

# Crossroads

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter September, 2018

## Focus Folks

For years children have been lambasted by teachers and parents for their lack of focus in class, a phenomenon that seems to have been exacerbated by kids' continued exposure to technology. Since the advent of personal computers, video games and mobile phones, the effect on youth seems to have culminated in the occurrence of ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity disorder) in millions of American teenagers, and along with it, prescriptions for highly addictive and dangerous medications such as Ritalin and Adderall to help them maintain focus, attention and the ability to sit still and stop fidgeting.

However, technology spreading into adulthood also appears to be having some serious repercussions. Take the workplace, for example, where each worker is said to lose 400 hours of productivity per year due to cell-phone use – denting corporate profits by \$15.5 billion annually in the US alone! This could also lead to quality issues in production, possibly resulting in dangerous, inferior goods, as well as threatening the quality and reliability of services related to health, education, government\* and more.

(\*Recently, a British politician, Nigel Mills, for example, was found to have played a game of Candy Crush for 2 hours while sat in the House of Commons during an important legislative bill!)



Focus on the roads is also slipping with an alarming rise in drivers using their phones and, more disturbingly, even watching TV while driving. This is



obviously a very dangerous situation, not just endangering bad drivers' own lives, but also threatening the lives of all other road users and pedestrians.

Do we blame, or fight a losing battle against the ingress of technology – or can technology also offer a solution to these issues? Driving, for one, may soon become less lethal as autonomous computer-driven cars are due to start entering the market. In the US these cars have already self-driven over 15 million kilometers in testing, and the results are promising with considerably less accidents and issues affecting the roads than when people are in control of their cars – 94% of the 1 million road deaths per year are due to human error, but computers don't fall asleep nor get distracted or muddled, and can 'see' 360 around the car.

Japan faces numerous issues due to an ageing population of drivers – including slowing reactions, muddled decision-making and driving the wrong way down highway lanes – yet with cars being an ever-reliant means of travel for a society where public transport is often limited, it seems the perfect market here for self-driving cars. What do you think – would you prefer to control the car yourself, or handover the responsibility and effort of driving to the car, and let your attention wander into a good book or your favourite TV show?

## Net News

**NET LESSONS:** Too busy to come to CROSSROADS?  
.... Try our *lessons on the net!*

Here's a list of negative effects technology has on us according to RooGirl: <http://roogirl.com/25-negative-effects-of-technology/>

*Article by Mark*

# Some Thoughts for the Month



**Joshua Says:** “The most difficult thing is the decision to act, the rest is merely tenacity.” This is a quote from the famous aviator, Amelia Earhart. Everyone understands the “never give up” (*tenacity*) sentiment in these words, but for me, the real message is in the part about making a “decision to act.” It takes courage to make a decision and then act on that decision, but so many people I have spoken to about starting English lessons can’t seem to get past this step!

**Junko Says:** A truly international hotel is about to open in Matsuyama. I call it “truly” international because an essential requisite will be that all information, the restaurant’s menus, guidance and instructions, etc, will be written in two languages, Japanese and English. Also, this hotel is enthusiastically educating its staff in English (we are already teaching there) to better serve their foreign guests and to accept foreigners on their staff. I feel this is an important step for people in Matsuyama to become aware of “globalization.”



**Mark Says:** Albert Einstein, one of the greatest minds of modern time, said “Genius is 1% talent and 99% percent hard work.” It sprang to mind this month when thinking of the success achieved by students’ hard work. Merely thinking about achieving our dreams will never make them happen, but ideas and imagination need to be followed by action, and in turn, with perseverance: Then anything is possible!

**Darrin Says:** As a continuation from last month when I talked about cyclones/typhoons I thought I’d mention the interesting phenomenon known as the Coriolis Effect. It’s what makes typhoons turn anticlockwise in the Northern Hemisphere and makes cyclones turn clockwise in the Southern Hemisphere. What’s most interesting about this is that it also applies to how the water drains from your bath or toilet. But did you know that on the equator, the Coriolis force is zero, which means the water drains straight down?



**Mandev dit:** Anatole France disait que < le livre est l’opium de l’Occident >. En effet. Nous adorons les lire. Et septembre est le mois de la diffusion de tous les livres en France. En un seul mois, 5000 livres sortent dans les librairies. La fraîcheur arrive et il est temps de collectionner les livres et de s’adonner aux joies de la lecture sous la couette.

## ACROSS

- 1 the act of entering
- 4 people who travel by foot
- 6 deadly
- 8 free of external control
- 11 the arrival of something, (usually expected)
- 13 relating to the making laws
- 14 confused
- 15 a large indefinite number
- 16 suppressing or depressing something

## DOWN

- 2 consequences of some action
- 3 reached a final or climatic stage
- 5 made worse
- 7 severely or angrily criticized
- 9 clearly evident
- 10 moving restlessly (especially a child)
- 12 causing apprehension or fear

**Play A Game!**

(print version [here](#))

Everyone knows that Crossroads specializes in adult and business English tuition. As a general rule, we have very few young learners with us. But there are some special exceptions. We have just a few high and junior-high school students taking special private courses here. Their goals are to enter overseas colleges and universities or international colleges here in Japan. Such colleges have high standards for entry. To achieve their goals, our young learners study for acceptable scores in IELTS, TOEIC, TOEFL and other proficiency exams that their future colleges require. Here is a feature on two very special students:

**ETS TOEIC**  
TOEIC Listening & Reading  
OFFICIAL SCORE CERTIFICATE

Name: MATSUMOTO YUIKA  
Registration number: 0142603-7  
Date of birth: 2006/01/12  
Administration number: 232  
Test date: 2018/07/29

**LISTENING**  
Your score: 480  
Percentile rank: 94

**READING**  
Your score: 355  
Percentile rank: 68

**TOTAL SCORE**  
835

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Yuika Matsumoto is somewhat unique at Crossroads. She is by far the youngest student in our school. She is only 12 years old and is attending Okada Junior High. She has just done the TOEIC test for the first time. Take a look at her score! Yuika is indeed a very special student and we are very proud to have her studying with us.



Shione Chosokabe has just graduated from high school and is on her way to the U.S. to start studying at Highline College in Seattle. She has been with us for over a year and a half studying privately and has worked very hard to achieve her dream. What is that? Shione wants to play basketball. She had already visited Highline College and had been invited to join the college team, no less. The problem was that she had to gain 5 or better in the IELTS (English proficiency) exam in order to be accepted as a student at the college. Well, she did it! And now she is on her way!! Good job Shione and congratulations!

**ALMANAC**

**ILLUMINATE**

**DEVOURED**

**AVOUST**

**REINSTATED**

**IMPENDING**

**HIDDEN**

## Last Month's puzzle Solution

### ACROSS

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

### DOWN

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



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