

# CrossTalk

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter June, 2021

## Summer Menace

Spring time triggers an annual rebirth of life of all manner. Flowers, insects, birds, and more, all take advantage of a sudden abundance of food resources and more favourable temperatures, to bring a new generation of life into the world.

We take immense pleasure from observing blossoming flowers and trees, and enjoy the first sightings of butterflies and returning migratory birds.

As with every aspect of our lifestyle, there are, however, less welcome “friendly faces” to contend with. Caterpillars devouring freshly bloomed roses, infuriatingly noisy cicadas on every tree, venomous snakes ever-ready to pounce on us on a forest path, and, everyone’s favourite – mosquitoes.



Driven by an insatiable thirst for blood, human or otherwise, these tiny messengers of terror are capable of ruining the most perfect day out in the sun. Only 10-15mm in size, they are hard to spot and even harder to shoo away. The tell-tale sign of their presence is an ear-piercing high-pitched buzzing sound that we recognize instantly. They are not very agile in flight and non-too-fast, so it gives us a chance to splat them in our hands. But what they lack in aerial skills, they make up for in persistence of attack.

They often target exposed and obscure parts of the body, like ears and ankles, and often deliver a painless sting with their retractable proboscis. We won't know of the stealthy assault until it's far too late and we end up with an irresistible itch; an itch that begs to be scratched.

Hotter days make us sweat more and our bodies heat up faster, and both of these factors are a magnet to mosquitoes. However, they will avoid venturing out on a hunt when the sun is beating down hard, as they will risk dehydration. This is why they are most active in the wee hours of the day and also as the sun goes down. A poor man's vampire, if you will.

To ensure that you don't end up a meal for these flying menaces in the summertime, take simple precautions to minimize attracting them. Mosquitoes fly towards warm objects that contrast with the sky, so think light-coloured, tight-woven garments. The more CO<sub>2</sub> we breathe out, the bigger our heat signature, so try to stay cool and avoid getting too hot. You may want to apply mosquito repellents containing DEET, but there are also equally effective, natural oil repellents, such as lemon eucalyptus oil or lavender oil. Artificial fragrances and perfumes are an invitation to a bloody feast, so consider passing them up if you intend to ward the mosquitoes off.

Above all, don't let these seasonal insects get to you (pun intended). They are a part of summertime experience, for better or worse.

*Article by Marek*

## Net News

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

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

For tips on what to use against mosquitoes, head here:  
<https://www.healthline.com/health/kinds-of-natural-mosquito-repellant>

# Some Thoughts for the Month



**Joshua Says:** 'It may be that when we no longer know what to do we have come to our real work, and that when we no longer know which way to go we have come to our real journey.' These are words from Wendell Berry, an American novelist, poet and philosopher. He goes on to say, "The mind that is not baffled is not employed." I think this is the kind of inspirational thinking we can all learn from, don't you agree?

**Junko Says:** Have you heard about 3D printed food? When food is processed, a paste-like mousses and other viscous materials such as chocolate is fed into a syringe-like container and is extruded through a nozzle as it moves around and deposits the final product. The food is served at gourmet eateries and Michelin-star restaurants and fancy bakeries. One of the characteristics of this food is its amazing shapes. Many say that, soon, every household kitchen will be equipped with 3D printers!... continued next month.



**Marek Says:** June is in full swing, and the humidity is rising, seemingly, day by day. Meanwhile, in Scotland, the humidity is only marginally lower, but it never feels muggy and sticky. Around this time the temperature rarely exceeds 25°C. Even in the midst of summer it never really gets warm and the humidity oscillates around 85%, but I have never felt any discomfort. That said, I enjoy many sunny days we get here, even during a rainy season.

**Mandcy dit:** La saison des pluies est arrivée ! Il faut sortir les bottes de pluie, l'imperméable et le parapluie. J'espère que cette année, il n'y aura pas beaucoup de typhons. D'ailleurs, je n'ai pas de kit de survie, chaque année j'y pense mais chaque année, je ne prépare pas. Je suis une cigale. Aussi en juin, on doit commencer à préparer les vacances. Mais cette année avec la pandémie, la vaccination et les jeux olympiques, je pense que c'est très difficile de planifier quelque chose. Je ne vais donc pas préparer aussi. Bon courage à tous !!



