

Crossroads

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter March, 2019

MOVIES 2

Here are the final five movies from the "best movies" countdown we started last month.

5. Casablanca

The story of Rick Blaine, a cynical world-weary ex-patriot who runs a nightclub in Casablanca, Morocco during the early stages of WWII. Rick's cafe has become a kind of haven for refugees. When Ilsa, a former lover of Rick's, and her husband, show up at his cafe one day, Rick faces a tough challenge which will bring up unforeseen complications, heartbreak and ultimately an excruciating decision to make



4. Raging Bull

When [Jake LaMotta](#) steps into a boxing ring and obliterates his opponent, he's a prizefighter. But when he treats his family and friends the same way, he's a ticking time bomb, ready to go off at any moment. Though LaMotta wants his family's love, something always seems to come between them. Perhaps it's his violent bouts of paranoia and jealousy.



3. Schindler's List

Oskar Schindler is a vainglorious and greedy German businessman who becomes an unlikely humanitarian amid the barbaric German Nazi reign, but he feels compelled to turn his factory into a refuge for Jews. Based on the true story of Oskar Schindler who managed to save about 1100 Jews, it is a testament to the good in all of us.



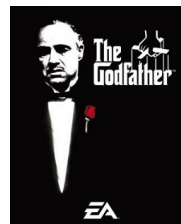
2. The Shawshank Redemption

Bank Merchant Andy Dufresne is convicted of the murder of his wife and her lover, and sentenced to life imprisonment at Shawshank prison. Andy befriends some of the other inmates, in particular a character known only as Red. Over time Andy finds ways to live life in as much ease as one can in a prison, leaving a message for all that while the body may be locked away in a cell, the spirit can never be truly imprisoned.



1. The Godfather

The Godfather "Don" Vito Corleone is the head of the Corleone mafia family in New York. His youngest son, Michael, seems to be uninterested in being a part of the family business. Vito is a powerful man. He is kind to all those who show him respect but is ruthless towards those who do not. When a powerful and treacherous rival wants to sell drugs and needs the Don's influence, Vito refuses to do it. What follows is a clash between Vito's fading old values and the new ways which may cause Michael to do things he is most reluctant to do.



How many of these movies have you seen – in English, of course? Do you agree with this assessment? Why not try these questions in your next class!?

Article by Kevin

Net News

NET LESSONS: Too busy to come to CROSSROADS?

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

For more free Internet movies try: <http://putlockertv.is/>
or <https://www.7.123movies.as/>

Some Thoughts for the Month



Joshua Says: Movies are the theme again in this month's News Letter. As a home-study tool, I think movies are an excellent media for picking up vocabulary, idioms even some tips on grammar. But more than this is the opportunity to pick up on nuances. Actions, body-language the situation the dialogue is spoken in can tell you a lot about the "meaning behind the words." So I hope all of our students take the chance to improve their English through this media – But please turn off the Japanese sub-titles!

Junko Says: Every year around this time some of our students leave Matsuyama and move on to the next stage of their lives. It seems to me that some of these students feel somewhat solemn when it comes to saying farewell and preparing to courageously move on to their new lives. This year, two university students are going to Tokyo, two high school students are going to Osaka and Kobe and one junior high school student is also going to Tokyo. All of them achieved the goals they desired. Congratulations to them all.



Kevin Says: Sport is king, art is OK – that's my opinion. Take rugby - if ever there was a sport which reminds us of gladiators in Rome, this is it. But can we combine art and sport? Well, not technically, unless you paint a scene from a sports-field I suppose. But there is certainly creativity in both, so let's try to celebrate that.

Darrin Says: This years Rugby World Cup will be the ninth time that a World Cup has been held. The New Zealand All Blacks have won it three times, while the Australian Wallabies and South African Springboks have both won it twice. While England, the only team from the Northern Hemisphere to have won it, have done it once. While I'm hoping for another famous Wallaby win, it's going to be a tough competition once again. Who do you think will win?



Mandcy dit: Ca y est-! le Printemps va arriver. J'ai d'ailleurs deja aperçu les fleurs de pruniers en train d'éclore. C'est une bonne opportunité pour nous tous d'observer les fleurs et pourquoi pas de faire un pique-nique tous ensemble et de boire du vin rouge en contemplant les fleurs.

