

CrossTalk

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter February, 2018

Mothers of Invention

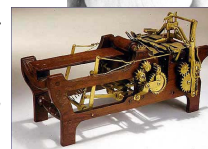
No, this is not an article about an experimental rock band from the 1960's. Instead, this will be a tribute to some of the people who, through their intelligence and inventiveness, have made a very real difference in the way we live our lives today. And for this article, we will look exclusively at some of the women who have achieved this.

Do you drive a car, and have you ever had to drive through rain or snow? Imagine doing so without windshield wipers - nearly impossible! But thanks to **Mary Anderson**, you don't have to. Back in 1903, during a visit to New York City, Anderson noticed that streetcar drivers had to open their windows when it rained in order to see the road ahead. Anderson invented a swinging arm device with a rubber blade that was operated by the driver from within the vehicle. Her invention was greeted with skepticism at first, but by 1916 windshield wipers were a standard fixture on just about every kind of vehicle running on wheels.

So, you're in a supermarket and you notice an enticing bag of potato chips; just the thing to settle down with while watching footy on TV. Now imagine you are living in the 1920's. If you wanted some potato chips, you'd have to ask the shopkeeper to scoop some up from an open barrel for you. And if you got your chips from the bottom of the barrel, they probably would have been broken and somewhat stale. No longer so enticing? **Laura Scudder** thought so, too. She got the idea of ironing a wax bag along three sides, filling it with chips, and then ironing the fourth side shut to make the bag airtight. The perfect chip! She started mass-producing her fresh potato chips in 1926, and was the first to put production dates on her bags.



Speaking of paper bags meet **Margaret Knight**, America's "paper bag queen." "Mattie" started inventing various factory machines when she was only 12 years old. She is credited with about 90 inventions and 22 patents for everything from shoe-making to sleeve-valve engines for cars. But her most famous invention was a machine to mass produce flat-bottom paper bags, a mainstay of supermarkets and school lunches for decades after she was awarded a patent in 1871. Not bad for a humble factory girl.



Known to most as a famous Hollywood actress, **Hedy Lamarr** was also an inventor. During the WW2 era, she and George Anthiel, another inventor, developed a secret communications language to fool the Nazis. Her inventions from that period are among the first in the field of wireless communications. Although the cell-phone had not been invented at that time, without her discoveries, we would not have Wi-Fi today!



Grace Murray Hopper was a computer pioneer and mathematician. She was best-known for her 1952 invention of Flow-Matic, the first compiler software that translated instructions written in English into machine language that computers could understand and use. She had a PhD and served for 43 years in the US Navy, where she rose to the rank of Rear Admiral. She retired from the navy at the age of 80.



These are just a few of the many outstanding women who have changed my life and yours. I wonder who else might be added to this list in the future?

Net News

NET LESSONS: Too busy to come to CROSSROADS?

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

Go here for more on famous women inventors:

<http://www.women-inventors.com/>

Some Thoughts for the Month



Joshua Says: We have a few senior high-school students coming to Crossroads. They are studying to sit for IELTS and other similar “tests.” And I can’t help but feel sympathy for them. They’re planning to go to colleges overseas, but even there they’ll be confronted with tests and examinations. Do “educators” really think tests are a measure of a person’s intelligence, their worth or their ability to contribute positively to society? It’s a wonder that “examination hell” doesn’t have the opposite effect.

Junko Says: Next month will be the middle of our first semester for this year and again, we'd like you to answer our regular short questionnaire about your lessons. Your feedback, opinions, comments, and requests are very important to us and they help us to maintain our high standard of teaching services for everyone. So when you receive this questionnaire, please spare a few minutes to fill it out. Thanks!




Perry Says: February 14th is Valentine's Day. In Japan, Valentine's Day is a time of year when women buy presents for the men in their life and then next month, men return the favor for White Day. But in America, Valentine's Day is for couples and they give presents to each other. It's almost like American Valentine's Day combines Japanese Valentine's Day and White Day together.

Darrin Says: Did you happen to see the Super-Blue-Blood-Moon last month? The rare event was a combination of three lunar events all happening at the same time. As it was the second full moon in a month, it was what is known as a 'blue moon.' Hence the expression of a rare event as (being) 'once in a blue moon.' It was also a 'super' moon, which happens when the full moon occurs when it's closest to the earth. Finally, it was a 'blood moon' because there was a lunar eclipse at the same time.



