

CROSSROADS

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter February, 2021

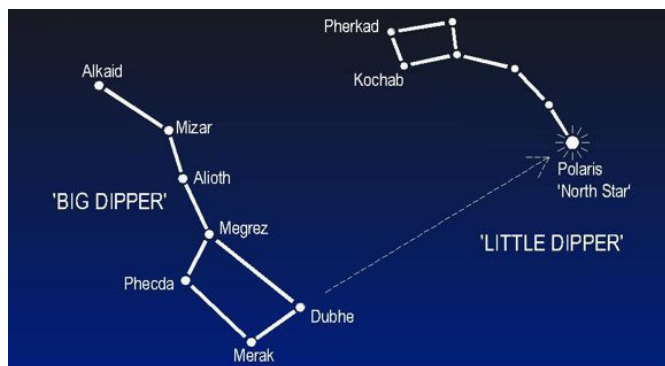
WHY IS NORTH UP?

When I was young, I watched north of a hundred Westerns, especially with Clint Eastwood, in which trailblazers and pioneers faced adverse environments of North America and when things went horribly south, they would often go west.

The cardinal directions (North, South, East and West) are ever-present in our language and culture, and in European cultures, the points have a specific and defined meaning.

The term “cardinal” first appeared in 14th century, taken from a Latin word for *primary, principle or essential*.

The Sun, wind, and celestial bodies were most commonly used to indicate the cardinal points of North and South.



The cardinal directions of East and West originated from our universal orientation to the rising and setting of the sun.



The sun always travels from east to west. Some European countries (Poland, Hungary, Turkey) have clear references in their languages to such occurrences. For instance, in Polish, “*wschód, zachód, północ, południe*” translate respectively as “east, west, north, south”, but also mean sunrise, sunset, midnight, noon”.

Cardinal points are particularly useful for nomadic cultures that frequently need precise referents to navigate complex spaces and geographies. Sailors and fishermen used to rely heavily on star constellations and winds when seafaring.

The North Star (Polaris) can be found by drawing an imaginary line from Merak through Dubhe and, by continuing one’s eye in the same direction, you will land on Polaris, accurately indicating true North.

In nearly every spiritual tradition of which we know, the directions have specific correspondences. They have a wind, a color, an animal symbol, a season, guardians and deities.

Feng Shui contains animal symbolism where the rat is the animal for the North, rabbit for the East, horse for the South and rooster for the West.

The cardinal directions are featured heavily in the spiritual world in many cultures, but were borne as very tangible and down-to-earth concepts that benefit humanity in a range of applications.

Article by Marek

Net News

NET LESSONS: Too busy to come to CROSSROADS?

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

The internet is your friend for in-depth knowledge! Check out this link: <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/activity/sun-earth-and-cardinal-directions/>

Some Thoughts for the Month



Joshua Says: Have you ever thought about the way color is used to describe things, emotions, etc. in the English language? We feel “blue” if we are unhappy or sad; we see “red” when we are angry; we turn “green” with envy and we describe a coward as being “yellow.” Colors seem to have a language of their own. They speak to us in a code we immediately recognize and use to help us better understand ourselves and the world around us.

Junko Says: Reading can build on your base for all round English abilities. I read some advice in a journal about effective ways to encourage reading. First, try to choose a book that is easy to comprehend, one with a topic you’re very much interested in. Secondly, allow some time for Sustained Silent Reading (SSR). And enjoy! After you have a good understanding of the content, read it again, out loud.



Marek Says: There is no doubt that humanity will be struck with a new coronavirus in the not-so-distant future. The scientists are working hard to determine sources of the next novel contagion. Thanks to the advancement in AI technology, we can now “teach” an AI through algorithms to narrow down search to most likely locations and animal carriers of potentially infectious viruses. Such preparations are necessary to ensure we don’t suffer from economic meltdowns and high fatalities at the hands of a new pandemic.

Mandcy dit: Ce mois-ci, c’est la fête des amoureux. En France, l’homme offre un cadeau à Madame. Mais au Japon, c’est Madame qui fait le premier pas. Elle déclare son amour en offrant des chocolats. C’est très moderne !!
Moi, je suis trop timide pour faire cela !!!