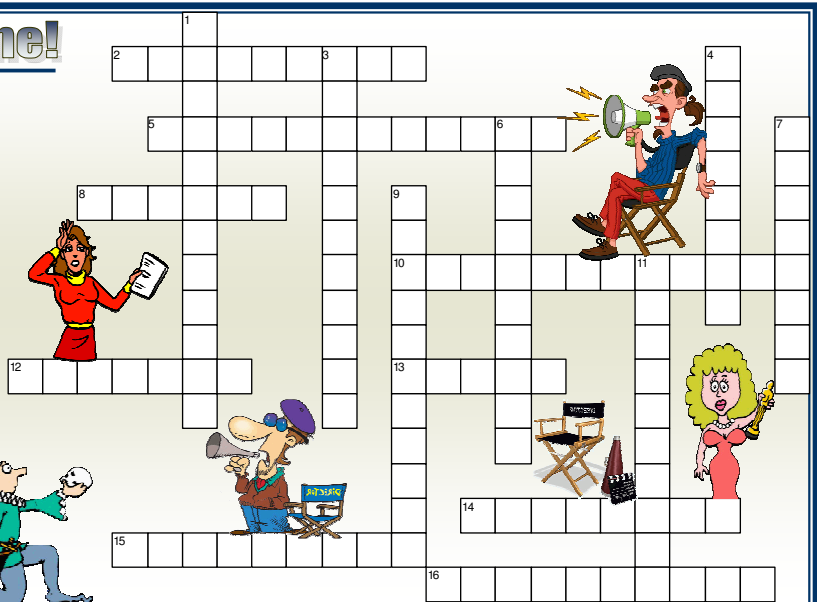
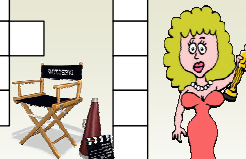
ACROSS

- 2 counting backwards
- 5 a feeling of self-importance
- 8 weakening, gradually disappearing
- 10 extremely painful
- 12 contempt for human nature
- 13 shelter, safety
- 14 without mercy or pity
- 15 become friends
- 16 as the final result

DOWN

- 1 someone who promotes human welfare
- 3 removes completely without a trace
- 4 delusions of persecution (psychology)
- 6 not anticipated
- 7 exiles fleeing for safety
- 9 dangerous, unpredictable
- 11 judgment

Play A Game!



([print version here](#))



Critic's corner with S(a)3's Taro:

"Couch Potato"



How are you going to enjoy this weekend? If it is cold, especially during this season, you may prefer staying at home to going outside. A warm room, a comfortable sofa, a funny TV program and potato crisps. It sounds great! However, you should be careful. If you get used to a life-style like this, you may not be able to escape from it easily. Finally, you may become a *couch potato*!

"Couch Potato" is slang meaning a sedentary lifestyle. It describes a person who stays on a couch all day and does nothing but eat potato crisps. When we study the history of this phrase, in the old days "potato" only meant a big and inactive thing, not necessarily crisps. But nowadays, it is used with images of crisps. In fact on weekends, I become a couch potato when I watch DVD movies. I have to try my best to hide my potato crisps and coca-cola from my wife.

By the way, if we mention a couch and a movie, what do you associate with it? If you like classical movies, you may remember a scene from "Roman Holiday." At the beginning of the story, Joe Bradley (Gregory Peck) takes Princess Ann (Audrey Hepburn) to his apartment. He doesn't know she is a princess and tells her to sleep on the couch.

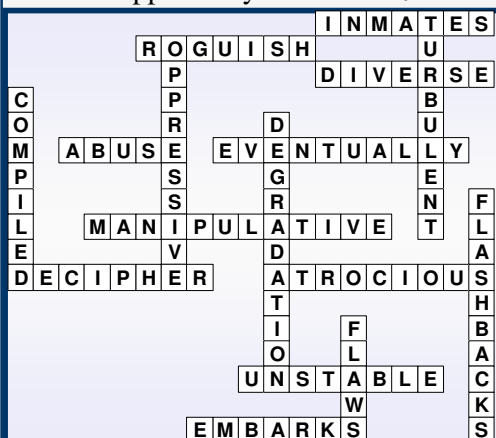
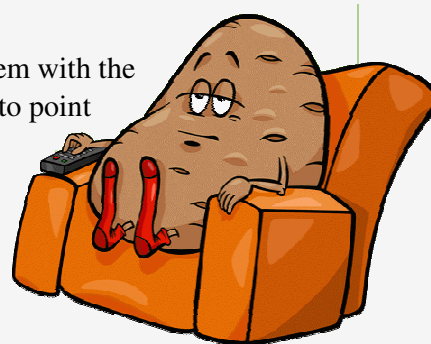
Joe: "Then you do your sleeping on the couch. Not on the bed, not on the chair, on the couch. Is that clear?"

Ann: "Do you know my favorite poem? ...*"Arethusa arose from her couch of snows in the Acroceraunian Mountains"....Keats."*

Joe: "Shelley."

I think the scene is interesting not only because Ann wittily cited a poem with the word "couch." We can also find that Joe had enough literary knowledge to point out the royal's mistake. In the drama, he was described as a curious and adventurous character, but in fact, he was also a clever person.

If you are in danger of becoming a couch potato on the weekend, at least you should try not only watching TV, but also reading English poems. If you don't, when you bring a princess to your couch, you will miss the opportunity for a *rendez-vous*!



Last Month's puzzle Solution

- 1 people confined to prisons or hospitals
- 3 lacking principles or scruples
- 5 many and different
- 8 treat badly
- 9 after a long delay
- 11 skillful in influencing or controlling
- 12 convert code to normal language
- 13 shockingly brutal or cruel
- 15 severe mental illness
- 16 set out on (a trip)

DOWN

- 2 unrest, disorder
- 4 weighing heavily on the senses or spirit
- 6 gather, put together
- 7 a low or downcast state
- 10 to an earlier time
- 14 imperfections



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See our notice board, or ask Junko in our office, for the details.