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## 'Hard Times' MFL resources

Martine Pillette – mjppillette@aol.com

Dear MFL teachers,

First of all, I hope you are keeping well. On *Linguascope's* suggestion I have decided to write three weekly sequences of activities doable from home to help you during school closures due to COVID-19. The activities will be re. y7-8 French (y7-8 trickier to cater for in the current circumstances?) but easily adaptable to other languages. Some of the activities might not be as 'polished' as they would be in ordinary circumstances, but I hope they will help.

Very best wishes in these difficult times,

Martine

Since the academic year is now ending in many schools in England – where I live – this is my last resource of the series. I struggle to believe that I started writing these resources four months ago – time has been strangely elastic. I hope you have found my medley of activities useful. I have certainly enjoyed writing them and I am grateful to the wonderful *Linguascope* team for making them available to you all. Whichever part of the planet you are on, I hope the last few months have not been too much of an ordeal for you and I wish you the very best.

Martine



## Resource 51

### Teachers' Notes

#### Translation - *Ducobu*

This combines translation, authenticity and culture - pat on the back. The partial translation provided makes the activity accessible to learners with limited knowledge of French and removes/reduces the need to look words up.

## Answers

**Ducobu** is the hero of a series of very funny comic strips invented/created by two Belgian artists in 1992. Ducobu is a tubby boy who always wears a jumper/pullover with horizontal yellow and black stripes.

Ducobu's adventures often take place in his primary school. He has a huge amount of imagination and he often earns/wins a lot of money with/thanks to his excentric inventions.

However, in class, Ducobu is very lazy and always comes last. He loves to cheat and he always tries to copy Léonie's work (she always gets 10/10). What's more, he constantly exasperates Mr Latouche, his teacher.

When he is punished and sent to the back of the class, Ducobu loves to spend his time with Néness, the skeleton «made in China». Néness is not very conventional, for he often takes part in the scenarios invented by Ducobu to try and cheat.

There are now three films based on the comic strips. The most recent, **Ducobu 3**, was released in February 2020.

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