ACROSS

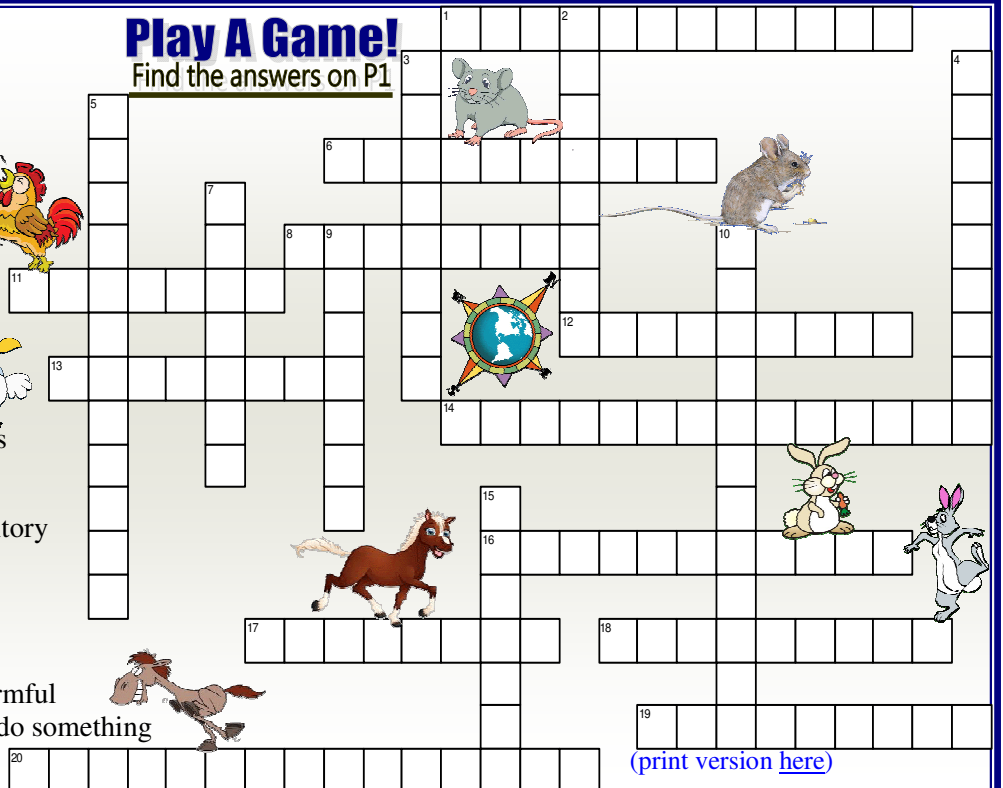
- 1 in the order given
- 6 many times
- 8 plot a path
- 11 a supernatural being, a god
- 12 traveling on the high seas
- 13 perceived as real
- 14 groups of stars in the sky
- 16 direction or position
- 17 most important, essential
- 18 relation to the sky
- 19 vitally necessary
- 20 compatibility by observations

DOWN

- 2 the first settlers in a new territory
- 3 particular to
- 4 protectors
- 5 used for a particular function
- 7 exact, accurate
- 9 unfavorable, unhelpful or harmful
- 10 the first to go somewhere or do something
- 15 having no fixed home

Play A Game!

Find the answers on P1



(print version [here](#))

What are euphemisms?

*If you don't want to use a bad word or refer to a difficult or unpleasant situation directly, you use a euphemism to **soften the blow**.*

George has lived a difficult life. First of all, he was *born on the wrong side of the blanket*. He has been *on Carey Street* for most of his adult life due to the fact that he is a compulsive gambler. He wears the same clothes every day and always looks somewhat *worse for wear*. Not in the best physical condition either you might say he is *built for comfort, not for speed*. He is somewhat *visually challenged* as well. Recently, his company told him to *spend more time with the family*. He already lives *in reduced circumstances* as the salary he earns is very meager at best, so the prospect of losing his job has caused him great anxiety. In desperation he turned to his influential friend Don Vito and asked him to *have a word* with his boss about keeping his job. Don Vito told George not to worry, that he'd *make* his boss *an offer he can't refuse*. A week later, not only was George securely employed, but he was promoted as well! He later asked Don Vito what he had said to his boss. Don Vito just shrugged his shoulders and said, "Nothing, I just showed him *a bunch of fives* and he immediately agreed to keep you on."

**Before checking with the definitions below, first see if you can get the meanings first.*

“Soften the blow” – lessen the effect, make something easier or less damaging.

“Born on the wrong side of the of the blanket” - born out of wedlock.

“On Carey Street” – bankrupt or in debt.

“Worse for wear” – shabby looking or worn out through over use; also drunk.

“Built for comfort, not for speed” – Over weight, fat.

“Visually challenged” – short-sighted.

“Spend more time with the family” – being made redundant, fired from one’s job.

“In reduced circumstances” – living in poverty or being bankrupt.

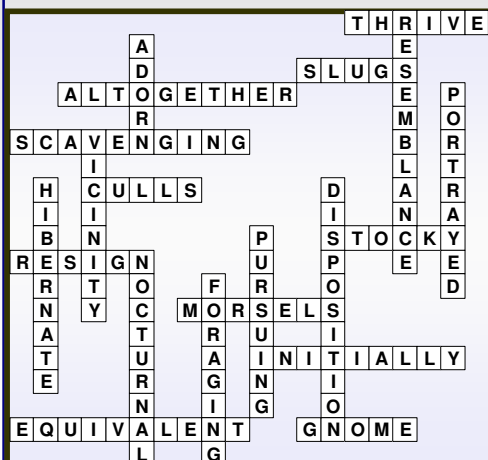
“Have a word” – to talk seriously with someone.

“Make an offer he can’t refuse” – “do as I say, or I’ll do you harm, I’ll kill you.”



A.K.A.-

“a knuckle sandwich”



Last Month's puzzle Solution

ACROSS

- 1 grow with great success
- 4 similar to snails but with no shell
- 5 complete, entirely all
- 7 feeding on discarded refuse
- 10 remove things that are not necessary
- 13 having a short and solid appearance
- 14 give up, accept as inevitable
- 17 small quantities of anything
- 18 at the beginning
- 19 equal to
- 20 a mythological creature resembling a tiny man

DOWN

- 2 similar in appearance
- 3 make more attractive by adding ornaments
- 6 described in words or represented visually
- 8 nearby
- 9 sleep during winter
- 11 an acquired habit or characteristic
- 12 following in order to overtake or catch
- 15 active at night
- 16 searching for food



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.