

CrossTalk

February CROSSWORDS Language Studio's Newsletter 2007

PENGUINS!

Ladies! We've found the perfect "guy" for you! This fellow is willing to stay at home alone for more than two months at a time and take care of the kids while you go off pursuing your career; and he is willing to endure the most physically extreme conditions imaginable while doing it. Not only that, he will remain strictly monogamous and devoted to you and the family, no matter how tough life gets for him!

Too good to be true? Well, he may be in our world, but not in the penguin world. This is especially so of Mr. Emperor Penguin.

These extraordinary birds live in the coldest place on earth, the South Pole. Although Antarctica is a continent, they never put foot on land. They live their entire lives (typically about 20 years, unless they run into, and not away from, a Leopard Seal or an Orca) on the ice or in the freezing sea.

And yet, for these birds, nothing stands in the way of their devotion to their families.

Unlike all other birds that mate in spring, the love-bug bites the Emperor Penguin family in March-April at the start of the winter season in the Southern hemisphere. Mrs. E. Penguin lays her one and only egg a couple of months later at the coldest time of the year in May-June.

The energy she has expended during her gestation period will have been depleted and she must replenish it. Within a couple of hours of laying her egg, which she balances on her feet, she gingerly passes her precious bundle of joy onto hubby's feet. Now she sets off on an epic journey of 80 or 90 kilometres to reach the open sea and food.

Mr. E. Penguin will take care of their precious egg for the next 8 or 9 weeks. He will not eat the whole time, spending much of that time dozing on his feet with his egg snugly protected between his brood pouch and his feet. The weather will be extreme with temperatures at -40C and winds of up to 200 km per hour. To keep warm, Mr. Penguin huddles with his buddies in large groups of dads and their kids (eggs). The guys on the outside of the huddle turn their backs to the wind for protection. Slowly they trade places with those on the inside so that everyone gets a chance to warm up before it's his turn at the rim of the circle again – talk about male bonding!

About two months later, E. P. junior hatches just in time for Mom's return home. She takes over the child-caring duties and it is only then, after 2 months of starvation and extreme hardship, that dad can go off and pursue his own career opportunities in the open sea. Now, *that's* devotion!!



Glossary

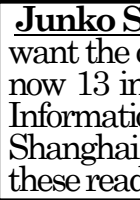
(These words are in colour in the story)

pursuing 従事する endure ~に耐える monogamous 一生一回婚の(に) devotion 献身的愛情
expended 消費した gestation 妊娠 depleted 涸渇させる replenish 補給する
gingerly きわめて慎重に dozing まどろんでいる snugly 居ごこち良く huddle 群集

A Word From Us



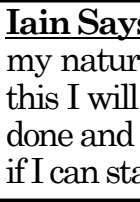
Joshua Says: What amazing weather we're having! We chose our leader story on penguins and Antarctica to correspond with the "coldest month of the year", but it feels that this February Spring has already arrived in Matsuyama! I'd say that this is proof positive that "global warming" is upon us, except that I read recently countries in South-East Asia, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, etc are having their coldest winter on record! What's going on?



Junko Says: Matsuyama City Government is now working on an "Urban Renewal Plan". They want the center of Matsuyama to be interesting and convenient. In the center of the city there are now 13 information booths, including 3 in Okaido. At these booths, you can get a "Matsuyama Information Card". With this card, you can accumulate points and win an i-pod or a trip to Shanghai. You take the card to a "Pocotan Reader" to collect points. And, Crossroads has one of these readers on our counter! So, quickly go to a booth, get a card and start accumulating points!!



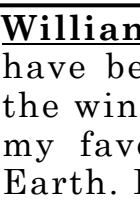
Alice Says: This week I took the Kansai ferry to Beppu. I wanted to see the steam rising from the geysers around the hot springs and relax in one of the onsens. I was planning to stay there one night and visit near-by places the next day. However, I didn't think to book a hotel and when I arrived, they were all fully booked! So, unfortunately I had to cut my trip short and return to Matsuyama on the same day. It was an interesting day, but a long way to go to take a bath!



