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Life

Pardon My French, but the @#\$%ing Baguette is Talking!!!

Voxy on 11/1/11



Learning a language does not have to be tedious, nor entail excruciating memorization sessions or boring text books. And *that* we know very well here at <u>Voxy</u>.

But a group of researchers at England's Newcastle University have put a cutting edge tech spin

on <u>Task-Based Language Learning</u> by creating an "interactive" kitchen that will speaks and teaches French, and walks learners through baking a delicious dish while practicing the language of *l'amour*.

<u>Newcastle's interactive kitchen</u> keeps track of what its users are doing, and uses the French language to guide them in preparing a French dish. It is sort of an automotive navigation system that provides the cook -and language learner- verbal step-by-step instructions, doled out as the user successfully completes each task.

How does it work exactly? C'est très facile!

Users first access a connected computer, on which they select the dish they want to prepare. As they receive instructions, digital sensors in the utensils (a peeler, a whisk, a mixing bowl) or in the ingredients register whether or not those instructions are being followed correctly. The instructions are worded in such a way that they contribute to the student's understanding of French in general. If the student makes a mistake, the computer verbally notifies them. *Voilà!*

Watch the French Digital Kitchen in action and tell us: Which combination of language-cuisine would you love to have in your own digital kitchen? Spanish-paella? Brazilian-feijoada? Italian-tiramisú?



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