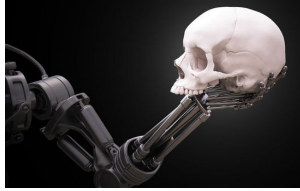


CrossTalk

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter July, 2018

ROBOTA

Many people, from Elon Musk to Stephen



Hawkins, have warned us to be terrified of the coming of robots, cyborgs and artificial intelligence. Hawkins, in fact, went as far to say the invention of AI

could be the “worst event in the history of our civilization!” Spurred by the first space explorations of the 1950s, countless tales abound in movies, books and comics telling of a terrifying future where the human race is annihilated by the onslaught of artificial life, or very often, a role-reversal whereby man-kind becomes the subservient worker or slave of a master robot race.



Popular culture, though, has been accused of fear-mongering in its depiction of a bleak outcome for humans, and there are many positive voices and reasons to be optimistic about the dawning of this new era.

Bionic (robotics replicating human anatomy) limbs, such as prosthetic legs, are already enabling amputees to run, dance and even rock-climb, and the further the interaction between the brain's neural networks and machinery, the more fully the integration will be both possible and beneficial to humans.



Exoskeletons and implants will greatly augment human's physical abilities to allow us to become actual superheroes – with even the possibility of attaching wings, allowing us to soar in the sky and have fully personalized, integrated transportation. We will also be able to process, assimilate and store information at rapid speeds and in huge quantities – meaning everyone will be capable of becoming a genius, brimming with wisdom.

Of course there will be military applications – super soldiers with great strength, vision, accuracy and replaceable parts if injured in battle – but the world of sports, exploration, education and most aspects of work and daily life will also change exponentially. In fact, as computers and machines have already started to replace many workers in factories and beyond, several countries' governments around the world have started considering ensuring a guaranteed universal income for their citizens, to help support the economy

while there are less employment possibilities around for humans. The word ‘robot’ actually stems from the word *robota* – in Slovak meaning ‘work’, and in

Czech, meaning ‘drudgery’- and so maybe instead of fearing the future, we should start to embrace the benefits that robotics will bring us – and start making plans for more free time to study, play and develop ourselves.



Article by Mark

Net News

NET LESSONS: Too busy to come to CROSSROADS?

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

Watch an interview in English with Sophia, the world's first robot citizen - of Saudi Arabia! – here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=78-1MlkxyqI>

Some Thoughts for the Month



Joshua Says: I'm very pleased to see that at least one of our groups is back into the "creative mode." Some of you may remember how we used to use drama and script writing to study English with in the past. We no longer have drama lessons in the same form as we used to, but you can still be creative while you study at Crossroads. We have just "published" (in-house, of course) our first short story, written entirely by the S(A)3 group. There is a copy available in our library – check it out!

Junko Says: It is still the first half of July, but this year's summer heat is something quite unusual. It reminds me of the experience I had in Dutch Guiana which lies right on the equator. There, the people take siestas. It's too hot to do anything in the daytime. If you wore sandals on your bare feet and walked under the Sun for 10 minutes, your feet would be left with a trace of the sandals on them. This year we have heat on top of high humidity. Moderate exercise, balanced meals and enough sleep can help you overcome this summer.



Mark Says: My recent thoughts have been with the flood victims throughout Western Japan – and, more selfishly, with how lucky we are in Matsuyama to live north of the mountains. As climate change brings ever-more extreme weather, I hope we can use it as an opportunity to care more for our communities globally, and care more for the planet that sustains us.

Darrin Says: After the recent flooding that hit much of Ehime a couple of weeks ago, I sincerely pray that all your friends and family are safe and well. I'd also like to pay tribute to the many volunteers, that are still now selflessly working to clean up and help those in need. May the recovery be swift and complete.



Mandey dit: André Gide disait que pendant l'été la « Lumière profuse; splendeur. L'été s'impose et contraint toute âme au bonheur ». En effet, c'est le moment parfait pour partager un repas, un pique-nique, un long apéritif et beaucoup de petits avec les amis et la famille. Attention cependant à bien vous couvrir et ne pas attraper une insolation.

