfree.org/>

This website gives you access to free online computer training. Once you click on the main heading, it comes up with the following three sections:

1. Getting started
  - Computer basics
  - Windows
  - Internet 101
  - Internet basics
  - Email basics
  - Mozilla Firefox
  - Facebook 101
2. Using office software
  - Word (including 2007)
  - Excel
  - PowerPoint
  - Access
  - Office
  - Openoffice.org
  - Outlook 2003
  - Publisher 2003

### 3. Exploring life

This is the work and career section and gives advice on career planning, résumé writing, covering letters etc.

You can choose which areas you wish to learn about – great for improving your computer skills!

### Free read-aloud online books

<http://staff.prairiesouth.ca/~cassidy.kathy/broswerbooks/index.htm>

This website was created to allow beginning readers to read books on their web browser. Readers can click on the triangle in the lower right-hand corner of each page to turn the pages. If they are unsure of a word, they can click on it to hear a child's voice read the word to them.

The books have been sorted by level and by subject according to the curriculum e.g. science, maths, social studies, health, and language arts.

### Learning Japanese

<http://erin.ne.jp/>

Learning Japanese is very popular in NZ high schools. A fun-to-learn Japanese-language material: 'Erin's Challenge! I Can Speak Japanese' is now available free on the web.

The website includes:

- 288 video clips to learn up-to-date Japanese language and culture
- 2,161 questions to support self-learning of Japanese
- Interactive quiz and game to experience Japanese culture virtually
- Japanese role play game.

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### Edith the poodle

Hi, I'm Edith, the Real Special mascot. This month's outfit is one that I usually put on later in the day when it starts to get cooler. Luckily for me, the buttons are only for decoration as I find them really hard to do with my paws, even though I am very intelligent (even if I do say it myself).



A recent article on the internet that ranks the intelligence of dogs made me rather cross. I find it an absolute cheek that border collies were in first place. The brightest dogs were rated 1 – 10 using the following criteria:

#### **Ranks 1 – 10**

##### **Brightest dogs:**

Understanding of New Commands: Results - less than 5 repetitions.  
 Obey First Command:  
 Results - 95% of the time or better.  
 Poodles came 2nd.

#### **Ranks 40 – 54**

##### **Dogs of average working intelligence and obedience:**

Understanding of New Commands:  
 Results - 25 to 40 repetitions.  
 Obey First Command:  
 Results - 50% of the time or better.  
 Don't tell Bobby dog but Bichon Frise were rated 45th!

If you want to find out how your dog rates on the intelligence scale, the website address is below.

Click on "The Intelligence Ranking" link on the home page

<http://petrix.com/dogint/index.html>

### Just for fun

#### Edith's smart dog joke

A woman went to the cinema and in the same row was an old lady with her poodle. In the sad part of the film the poodle cried its eyes out, and in the funny part laughed its head off.

After the film had ended, the woman said to the old lady:

"That's amazing - your dog really seemed to enjoy the film."

The old lady said, "Yes it is because she hated the book!"

#### Sudoku for May

The solution is on page 4.

				4				
						5	2	
			2	5		4	1	
3	4		1		8	5		
	8						6	
		2	4		3		8	9
	3	1		7	2			
9	7							
			6					

### Easy recipe - Pineapple Cake

This is a great recipe from the 4 Ingredients series. You can make the cake by itself or use the additional recipe for icing.

#### Easy Pineapple Cake

<http://www.lifestylechannel.com.au/4Ingredients/recipe.asp?id=10281&series=2>



#### Ingredients

2 cups self-raising flour  
1 cup sugar  
450g can crushed pineapple

#### Method

1. Sift flour into a mixing bowl and combine with sugar. Add pineapple and mix well. Pour into a greased cake tin and bake at 180°C for 40 minutes.

Optional: For best results bake in a ring cake tin.

#### Easy Pineapple Cake Icing

<http://www.lifestylechannel.com.au/4Ingredients/recipe.asp?id=10283&series=2>

#### Ingredients

400g can condensed milk  
1/3 butter melted  
1 cup shredded coconut  
1/2 tsp. Vanilla

#### Method

1. Combine condensed milk and melted margarine and bring to boil. Stirring constantly, boil for 4 minutes. Add coconut and mix. While mixture is hot, spread over cooled cake.

Optional: The above amounts cover the entire cake, lid and sides. If, however, you just want to cover the lid use half of the ingredients.

#### Sudoku solution (from page 3)

2	6	5	3	1	4	7	9	8
4	1	3	9	8	7	6	5	2
8	9	7	2	5	6	4	1	3
3	4	6	1	9	8	5	2	7
1	8	9	7	2	5	3	6	4
7	5	2	4	6	3	1	8	9
6	3	1	8	7	2	9	4	5
9	7	8	5	4	1	2	3	6
5	2	4	6	3	9	8	7	1

#### Orders

To order any of the items featured in our newsletter, please visit [www.realspecial.co.nz](http://www.realspecial.co.nz) or email [carole@realspecial.co.nz](mailto:carole@realspecial.co.nz)

**Postage:** \$5 per order

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