

Crossroads

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter April, 2018

Let's Dance

Why do people jump, shake, twirl, twist, skip and move in the most unpredictable directions, contorting their bodies into the most impossible shapes, and simply call it *dancing*? Human beings have indulged in this unique form of expression ever since we took up residence in caves millennia ago, perhaps even back *before* we discovered that caves made good homes.

As a primal form of communication, dance has been a part of ancient rituals, sacred gatherings and social events since antiquity. And its basic purpose hasn't changed very much to this day.



The oldest physical records we have of societies indulging in this pastime come for 9,000 year old Indian cave paintings. These images depict scenes of hunting, childbirth, religious rites and communal dancing and drinking.

But we also have stylized representations of animals in caves in many parts of the world that go back many more thousands of years into the distant past. It has been theorized that these cave paintings possibly represented the "spirits" of the animals the tribal hunters intended to hunt. If a stone-age artist could "capture" the spirit of an animal before the hunt, perhaps the tribe's hunters would have better luck catching the real thing. Could tribal "holy men" have also helped with "soul-catching" dances to help the hunt as well?

Whatever their practical function, paintings and dancing represent an important step in the evolution of "intelligent man"; namely the event of abstract thought. Those cave paintings and ancient dances were, to be sure, a form of communication among the members of the tribe. But more significantly, the artists were using abstract symbolism to represent something beyond the tribe's immediate surroundings, beyond the cave walls or the dances themselves. And so the telling of "stories" – tall or otherwise – began.

With expanding consciousness man began to question the purpose of his existence. Dancing shaman and other "spirit-mediums" attempted to convey some of the answers. Egyptians started using dance as an integral part of their religious ceremonies in the third millennium BC. The Greeks, Romans and other early civilizations followed their example. Art, both dance and painting/sculpture, became a mediator between man and his gods.

Of course not all dancing in those ancient times was meant for religious purposes. People also danced for pure entertainment, simple celebration, courtship or just exhilaration. Come the Middle Ages and the Renaissance in Europe and dance for most people had become a narrative for human relationships. It was even further stylized in this context by the wealthy classes during the Renaissance with the advent of ballet.

Dance as a simple symbolic narrative is still practiced on stages, in discos and other dance halls throughout the world today. Innocent enough in its intent and far removed for its dark and primeval past. Or is it? Could there be hidden in dance's "subconscious" a lurking and dangerous primordial force?

Strasbourg, now in France, was the site of a most unusual event – "The Dancing Plague of 1518." In July of that year, Frau Troffea walked into the street, (presumably) kicked off her shoes and started to dance. And she didn't stop for at least four (some records suggest six) days; no rest, no food, no sleep! Not only that, within a month 400 more were following her example. This "dance" lasted three months and at its height some 15 people were dying from exhaustion every day!

From assisting the hunt, communicating with the gods, to Fran Troffea, and even to modern-day raving, can we really know what dancing is and why we do it...?



Net News

NET LESSONS: Too busy to come to CROSSROADS?

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

Go here for more on the history of dance:

www.dancefacts.net/dance-history/history-of-dance/

Some Thoughts for the Month



Joshua Says: Last month we bid a fond farewell to Perry who left us to take up teaching at a university in Kyushu. While I wish Perry good luck in his new post, this month I also extend a warm welcome to our new teacher, Mark. All indications suggest that there has been a renewed interest in studying English in Matsuyama recently, and I am sure Mark will have much to offer our students in this new revival of interest.

Junko Says: Overseas study programs for “busy working people.” Even if as short as 1 week, you can take 20 to 40 lessons in 5 native English countries as well as other European countries. These include study for language proficiency tests, career development and culture and art courses. Fees are as little as ¥72,000 to ¥100,000 including home-stay (with meals). I would strongly recommend these programs when you have a chance to travel overseas. For more information, ask me in the office.



Mark Says: It's a pleasure to introduce myself as Crossroads' new English teacher. My name is Mark Evison and I'm originally from Derbyshire, England. I have wide-ranging life experience, and have been teaching for 13 years. I love cycling and bonsai, and I am very excited to be living and working in Matsuyama. I look forward to helping your English progress soon.

Darrin Says: One thing that's been great about moving back to live in Matsuyama, has been that I've been able to enjoy more quality time with my daughter than I was able to do back in Australia. And the thing we have been enjoying the most is our walks, especially during the recent glorious weather we've had here. We live pretty close to the city centre and from there we've walked all over Matsuyama. Our favourite walk is up to the castle, but we've also enjoyed walks to Sogo and Dogo parks. I'm looking forward to many more.



Mandcy dit: Connaissez-vous la chasse aux œufs ?? Les petits français attendent avec impatience le dimanche de Pâques. Car selon la tradition, les cloches jettent du chocolat dans les jardins et les parcs. Et les enfants y trouvent des poules et des œufs en chocolats. Avril est un mois très gourmand donc n'hésitez pas à manger des choses délicieuses et profiter des beaux jours.