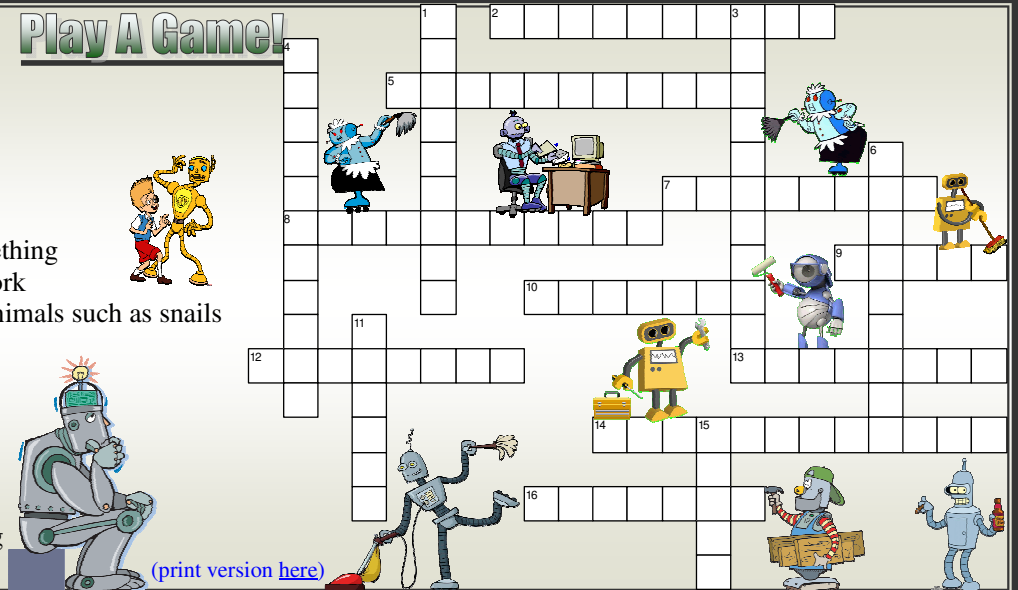
ACROSS

- 2 take in or absorb
- 5 combining into a whole
- 7 filled to capacity
- 8 making an exact copy
- 9 offering little or no hope
- 10 make larger or increase
- 12 giving the ability to do something
- 13 hard monotonous routine work
- 14 exterior structure of many animals such as snails
- 16 stimulated, urged on

DOWN

- 1 selling or offering for sale
- 3 destroyed completely
- 4 obedient to authority
- 6 sudden and severe attack
- 11 many or plenty of something
- 15 originates from

Play A Game!



What do you mean....?

English is usually clear and precise in meaning, however sometimes meaning can be ambiguous. Some words can even be their own antonym. For example:



Oversight is a noun formed from two verbs with contradictory meanings, “oversee” and “overlook.” “Oversee” means to “look over” or to “supervise”, while “oversight” usually means to “fail to see”, or to “pass over without noticing”.



Sanction can mean “to give approval” or “permission,” or it can mean “to impose a penalty.”

What do you make of the following sentence:

“As a result of his mother’s oversight, the boy’s behavior was sanctioned.”

Does this mean “because the boy did something wrong while his mother was watching, she punished him in some way? Or does it mean “because his mother was inattentive, and therefore negligent in controlling his behavior, she overlooked his bad behavior and gave her approval by default?”

What do you think this sentence means? Because the content here is not sufficiently clear, it is not possible to know for certain. But this exercise does illustrate the importance of *content* when trying to understand meaning. Here are a few more examples of words that can mean their opposite:

Left can mean either “remain” or “depart” – “half the group were left (behind) when half left the room.”

Fast means either “to move quickly” or “to fix” something to one place so that it can *not* move.

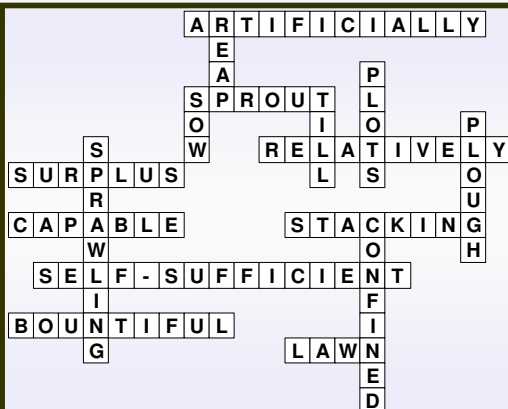
Weather can mean “to withstand or get through safely,” but it can also mean “to wear away” as in “the rocks were weathered.”

Screen means “to show” (e.g. a movie) or “to hide or cover from sight.”

Bolt is “to secure” (something so it can not move) or “to flee” (run away from).

Off means “to deactivate” (as in turn off the lights) or “to activate” (the alarm went off).

Variety means “a particular type of something” or “many different kinds of something.”



Last Month's puzzle Solution

ACROSS

- 1 not by natural means
- 4 start to produce buds or branches
- 8 by comparison
- 9 more than what is needed
- 10 having ability
- 11 arranging in an orderly way
- 13 (hyphenated) in no need of help
- 14 produce in abundance
- 15 a cultivated field of grass

DOWN

- 2 gather, bring in
- 3 areas of ground used to grow vegetables
- 4 place seeds in or on the ground
- 5 work the land by ploughing
- 6 break and turn over earth
- 7 spreading out in different directions
- 12 not free to move or expand



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.