

CrossTalk

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter September, 2020

HOW DID SHE SURVIVE?

Our readers may remember an article by one of our students, Natsuki Fukui, which we featured on page 3 in our June newsletter. Her article was a short fantasy about being lost in the jungle. Amazingly, some of the details in her story actually echo the true-life experience of a 17 year old German-Peruvian girl, Juliane Koepcke.

On Christmas Eve, 1971, Juliane boarded a plane in Lima, Peru, with her mother. They were going to Pacallpa to meet-up with her father. On the way, the plane flew into a violent thunderstorm and was hit by lightning. The plane went into a nosedive and broke-up in mid-air. Before realizing it, Juliane found herself freefalling over 3 kilometers above the Amazon rainforest. In 2013 she told the BBC—

“Suddenly the noise stopped and I was outside the plane. I was in a freefall, strapped to my seat bench and hanging head-over-heels. The whispering of the wind was the only noise I could hear.”



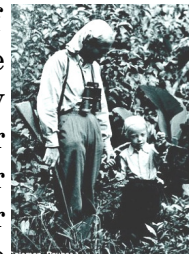
Juliane the day before she boarded the plane with her mother

She was the only one to survive the crash. But if that wasn't miraculous enough, she then survived 11 days on foot, on her own in the Amazon jungle tracking towards help. She had lost one shoe and was only wearing a flimsy mini-skirt. She had a broken collarbone, a deep gash on her arm and another on her leg. She had lost her glasses, her left eye was swollen shut and her right eye was also swollen so badly that she could barely see. The only food she had was a bag of candies she found near where she had landed – nothing else.



Juliane not long after returning to civilization

So, how did she survive? The plane seat she was strapped into remained attached to the two other seats adjoining it, and may have functioned as a kind of parachute during her 10,000 feet descent. It has also been speculated that the storm itself may have provided timely updrafts of wind to buffet her fall. Then there is the relatively “soft” jungle canopy at the end of her fall to cushion her landing. But as not one of the other 91 people onboard, including her mother, survived, it is hard not to include the notion of “luck”.



Juliane learning jungle survival skills with her mother

However, luck had much less to do with the next part of Juliane's survival miracle – 11 days wandering through the jungle alone looking for help. Her father had taught her that the best way to reach civilization in the jungle is to find a river and follow it downstream. This she did. Her biggest danger came from insects – ants, spiders, flies, and mosquitoes – not the larger animals in the jungle. She finally found a loggers' cabin by the river she was following, went inside and fell asleep. The next day the loggers returned and her ordeal was over. She was taken to Germany where she made a full recovery, and like her parents, went on to get a PhD in biology. She later returned to Peru to do field work studying bats.



Dr. Juliane Diller/Koepcke in 2013

Net News

NET LESSONS: Too busy to come to CROSSROADS?

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

Here is Koepeke's own account of what happened:
www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2418765/Juliane-Koepcke-fell-10-000ft-earth-plane-crash-lived.html

Some Thoughts for the Month



Joshua Says: The English word “education” is said to have two different roots in Latin, “educare,” which means to train or mold, and “educere” which means to lead or bring out. The two definitions would appear to oppose each other and, indeed, etymologists can’t decide which is more appropriate. However, I think the definition “bring out” is the most appropriate in our field. All Japanese people have at least 6 years of English education at school, but surprisingly few can speak it. Our job is, in part, to “bring out” those 6 years!

Junko Says: Everybody knows the meaning of “stay at home” by now and that this adjustment to our life-style is affecting the economy. Most businesses are contracting while some others such as food delivery services are expanding. According to some sources, this latter market will expand 11.51% by 2023. Even in Matsuyama, we often see Uber’s bicycle deliverers. I even saw a young woman deliver the other day. This may become a popular part-time job for some young people in the near future.



Marek Says: Recently, while fishing in the Shigenobu River last weekend, I noticed an enormous specimen of a Grass Carp lazily passing by me. This species has been artificially introduced in many commercial reservoirs in continental Europe, often with catastrophic results: overpopulation and devastation of floral habitat. My first reaction was to question the sheer legality of this fish’s very existence in the river. Fortunately, they do not seem to pose any threat to Japan’s natural environment.

Mandcy dit: Ça y'est, septembre est arrivé!! C'est le début des vendanges. Je me souviens de mon enfance, courant dans le vignoble de mon papi sous le beau soleil de Sicile. Toutefois, cette année a été très chaude. C'était la canicule. Il n'y a pas eu de pluie. Donc, les récoltes sont mauvaises et le vin sera très cher cette année. Cependant, il a beaucoup plu au Japon, le vin japonais sera donc le plus délicieux!!! Santé!



ACROSS

- 1 strike against forcefully
- 2 general or vague idea
- 4 strong upward air currents
- 8 lying next to or connected to
- 9 having no fixed course
- 11 move downwards
- 13 carefully considered
- 16 wild, turbulent, aggressive
- 17 amazing, wonderful

DOWN

- 1 hardly
- 2 sudden sharp drop
- 3 severe hard experience
- 5 act to fulfill a purpose
- 6 give something
- 7 open cut
- 10 travel across or pass over
- 12 call to mind
- 13 expanded abnormally
- 14 the scientific study of living organisms
- 15 lacking strength

Play A Game!

Find the answers on P1