Mandcy dit: Ovide disait que « Pour chasser l'Amour, tous les moyens sont bons. » En effet, ce mois de février est rempli d'amour et de.... chocolats au Japon. Je vous souhaite donc une bonne Saint-Valentin et aussi bon courage dans votre chasse de l'amour. Soyez généreux et attention à la crise de foie.

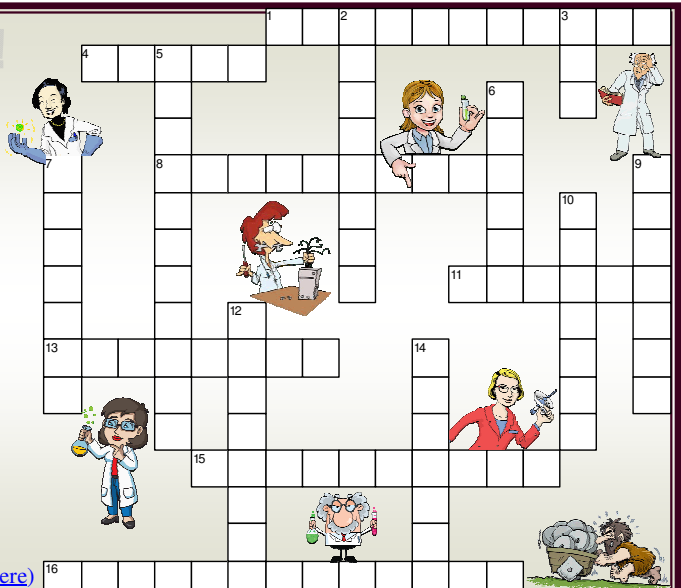
ACROSS

- 1 not divided or shared with others
- 4 the game of football
- 8 doubt
- 11 useful equipment, mechanism or gadget
- 13 highly attractive
- 15 most cars have this
- 16 creative thought or action
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DOWN

- 2 acknowledged and praised for achieving something
3 a distinctive period of time
5 distinguished from others
6 not arrogant
7 someone who opens a new line of research
9 documents granting sole rights
10 something given or shown as a mark of respect
12 preventing air to enter
14 a machine for transporting people and goods (print version [here](#))

Play A Game!





The Traveler's Log with

S(a)3's Takashi Inoue

My mother and I visited Portugal this New Year. Many Portuguese explorers sailed around the world by caravel during the Age of Discovery. As a result, Portugal has integrated many cultures from around the world. This is interesting to me.

On the other hand, there is no direct airline route from Japan to Portugal and there will be little chance for me to go there on business. So we decided to go just for a visit.

I will talk about three of my experiences:

First, we stayed in a castle! It was a fantastic place with a wonderful view and delicious food. In Japan, we can only see exhibits (such as armor and swords) in castles. We could never stay in one. So, it was an amazing experience.

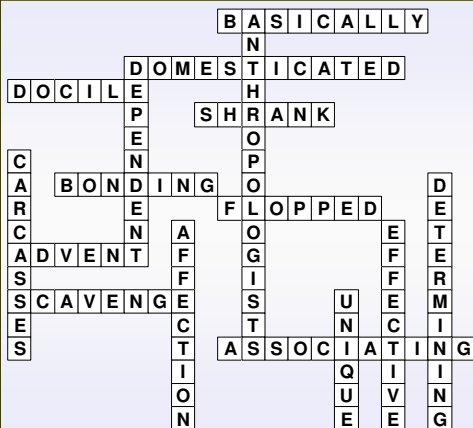


Secondly, the cities of Portugal are so colorful. Not only buildings, but also the trains, buses, and ships are so beautiful. We took a lot of photos.



Finally, I will talk about Libreria Lello & Irmão. We call it Lello. Do you know about Lello? This is the most beautiful book store in the world. It was used in one of the scenes for the Harry Potter movies. Many fans from all over the world visit it. The spiral staircase was very impressive to me.

My mother and I talked with each other for a long time. We had a fruitful journey.



Last Month's puzzle Solution

ACROSS

- 1 in essence, fundamentally
- 3 overcome wildness
- 4 willing to be taught, led or supervised
- 5 decrease in size
- 7 forming a close relationship
- 9 fell loosely (usually down)
- 12 an important arrival or beginning
- 13 feed on dead animals
- 15 keeping company with

DOWN

- 2 scientists who study the origins of human societies
- 3 relying upon or needing support
- 6 dead bodies of animals
- 8 deciding
- 10 a positive feeling of liking
- 11 able to achieve a purpose
- 14 highly unusual or rare



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.