

CROSSROADS

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter November, 2017



No doubt you've heard of Halloween, where children dress up in costumes and go from house-to-house saying, "trick-or-treat!" In exchange for this, the homeowners give the children candy. If you were anywhere near Okaido on Halloween during the evening, you probably also saw many people dressed in costumes walking up and down the mall. But where does this tradition come from?

Halloween comes from a few different sources. One is the Christian tradition of All Hallows' Eve, which begins a three-day observance dedicated to remembering the dead, including saints (or hallows), martyrs, and all the faithful departed. It was also believed by Catholics that this was the time when souls were freed from Purgatory and would walk across the Earth during their approach to Heaven. This was the last chance for the dead to exact vengeance on their enemies who still lived and in order to hide from spirits, people would don costumes and masks.

But Halloween also has roots in a Celtic festival called Samhain (pronounced *sah-ween*). Samhain marked the end of the harvest season, signaling the beginning of winter or the "darker half" of the year. It was believed that this period was when the barrier between this world and the spirit world was at its weakest, which allowed the Aos Si (pronounced *ees-shee*), or spirits or fairies, to come more easily into our world.

It was believed by observers of Samhain that the Aos Si had to be appeased in order to ensure their livestock survived the winter. To do so, people left out offerings of food and drink for the Aos Si. In addition to the Aos Si, it was believed that the souls of the dead would revisit their former homes, seeking hospitality. The idea of trick-or-treating could also have come from the tradition of people dressing as Aos Si and going from door-to-door asking for food.

One of the most famous symbols of Halloween is the Jack-o'-Lantern, which comes from Irish Christian folklore. The story describes a man named Jack, who after a night of drinking, encountered the Devil. Jack tricked the Devil into climbing a tree and then carved a cross, trapping the Devil in the tree. Jack offered the Devil a deal—if Jack removed the cross, the Devil couldn't claim his soul once he died and the Devil agreed. Years later, Jack died after a life of drinking and sinning and was denied entry into Heaven. The Devil refused to allow him into Hell and threw a coal straight from the fires of the pit at him. It was a cold night, so Jack took the coal and put it inside a hollowed-out turnip. Ever since then, Jack has wandered the Earth, seeking a place to rest.

Over time, these traditions have evolved, and now they've lost their religious connotations, instead becoming fun activities for people to do on Halloween.

Article by Perry

Net News

NET LESSONS: Too busy to come to CROSSROADS?

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

Try this quiz about Halloween:

<http://www.5minuteenglish.com/oct29.htm>



Some Thoughts for the Month



Joshua Says: There are no mistakes on the road to success. Or put another way, the mistakes that you make along the way are not only part of the success you will finally attain, but without them you may not even succeed at all! Try to keep this in mind when next you hold back in your lesson.

Junko Says: Our new semester will start from December. We are moving closer and closer to the year 2020. For people in various business fields, as well as those in education, the ability to use English is becoming a much weightier issue than it has been in the past. I hope this coming year will become a turning point for those who really feel English is our 2nd language. I also hope English becomes a part of everyone's life, not something people don't learn because they have no need for it.



Perry Says: Even though I'm from Chicago, I hate the cold. So far, we've been fortunate that the weather has remained pretty mild, if not even very warm during the daytime. On the one hand, it's been nice to not have to bundle up when going outside. On the other hand, it does have me concerned about global warming.

Darrin Says: Having had a keen interest in rugby since I was a child, I was excited to hear that the Australian Rugby team, the Wallabies, were coming to Japan to play against the Japanese side, the Brave Blossoms. No way was I going to miss it! So on November 4, I was at Nissen Stadium in Yokohama to watch the game. There was a really great atmosphere and I was particularly moved when the Japanese sang their anthem. Almost 50,000 people proudly singing. It gave me goose-bumps listening to it. While the Wallabies ended up being the comfortable winners, the loudest cheers were reserved for when the Brave Blossoms scored their tries.



Mandcy dit: Ovide disait à propos du vin : « plus on boit, plus on a soif ». Cela tombe bien ! car en ce jolie mois de novembre, nous accueillons avec délice le beaujolais nouveau. Saviez-vous que le Japon était le premier pays à commencer à en boire dans le monde ? Un vin convivial et modeste, qui réchauffera notre coeur, en attendant l'hiver. A déguster avec modération ou pas.

