

Crossroads

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter January, 2019

How to Love a Pig

Now the “Year of the Pig” is with us, it is only appropriate that we set the records straight about this much maligned and misunderstood animal. Here are a couple of misconceptions about our porky friends that need to be readdressed.

PIGS ARE DIRTY: Not so! Pigs are very clean animals. They purposely keep their toilet area far from where they lie down or where they eat. The pig's unfortunate reputation as a filthy animal comes mostly from its habit of rolling in mud to cool off. You see, pigs do not have sweat glands – they cannot sweat like we do – and are at serious risk of overheating. Muddy water evaporates much slower than clean water, so a mud-bath is just the thing! They also risk getting sunburn in hot climates. A roll in the mud helps to protect their skin as well as cool them off.

Even the idiom, “sweat like a pig” is misleading. It has nothing to do with animals. It's an expression that comes from the traditional method of iron smelting.

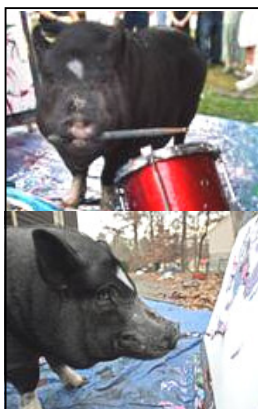
Pigs that live in cool, covered environments stay very clean. In fact, some wild boars at Basel Zoo in Switzerland have become famous for their food hygiene. These animals were given apple slices coated in sand. Rather than eating them immediately, they carried them to the edge of a creek in their enclosure and put the pieces of fruit in the water shaking them to and fro with their snouts before eating. Even if they were really hungry, they still took the time to wash their food. The boars never did this for any clean apples they were given.

PIGS ARE STUPID:

Not so! Scientists believe that pigs are one of the most intelligent animals there is, ranking close behind apes and dolphins, and more intelligent than the average three-year-old child.

Not only that, they can be very creative as well. Take Smithfield for example, a real “Pigasso” if ever there was. Smithfield's paintings fall into the category of “abstract expressionism” and Fran Martin, his proud owner, sells Smithfield's paintings over the internet for £8 each. In fact, Smithfield is something of a celebrity in America. He is a featured attraction at charity events across the country and has even been a guest on the Oprah Winfrey TV show.

In addition, pigs make great pets, naturally affectionate, loyal and very gentle. This may be because they are very sociable animals. They enjoy the company of other pigs and, when invited into the house as pets, they enjoy the company of humans. Let's let a famous quote from Winston Churchill be the final word on pigs: “I like pigs. Dogs look up to man. Cats look down on man. Pigs look us straight in the eye and see an equal.”



Smithfield at work

paintings fall into the category of “abstract expressionism” and Fran Martin, his proud owner, sells Smithfield's paintings over the internet for £8 each. In fact, Smithfield is something of a celebrity in America. He is a featured attraction at charity events across the country and has even been a guest on the Oprah Winfrey TV show.

In addition, pigs make great pets, naturally affectionate, loyal and very gentle. This may be because they are very sociable animals. They enjoy the company of other pigs and, when invited into the house as pets, they enjoy the company of humans. Let's let a famous quote from Winston Churchill be the final word on pigs: “I like pigs. Dogs look up to man. Cats look down on man. Pigs look us straight in the eye and see an equal.”

Net News

NET LESSONS: Too busy to come to CROSSROADS?

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

Here's a tell-all video about pigs:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eef_rGf_00Q

Some Thoughts for the Month



Joshua Says: We're at the start of another new year. For many it's a time for a new start, a new beginning, a new challenge, a time to set goals. For others, it's time to reaffirm goals that have already been set. Our goals may start out as personal challenges we strive to overcome on our own, but often we can't help involving and affecting others around us as we try to achieve them. Improving your English has exactly this effect, so don't give up! And, "Happy New Year" to all.

Junko Says: The New York Times chose our "Setouchi Islands" as one of the "52 places in the world to go to in 2019." There are several reasons they chose this area: 1) Setouchi Triennale 2019, a major art fair featuring the beautiful balance of nature and art; 2) the reopening of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum; 3) the Guntu-a floating Ryokan; 4) scenic flights in a fleet of Kodiak 100's sea-planes; 5) the world's first artificial meteor shower in 2020. If you have time why not visit these places too.



Kevin Says: I am very glad to have arrived in Japan, and Matsuyama. The people are very polite and friendly and the place itself is clean, not too crowded. It's not too big or small, I think I'll like it here. So far, I've only been to the castle but there's plenty of time to explore. I'm looking forward to the next year. See you around!

Darrin Says: Happy new year everyone! Hope that you all had a great start to the year. Did you make your New Years resolutions? I thought I would share this motivational saying to help you start the year off on a good note. 'Tomorrow is the first blank page of a 365 page book. Write a great one!' Good luck fulfilling your resolutions for the year.