## ACROSS

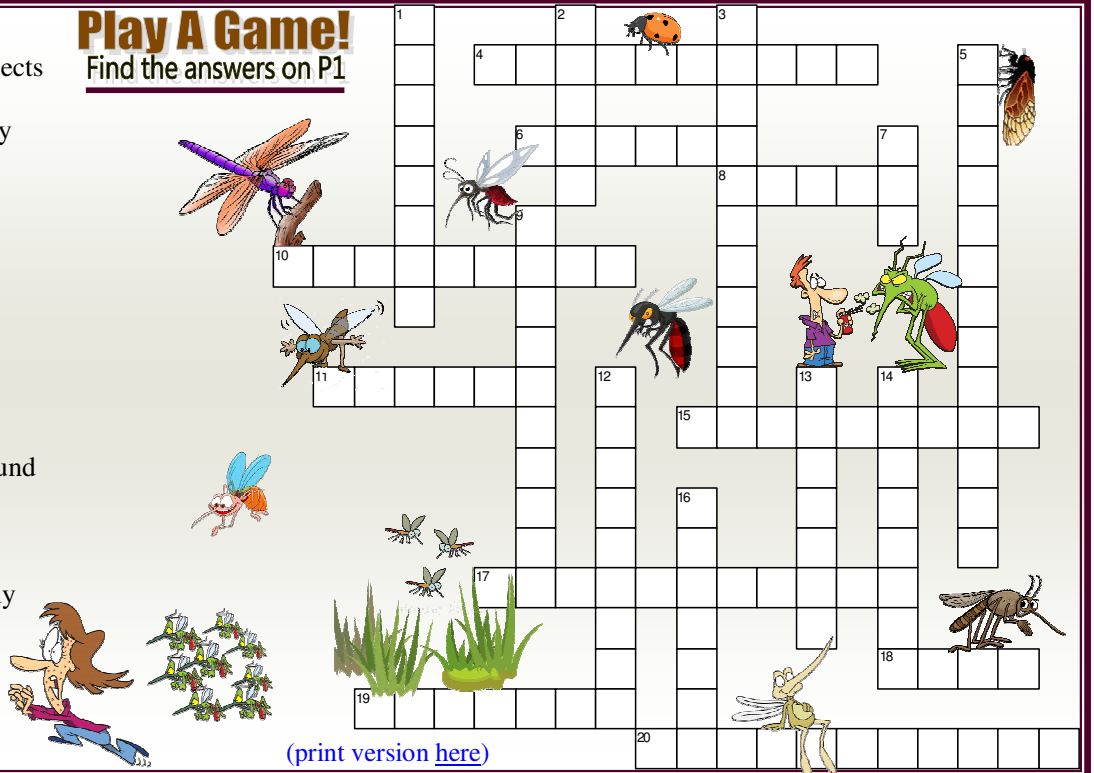
- 4 a chemical to repel insects
- 6 type, kind of
- 8 move quickly or lightly
- 10 more than necessary
- 11 a distinct feature
- 15 eating greedily
- 17 never give up!
- 18 an expression to chase something away
- 19 threatening danger
- 20 loss of body water

## DOWN

- 1 a sharp, unpleasant sound
- 2 flatten on impact
- 3 able to pull inward
- 5 more than annoyingly
- 7 very small or very early
- 9 impossible to satisfy
- 12 nose-like
- 13 deal with
- 14 put into motion
- 16 hard to see

## Play A Game!

Find the answers on P1











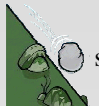





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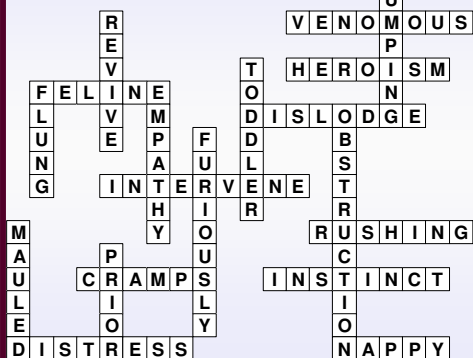
## This Month, Let's Take a Look at Proverbs.

*Proverbs are short traditional sayings that express a fundamental truth, wisdom or moral.*

*(Can you complete each of these proverbs with the correct missing word?)*

1. A bird in the hand is worth two in the \_\_\_\_\_.  pot, cage, bush
2. Better safe than \_\_\_\_\_.  careful, stupid, sorry
3. The early bird catches \_\_\_\_\_.  a cold, the bus, the worm
4. A stitch in time saves \_\_\_\_\_.  the needle, nine, cotton
5. You can't judge a book by its \_\_\_\_\_.  author, weight, cover
6. Don't put all your eggs into one \_\_\_\_\_.  fry-pan, nest, basket
7. A watched pot never \_\_\_\_\_.  boils, disappears, breaks
8. An apple a day keeps the \_\_\_\_\_ away.  children, doctor, donkeys
9. Empty vessels make the most \_\_\_\_\_.  wine, noise, waves
10. Too many cooks spoil the \_\_\_\_\_.  broth, kitchen, recipe
11. A rolling stone gathers no \_\_\_\_\_.  speed, friends, moss
12. A bad workman always blames \_\_\_\_\_.  his wife, the government, his tools
13. Don't count your chickens before they \_\_\_\_\_.  roast, chirp, hatch
14. People who live in glass houses shouldn't \_\_\_\_\_.  have secrets, throw stones, walk around naked

PREDICAMENT



## Last Month's puzzle Solution

### ACROSS

- 1 very difficult situation
- 4 extremely poisonous
- 6 great courage facing danger
- 7 related to the cat species
- 9 forcefully remove
- 12 to get involved and cause change
- 14 moving at high speed
- 16 painful muscle contractions
- 17 inborn non-rational behavior
- 18 experiencing pain or faced with danger
- 19 worn by infants

### DOWN

- 2 action with a heavy, dull sound
- 3 regain consciousness
- 5 a young child
- 7 throw forcefully
- 8 compassionate understanding
- 10 something that blocks progress or movement
- 11 acting extremely or violently
- 13 attacked and injured badly
- 15 earlier in time



**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.