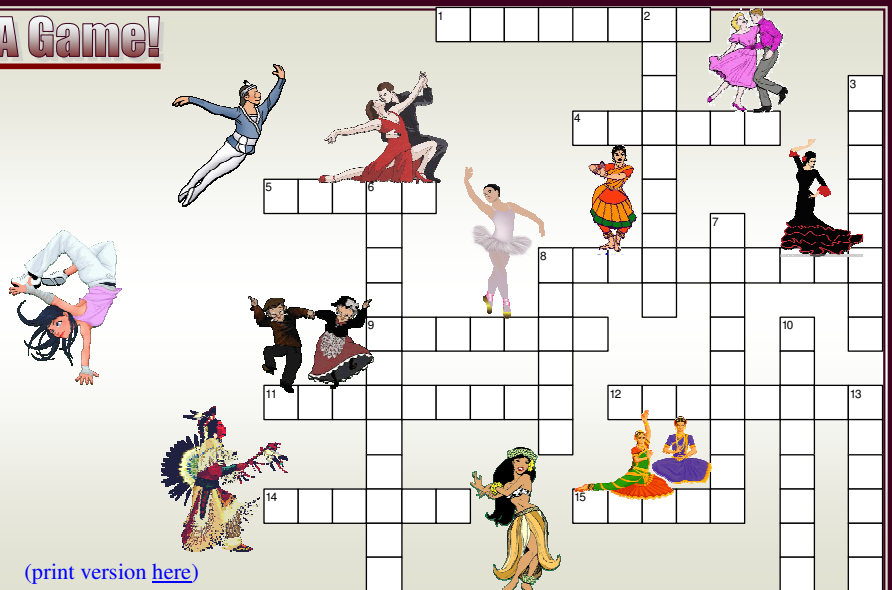
ACROSS

- 1 lacking nothing essential
- 4 essential, fundamental
- 5 a religious ceremony
- 8 twisting or pressing out of shape
- 9 hiding intending an attack
- 11 story-line following a course of events
- 12 go between, especially for negotiations
- 14 show as in a picture
- 15 turn in a twisting or spinning motion

DOWN

- 2 an extremely old period in history
- 3 enjoyed to excess
- 6 feeling of lively, cheerful joy
- 7 actual or real
- 8 make known
- 10 anticipated or planned outcome
- 13 participating in an all-night dance party

Play A Game!



(print version [here](#))

Darkest Hour

While we congratulate Japan's Kazuhiro Tsuji on winning the Oscar for "best makeup and hairstyling" and turning Gary Oldman (also the Oscar winner for "best actor") into Winston Churchill in "Darkest Hour", let's take a moment and think about the subject of this movie: Churchill. Everyone is familiar with the name, and for those who want to learn more there are many books and other records available. But for a quick insight into how the man thought, there is no better way than to read some of his quotations. See if you can get the meaning of these:

"When the eagles are silent,
the parrots begin to jabber."



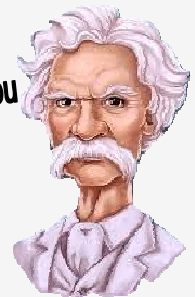
"It's a good thing for an uneducated
man to read books of quotations."



"I like pigs.
Dogs look up to us.
Cats look down on us.
Pigs treat us as equals."



"People will accept your ideas if you
attribute them to Mark Twain....
A good font is also crucial."

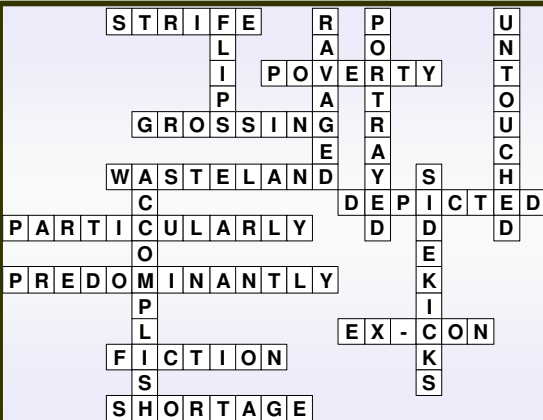


"Tact is the ability to tell someone to
go to hell in such a way that they
look forward to the trip."



"I may be drunk, miss,
but in the morning I will
be sober, and you will still be ugly."

"This report, by its very length, defends
itself against the risk of being read."



Last Month's puzzle Solution

ACROSS

- 1 bitter conflict
- 6 a state of having on money
- 7 earning before tax
- 8 an uninhabitable wilderness
- 11 represented graphically
- 12 specifically or especially
- 13 much greater in number or influence
- 14 former prisoner (hyphenated)
- 15 based on imagination
- 16 an amount that is less

DOWN

- 2 turns or tosses over with a sharp movement
- 3 violated or destroyed by force
- 4 represented or described
- 5 not effected or influenced by
- 9 to gain through effort
- 10 assistants or companions



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.