Mandey dit: Bonne année 2019 à tous!! Je vous souhaite plein de bonheur et une bonne santé. Mes meilleurs voeux. Alors , quel est votre grande résolution pour cette année ?? Personnellement, j'ai été tres gourmande pendant les vacances d'hiver et j'ai décidé de perdre 3 kilos et d'aller à la gym!! Bien sûr , J'oublierai ma résolution dans deux mois hahahahahaha

ACROSS

- 2 with intention
- 5 a positive feeling of liking (someone)
- 8 speak unfavorably about
- 9 suitable, fitting
- 11 very dirty
- 13 incorrect idea about something
- 15 highlighted, given exposure
- 16 deceiving, giving incorrect information

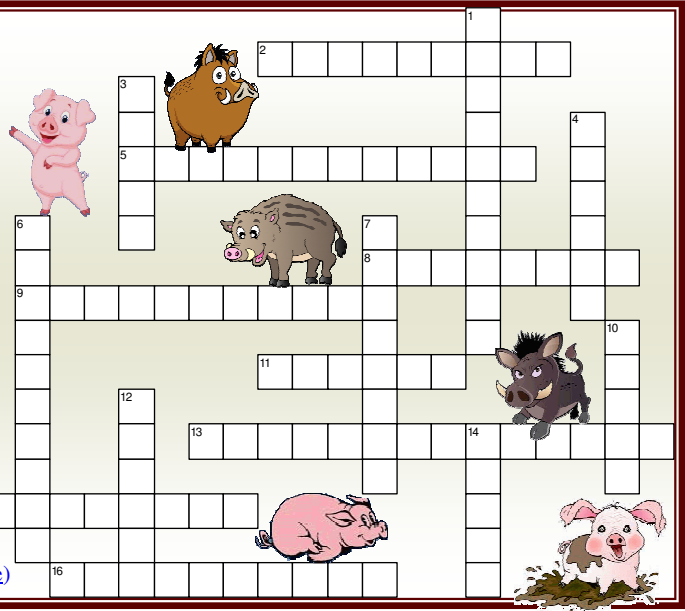
DOWN

- 1 a general estimation (of someone)
- 3 wild pigs
- 4 covered
- 6 when liquid turns to water
- 7 extracting metals from ore by heating
- 10 a bodily organ
- 12 big or long noses
- 14 related to pigs or pig-like behaviour

Play A Game!



([print version here](#))

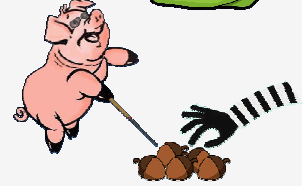


For the Year of the Pig we'll devote page 3 to some common English "piggy" idioms...

Buy a pig in a poke - buy or accept something without examining it first, something of poor quality or something you didn't want. A 'poke' is a bag.



Like stealing acorns from a pig - doing something that is very easy.



Look like a saddle on a sow - look ridiculous, out of place.



When pigs fly - it will never happen.



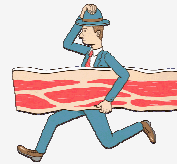
Can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear - you can't turn something ugly or useless into something beautiful or useful.



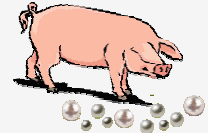
Pig out - to eat excessively, gluttonously.



Bring home the bacon - to earn money (especially a steady salary)



Cast pearls before swine - give something to someone who does not appreciate it.



Road Hog - a driver who takes too much space on the road

You can put Lipstick on a pig, but its still a pig - make something appear more attractive or more successful than it actually is.

In a pig's whisper - very quickly and in a very short amount of time.



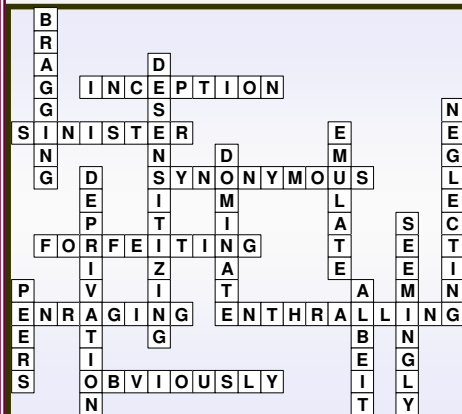
Fat as a pig - a very overweight person.



Pig headed - unreasonably stubborn.



...Oh, and... Happy New (pig) Year!



Last Month's puzzle Solution

ACROSS

- 3 a beginning
- 5 indicating evil
- 9 the same as or nearly the same as
- 11 losing the rights to something
- 14 making violently angry
- 15 capturing great interest
- 16 unmistakably, clear

DOWN

- 1 acting self-important
- 2 make less sensitive
- 4 leaving undone, not caring
- 6 try to equal, especially by imitating
- 7 be in control
- 8 to take away or lose
- 10 appearing to be
- 12 a person's equals
- 13 even though



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.