

CrossTalk

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter August, 2018



BLOOD MOON

Did you catch the lunar eclipse on the 27th of last month? Did you see the jaguar with bloodied teeth? No...?

The ancient Inca believed that every now and again a jaguar would attack the Moon and eat it. That, they believed, was what caused a "blood moon." They also believed that once the jaguar had devoured the Moon, it would redirect its attention towards the Earth. In order to protect the earth, and themselves, the Inca would shake spears at the moon, shout and beat their dogs to make them bark. The noise was enough to chase the jaguar away.



The ancient Mesopotamians believed that during a lunar eclipse their king's life was in danger, so they would replace him with a faux king for the duration of the eclipse while the real king stayed hidden. He would then reappear and be reinstated once the danger was over.

The Chinese believed that solar and lunar eclipses were caused by a hungry dog named Tiangou ("heaven dog"), trying to devour the sun or moon. But Tiangou was always stopped by the god of childbirth, Zhang Xian, an expert archer.



In a Korean myth, it's also a case of dogs, this time attempting to steal the moon and sun for their master, the ruler of the "Dark World." During these attempted heists there is an eclipse, but as the objects of the Dark King's desire clearly return, it was believed that the sun must have been too hot and the moon too cold for the dogs to hold on to for very long.

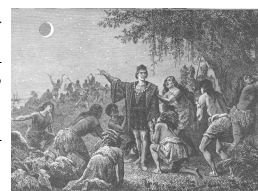
On the other side of the world, the Vikings tell a tale of two ravenous wolves that chase the sun and moon in order to eat them. When either catches its prey, we have an eclipse. The Greek Goddess of the Moon was also said to have kept company with wolves. Could all these dogs in the sky have something to do with the werewolf myth as well?



Mythology aside, what actually causes a "blood moon?" Normally when the moon passes behind the earth, we see a round silvery disk, a full-moon. It's high enough in the night sky to avoid the Earth's shadow cast by the sun. But sometimes the full-moon moves directly behind the Earth, in a straight line with the Sun and is then eclipsed. Some sunlight still reaches the moon, refracted

by the Earth's atmosphere, and illuminates it with an ashen to dark red glow.

Columbus was aware of the science behind the "blood moon" back in 1504. On his 4th voyage to the new world he and his crew got marooned in Jamaica. He had an almanac with him that predicted an impending eclipse of the moon. When the natives refused to supply him and his crew with food, he told them that God was angry with them and would make a sigh of His displeasure in three days. A "blood moon" eclipse followed - and so did plenty of food for Columbus!



Net News

NET LESSONS: Too busy to come to CROSSROADS?

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

Watch a video explaining how a "blood moon" eclipse happens:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VW2xRR75IKE>

Some Thoughts for the Month



Joshua Says: How can you develop your vocabulary? There are basically only two steps, but they require a lot of effort. First you have to find words. Reading with a dictionary, pencil and paper, lots of reading, is a good choice. But how can you remember, or even know how to use your new words correctly? This brings you to the second step; testing out the new words. Try them out in class or in writing exercises that your teacher can check for you. Follow these two steps regularly and often and your general English level will improve greatly.

Junko Says: We planted two different varieties of olive trees in front of our school building because I believed that it was necessary to do so in order for them to bear fruit. But two days ago I found out that one tree can bear fruit by itself. Olives begin bearing fruit in the tree's 3rd to 5th year and reach full production in 7 to 8 years after planting. This year one of our trees produced four olives. We may be able to have two kinds of olives next autumn. Can you imagine how nice they will look?!!



Mark Says: My mind this month, rather predictably if you've seen me hobbling around the school, has been filled with matters of health... But not just about ill health, but rather how readily we take good health for granted. Please be conscious of how lucky you and your family and friends are to be in sound mind and body, and celebrate every moment!

Darrin Says: As we brace ourselves for yet another typhoon, it brings to mind summer in Australia when we have our cyclones. While they are the same storm with a different name, Japan has way more of them than we do in Australia. However, and this may be because Matsuyama never really seems to get a bad one, the cyclones in Australia seem much more powerful and cause a lot more damage. And fingers crossed we still won't get a bad one.



