

# CrossTalk

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter October, 2019



## Paris Syndrome

**H**ave you ever felt acutely delusional, suffered hallucinations, experienced extreme anxiety, dizziness, sweated profusely on a cool day? Were you in Paris when this happened? Then you've suffered from Paris Syndrome!

This syndrome is an extreme form of culture shock and it is almost exclusively experienced by Japanese tourists when visiting Paris. It's a very real psychological condition resulting from extreme disappointment when romanticized expectations about the "city of lights," the city of love, fashion and glamour, meet reality.

What's happening in Paris and why do Japanese people get sick when they go there?

A fascination with all things French is obvious in most of the larger cities in Japan where there is a profusion of French patisseries and luxury French fashion outlets such as Chanel, Louis Vuitton and Lanvin. French culture is everywhere in Japan and Paris is one of the most popular tourist destinations for Japanese people with around six million visiting there every year.

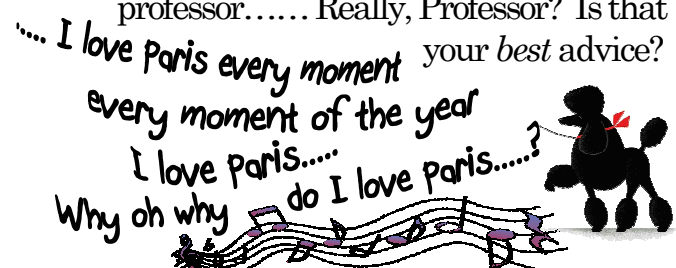
But when they get there, the reality of modern-day Paris with its notoriously rude restaurant and café services, tipping customs, confusing public transportation system, language and cultural barriers, most Japanese visitors become very disillusioned. Combine all of this with exhaustion and homesickness and many fall into despair which, for some, can lead to serious psychological distress.

The Japanese Embassy in Paris sends up to twenty people home each year with a doctor or a nurse to ensure they make a recovery from their shock!

The Paris Embassy also runs a 24-hour helpline for greatly worried tourists experiencing this syndrome.

And it looks like the problem is only getting worse. Now the *Chinese* are starting to experience Paris Syndrome. Many middle-class Chinese, like the Japanese, are going abroad for the first time with heads full of fantasies and expectations of what Paris has to offer. And they too often stagger home in shock!

Lower, more realistic expectations before leaving home may help people deal with the reality that modern-day Paris is, but the Japanese professor who first identified this syndrome over 25 years ago has only the following advice to offer: "board a flight and go home"! It's the only solution according to the good professor..... Really, Professor? Is that your best advice?



## Net News

**NET LESSONS:** Too busy to come to CROSSROADS?

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

A brief history of Paris: <https://www.tripsavvy.com/a-brief-history-of-paris-france-1618451>

# Some Thoughts for the Month



Joshua Says: I just read that the Beatles' "Abbey Road" album has hit the number one spot on the UK charts again. That's 50 years after it was first released in 1969! It was re-released and immediately went to number one. As Paul McCartney commented, "...it's a bloody cool album." I think most would agree, but it makes me think, what has been achieved musically since the late sixties? Have today's musicians nothing to offer that compares?

**Junko Says:** Recently, demonstrations at 5,000 different locations in 150 countries were held against global warming. This movement was started by a 16 years old Swedish activist, Greta Thunberg, and she has moved thousands of young people all over the world to her cause. Here in Japan, demonstrations were held in 20 different locations. I noticed that many high school and university students marched in the streets holding English placards and chanting in English. Globalization of young people could become a spin-off from this movement.



**Kevin Says:** Rugby, as with any sport, can build character in youngsters if they want to learn how to play it. It teaches discipline and teamwork. It can motivate us to try and achieve our potential. It definitely toughens us up, physically if nothing else (although it's not a cure all). Only the very top players discover how they react to pressure at the highest level. Often it is they who we remember and aspire to be as youngsters.

**Darrin Says:** What a game! The Japanese rugby team just showed the rest of the world, that the win against South Africa in the last World Cup was no fluke by beating Ireland, the current number two ranked team in the world. In my opinion they totally dominated the Irish and could have easily won by a lot more. Keep it up and they will be quarter finals contenders. Go Brave Blossoms!



**Mandcy dit:** Comme ce mois-ci, c'est Halloween. Je vais vous parler d'un sujet très français. La superstition!! En effet, les français sont très superstitieux. Nous détestons les chats noirs, les échelles et le sel sur le sol. Donc, nous utilisons un porte-bonheur pour nous protéger comme une médaille, un trèfle ou un fer à cheval. Moi-même, je suis très superstitieuse et je crie quand quelqu'un ouvre un parapluie dans ma maison. Bien que cela soit un peu stupide. Je pense que c'est notre culture et nous respectons les traditions même si c'est bizarre. Et vous?? Quelles sont donc vos superstitions?