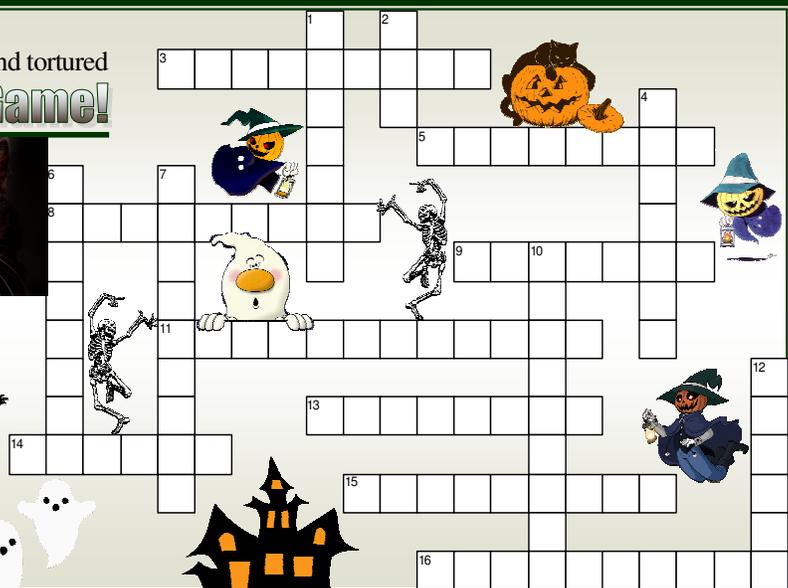
ACROSS

- 3 a place where the dead are temporarily tormented and tortured
- 5 make peace with, gain favor with
- 8 followers or believers
- 9 visit again
- 11 an implied or suggested idea
- 13 dead
- 14 refuse to accept
- 15 unintentionally be in the same place
- 16 a formal event on a special occasion

DOWN

- 1 people who suffer (even die) for a cause
- 2 put on clothing
- 4 searching for
- 6 the unwritten stories, etc, of a culture
- 7 committed to a cause, ideal or purpose
- 10 taking revenge, retaliation
- 12 make certain of something ([print version here](#))

Play A Game!





TRAVEL WORLD

Exploring Kinosaki-Onsen – the final installment

by SP5's Noriko Ikeda

(continued from last month)...

Attractive and Wonderful scenes



The Kinosaki-onsen area changes its face completely season by season. Sakura season offers the beauty of the cherry blossoms. In the summer we can escape the heat and relax with the deep green. Firework displays are held every weekday in the evening from the end of July until the end of August. The brilliant colors of gold and red leaves in autumn are amazing. Winter must be the most attractive season to visit. We can see a picturesque white world. The town is covered with pure white snow as far as we can see. One of the hotel staff strongly recommended to us to visit again in the winter season.

Conclusion

Wonderful dream times always come to an end. In getting away from the hustle and bustle of daily life, we can enjoy a peaceful and comfortable time to the fullest. And I was impressed by Japanese hospitality until the end of my stay.

Before we departed in the morning, I enjoyed a final hot spring bath. Then we left our room. When we were at the front desk, a foreigner next to us was also checking out. He spoke to the receptionist in English. He asked her for some information about nearby tourist spots. Her English wasn't very fluent but she made herself understood in English. She looked very, very cool. I thought that I wanted to be like her.

During this trip, I experienced something international in a traditional Japanese environment. I think it's useful for English learners to visit some international tourist spots in our homeland and to feel something international and have a chance to exchange cultures.

How about going to Kinosaki-onsen on your next trip?

Pet's Corner

It would seem from these photos that some of our furry friends were enjoying Halloween last month also.....



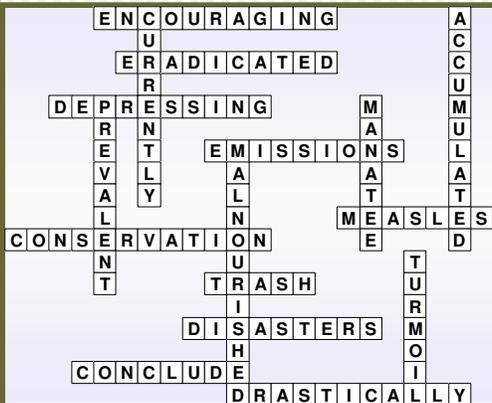
Last Month's puzzle Solution

ACROSS

- 1 helping confidence, giving hope
- 4 completely destroyed
- 5 causing sad feelings
- 8 released, caused to flow forth
- 10 a highly contagious viral disease
- 11 careful management of the environment
- 13 worthless material
- 14 great losses or misfortunes
- 15 decide by reason

DOWN

- 2 at this time, of now
- 3 gathered together, collected
- 6 most frequent, very common
- 7 a water dwelling mammal
- 9 insufficient quality or quantity of food
- 12 violent disturbance



Don't forget... Our SPECIAL 1+1 Campaign offer! Up to 50% off!!

See our notice board, or ask Junko in our office, for the details.