Introducing a new interactive approach to language learning:

The French Digital Kitchen

The French Digital Kitchen at Newcastle University is a situated language learning environment where the kitchen communicates with users, instructing them step-by-step in how to cook French cuisine and teaching aspects of French language.

Embedded or 'hidden' digital sensors have been developed and inserted in or attached to all the equipment (for example, a peeler, a mixing bowl, a whisk or even the oven door) and ingredients (for example, a bag of flour, sugar or a tub of butter) allowing the kitchen to detect and evaluate activity as users progress through their cooking tasks.

As the kitchen is able to detect what users are doing, it can provide feedback such as a reminder or more details about a certain cooking action. This feedback is available in both French and English. Users are also able to communicate with the kitchen, using an interactive screen where they can request audio and textual help along the way.

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