## ACROSS

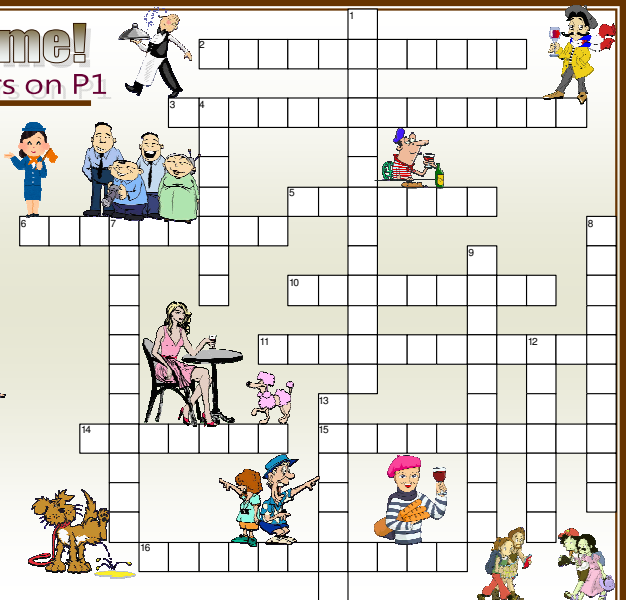
- 2 well known for the wrong reasons  
3 seeing illusions  
5 extremely sharp or strongly felt  
6 in excess or abundance  
10 found everywhere in abundance  
11 looking forward to something good  
14 walk with great difficulty  
15 extreme loss of energy  
16 not shared by others

## DOWN

- 1 lost false hopes, disappointed  
4 extreme worry and nervousness  
7 extremely interesting  
8 a believing in the opposite to reality  
9 anxious, troubled, greatly worried  
12 easy to understand  
13 feeling all hope is lost

## Play A Game!

Find the answers on P1



(print version here)

Private Student, Hiromi, has just returned from a trip to Scotland. Here is her account of that trip:

## I Went to Scotland ~ My Teenage Dream Came True ~

I have wanted to go to Scotland for 43 years because it is the home of the Bay City Rollers. Do you know who the Bay City Rollers are? (Check them out on Google if you don't know them.)

I suddenly decided to go to Scotland just two weeks before I left. This was because the BCR were going to play some gigs between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of September there.



BCR in 1976



At Livingstone...

I met my friend who lives in the USA at Heathrow Airport and we went to Edinburgh from there. We went to a gig at Livingstone as soon as we arrived in Edinburgh. I was a really happy girl in Livingstone! Why? Please take a look at the pictures.

We went to Dundee on the 4<sup>th</sup> of September. The part of Dundee we stayed in was quiet. We stayed at a B&B and the Scottish breakfast was delicious!

The next day, September 5<sup>th</sup>, we went to Aberdeen by ScotRail. The scenery from ScotRail was fantastic; scenery as I had imagined it. Beautiful!! The people in Aberdeen were surprised to find that some Japanese people came all the way from Japan to see the concert.



The Aberdeen gig

Next day, 6<sup>th</sup> September, we went to Inverness by ScotRail. I liked Inverness the most. It is a small, beautiful town on the Ness riverside.

We were fascinated by the exquisite scenery. The fish 'n chips were delicious too, but the amount was too much for us.



...with Leslie

On the next day, 7<sup>th</sup> September, we went to Dunfermline by ScotRail. I lost my way a little and we were helped by some kind girls from the Costa Café. Thanks to them we were able to get to the gig on time.

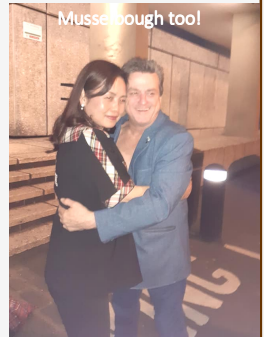


Inverness

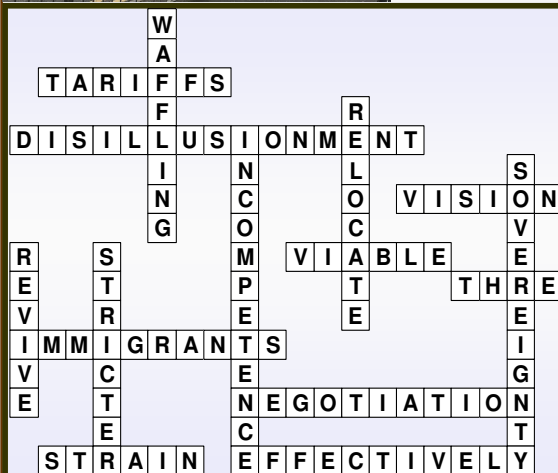
On the 8<sup>th</sup> of September, we went to Musselburgh. Finally, the last gig... We had so much fun!! After the gig, I took pictures with Leslie (the BCR's lead singer). I was not able to talk with Leslie in English, and couldn't hear him well also. So sad.....

I want to be able to have conversations in English with Leslie. For that, I have to study English hard.

And, I want to go to Scotland again.



Musselburgh too!



### ACROSS

- 2 government taxes on imports and exports
- 5 disappointment, not up to expectations
- 8 seeing with foresight and perception
- 11 capable of being done
- 12 a source of danger
- 13 people living permanently in foreign countries
- 14 discussion towards an agreement
- 15 test to the limit
- 16 in actuality, reality

### Last Month's puzzle Solution

### DOWN

- 1 vague, pointless talking at length
- 3 become established in a new location
- 4 causing an agitated or excited state
- 6 lack of ability
- 7 government free from external control
- 9 give new lift to something
- 10 more severely enforced



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