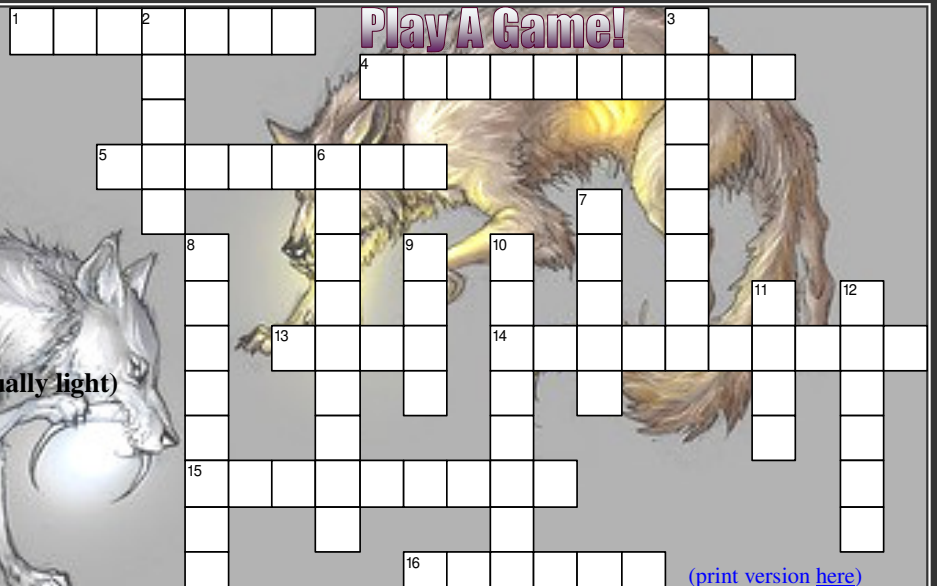
Mandcy dit: Quelles vacances de folie pour les français !! En effet, la France a réussi a remporté la coupe du monde et les gens dansaient et chantaient dans la rue pour fêter la victoire. De plus, cet été, il fait trop chaud ! C'est la canicule. Le Tour de France, la compétition de vélo, est vraiment terrible pour les participants. Cet été aura été très effervescent pour les français. Vivement la fraîcheur de l'automne.

ACROSS

- 1 a manual or reference book
- 4 make lighter or brighter
- 5 eat greedily and completely
- 13 a light, not too serious short story
- 14 restored to a previous state
- 15 close in time
- 16 kept out of sight

DOWN









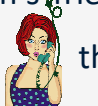








- 2 drained of color, pale
- 3 extremely hungry
- 6 a change or bend in direction (usually light)
- 7 stay clear from
- 8 a period of time
- 9 an animal hunted for food
- 10 stranded, cut off, left behind
- 11 not genuine or real
- 12 acts of stealing

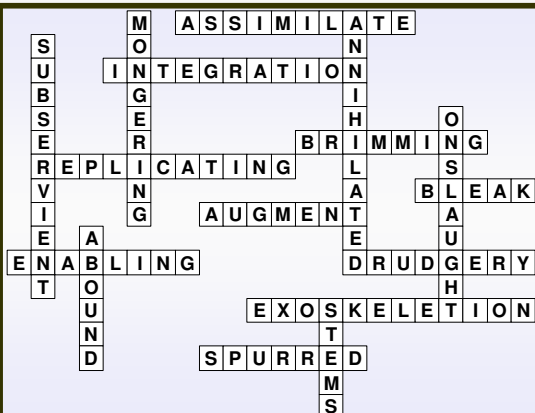


(print version [here](#))

Here are a few idioms to think about. Look at the list below and use the images in the passage to complete the story.

1. **a can of worms**; an awkward, embarrassing, complicated matter.
2. **under the weather**; slightly unwell or in low spirits.
3. **hold your (my) tongue**; stay quiet despite wanting to say something.
4. **a chip off the old block**; behaves like or resembles (usually) his father.
5. **pull your (his) socks up**; make an attempt to improve.
6. **heard (it) on the grapevine**; to hear something through gossip.
7. **let the cat out of the bag**; to reveal a secret.
8. **a storm in a tea cup**; a small event that has been exaggerated.
9. **drinks like a fish**; to frequently drink a lot of alcohol.
10. **take the bull by the horns**; to deal with a difficult situation directly and confidently.
11. **let sleeping dogs lie**; to leave a situation alone so as to avoid making it worse.
12. **in one ear and out the other**; heard but quickly forgotten.
13. **in the doghouse**; In trouble with someone due to one's misdeeds or blunders.
14. **play it by ear**; to have no game plan.
15. **cry over spilled milk**; don't be upset over something that cannot be fixed.
16. **couch potato**; lazy, frequently watching television.
17. **put your (my) foot in your (my) mouth**; make a verbal blunder that embarrasses others.

My uncle's son, my cousin, is a . He and his dad are a pair of . They sit around the house all day watching TV. On top of that, my cousin ! Although this worries me, I usually  and never criticize him directly about it because it would only cause a  if I did. However, I do think he should try to  and behave more responsibly. The other day I complained to my cousin's friend about his attitude and his friend . I should have  because later I  that my cousin was very angry with me for saying he was lazy. It seems I really did  this time and my cousin has been  ever since he heard what I had said to his friend. I suppose I should  speak with him and explain that I didn't mean to offend him but he never listens to anything I say. Everything just goes . This is turning out to be a really big  I've opened and I will probably be  for quite a while as far as my cousin is concerned. Well, what is done is done and I can't waist time . For now, I'll just  and hope for the best.



ACROSS

- 2 take in or absorb
- 5 combining into a whole
- 7 filled to capacity
- 8 making an exact copy
- 9 offering little or no hope
- 10 make larger or increase
- 12 giving the ability to do something
- 13 hard monotonous routine work
- 14 exterior structure of many animals such as snails
- 16 stimulated, urged on

Last Month's puzzle Solution

DOWN

- 1 selling or offering for sale
- 3 destroyed completely
- 4 obedient to authority
- 6 sudden and severe attack
- 11 many or plenty of something
- 15 originates from



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