Iain Says: It is a month into the New Year and I have decided once again to try and go against my nature. I got one of those little daily planners. It has a calendar and a note section. With this I will be able to plan out my day. My hope is that by sticking to a schedule I will get more done and waste less time. I doubt I will stick to this plan for the whole year, but I will be happy if I can stay on schedule for a couple of months. How many of you struggle with organization?



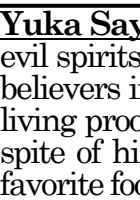
Adrienne Says: We have two kittens. They are brothers. One is very friendly and the other is very shy. Leo is constantly jumping onto my shoulder to watch what I'm doing, and jumping into my arms to be held. He follows me everywhere. He's very much like an affectionate and hyperactive baby. Unlike a baby, I don't have to change diapers and I can put the cats outside and go out myself.



William Says: The Japanese plum blossoms and the beautiful sakura have begun to bloom. They will come early this year. Let's hope that the wind is easy and the blossoms last a long time. March and April are my favorite months in Ehime. Incredible beauty awakens from the Earth. Bicycle and motorcycle season have officially begun!



Dean Says: Well, hopefully winter is about over. Even though it was a mild winter this year, I am always happy to see the weather warming up. Spring is almost upon us. Traditionally in Australia and the United Kingdom, it's time for a spring clean, throwing out all unwanted items in the house and giving the house a thorough cleaning. It's also thought to be a good time to commence a new project or relationships. Good luck for your spring plans!



Yuka Says: Every year on the evening of Feb. 3rd, my family throws roasted beans to drive away evil spirits, and this year was no exception. You might think this is superstition, but we are great believers in the power of soybeans. Unlike those TV shows that air bogus health claims, we have living proof ... my father. He has been eating *tofu* and *natto* for breakfast for almost 40 years. In spite of his age and lack of exercise, his blood tests always show good results. *Natto* is not my favorite food, but I try to eat it as often as possible for my health, not for losing weight.



A Word From You

Special from Suzuko – OUR TRIP TO GREECE, Part 1: On December 26th, we left Kansai bound for Greece. There were 14 women and two men in our tour group. Our plane flew to Doha, in the Arabian country of Qatar. We had to wait at the airport for our flight to Greece. Qatar is a Muslim country and the airport had a prayer room and a room for women only. Most of the women covered their heads with scarves. One woman's whole body was covered in a black stole.... Continued next month.



Notice Board

end-of-term performance night!

This **end-of-term's Performance Night** will be held at 8:00pm on Saturday 31st March at the school. Everyone is welcome to come along and join in the fun, even if you're not performing. And, please invite your family and friends to come along too. There will be plays, music and magic and after, we will celebrate with a party!

* Sign up early, get your tickets at the Office!

Net News

NET LESSONS:

Are you too busy to come to CROSSROADS to study? Try our *lessons on the internet* -- It's CROSSROADS in your home or office! You get CROSSROADS' great teachers, teaching programs, even classmates, *all on-line!* Call for details.

NET SITE OF THE MONTH:

You can find info on all kinds of penguins at: <http://www.siec.k12.in.us/~west/proj/penguins/main.htm>

NET NOTEBOOK: Don't forget to take a look at the Internet activity notebook in our open-house. You'll find games, news and English learning sites.

Courses you can take at CROSSROADS

GENERAL COURSES:

2 x's 60mins / week
1 x's 90mins / week
Private 1 x / week
Semi-Private 1 x / week

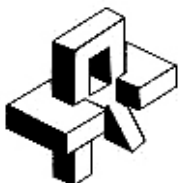
MOTHER & CHILD, group or private
KIDS, group or private

COSMOPOLITAN COURSES:

"Singing in English" with Alice
Yoga with Dean
Guitar with William
"Cooking in English" with Alice
"Magic English" with Iain
Piano with Adrienne
Acting with Alice

FRENCH with Natacha
SPANISH with Patricio
RUSSIAN with Natasha
GERMAN with Marita & Matthias
CHINESE with Noriko
KOREAN with Kim

NETLESSONS:
group or private



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