

CROSSROADS

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter September, 2017



It's been said that "good fences make good neighbors." Since antiquity, people have felt compelled to build walls around their huts, houses, places of worship, towns and even countries. But back then it wasn't so much about keeping immigrants out as it was about defending from invaders. For example, around 122 CE, the Romans built Hadrian's Wall in northern England to protect Roman England from marauding Picts and other northern "barbarian" tribes. Its remains are still there today. It stretches about 118km across northern England, and in its heyday was about 3 meters wide and 4.5 meters tall.



Hadrian's Wall

In spite of how impressive Hadrian's Wall might be, the wall that immediately comes to mind when the topic comes up is the Great Wall of China. It is, in fact, a combination of several walls the first being constructed as early as the 3rd century BCE. Its purpose was border control as well as defense. It reached its most impressive size during the Ming Dynasty (1368–1644). Today it stretches for 8,850 km including 6,259km of actual wall interspersed with natural barriers such as hills and rivers.



The Great of Wall China

Even earlier in antiquity, walls began to rise around cities throughout Mesopotamia shortly after urbanization began to develop in that region around 4500 BCE.

Babylon was supposedly surrounded by walls as early as 1792 BCE and walled cities, for purposes of defense, became common in the 10th century BCE; Jericho (now in the West Bank) and the Sumerian city of Uruk (in modern day Iraq) are examples.

It is thought that the first wall build to define (and defend) a national territory rather than just a city, was built by the Sumerian King Shulgi of Ur in 2038 BCE. It was 250km long. Shulgi, his son and his grandson all tried to maintain this wall in an attempt to defend their lands, but eventually Ur fell in 1750 BCE bringing to an end the state of Sumer.

And so it has been with all such walls from the distant past to recently in history.

The Berlin Wall was erected in 1961. Its purpose was more to keep people (in E. Berlin) in, rather than to



The Berlin Wall before 1990

keep invaders out, but it was fated to end in much the same way as most walls; it was pulled down with great rejoicing in 1990.

The wall's main purpose is, and has been, ostensibly, to keep people out (or in). In spite of their ultimate failure to do this, people still love building them. This hasn't changed much over the centuries, and it would seem that building new ones is still all the rage, even in day's world.

Net News

NET LESSONS: Too busy to come to CROSSROADS?

.... Try our *lessons on the net!*

Here are some photos of famous walls from around the world: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/13-famous-walls-around-the-world-photos_us_5810eec2e4b02b1d9e644643

Some Thoughts for the Month



Joshua Says: I don't like to be restricted by barriers. Walls, in the actual sense and the symbolic sense, do not turn me on! Yet, I suppose, like everyone else, I build them; we all do, around ourselves in the hope of protecting ourselves in some way, from something. The question is, from what? If "fear is the mind killer" then conquering fear is the mind opener. Let's consider this in light of what is happening to you as you struggle with your second language studies....

Junko Says: "The artist is a receptacle for emotions that come from all over the place: from the sky, from the earth, from a scrap of paper, from a passing shape, from a spider's web." This quote from Pablo Picasso reminds me of Van Gogh's "Chair" which radiates powerful feelings of its existence and somehow forces you to contemplate it. "Emotions come from all over the place." This is something to make you wonder, isn't it?



Matt Says: This is my last Newsletter post before I move to China. I hope you all have had a good time learning this year. I think everyone has shown great progression since I started teaching so keep studying hard and you will be fluent in no time. Good luck with your English adventure and don't forget to practice whenever you can!

Darrin Says: (continued from last month) Sometimes during the day it can still get up to 25 degrees with clear sunny skies so it's not unusual to see people swimming at the beach. The other thing that takes some getting used to is being cold for Christmas Day. It's our family tradition to go to the beach on this day after eating our Christmas feast.



Mandcy dit: La fin de l'été est arrivée et hélas, c'est déjà la rentrée !!! Toutefois, « triste est l'automne, pour celui qui ne sait l'égayer ». Il faut profiter der la vie et je me languis désormais du pot-au-feu de pommes de terre, de la vue des feuilles d'érable et de la contemplation des splendides montagnes de Shikoku couvertes de rouge et de jaune. Vivons, tant que nous le pouvons. Croquons le jour et soyons heureux.

- ACROSS**
- 3 placed at intervals
 - 4 determine, show or outline
 - 6 keep and protect
 - 11 uncivilized person
 - 13 people who move to a foreign country to live
 - 14 appearing to be so
 - 15 constructed, built to stand (up)
 - 16 an interest followed by exaggerated eagerness
- DOWN**
- 1 forced to do something
 - 2 the growth of cities and societies
 - 5 people who enter a place or country by force
 - 7 a very old period in history
 - 8 what something is used for
 - 9 attacking plundering in search of booty
 - 10 final, concluding
 - 12 ordinary, usual
- [\(print version here\)](#)

Play A Game!

