

# CrossTalk

March CROSSWORDS Language Studio's Newsletter 2007

## CLAUDE, THE PRACTICAL JOKER

In January's Newsletter we did a story on Claude. As you will gather from that article, Claude can be a most difficult, although interesting, character to get along with. What we didn't touch on then is that Claude loves to play practical jokes on people. His "friends" **dread** the coming of April 1<sup>st</sup>, as this offers Claude the perfect opportunity to play his **pranks**. On April Fools' Day Claude comes into his own; he has a ball, while most of his friends run for cover!

For example, about this time last year an **acquaintance** of Claude's happened to mention that a young couple, friends of his, were moving into a house just 4 doors down the street from Claude. Claude was, of course, eager to make some new friends (especially as he was fast running out of old ones!), so he decided to introduce himself. He chose to do this in a way that only Claude would think of. You see, it was approaching April 1<sup>st</sup> and this gave Claude the perfect opportunity to be, well, Claude!

The couple had moved into their new home in early March and were still trying to settle. Most of their unpacking was completed and all their furniture and other belongings were, more or less, in place. It was time to go out and celebrate.

Claude had been closely watching his new neighbours' movements for 2 or 3 weeks now and this was the chance he had been waiting for.

Being a **resourceful** fellow, Claude always carries with him any manner of items that might, or might not, come in handy given the right circumstances.

On this occasion he had a **skeleton key** which was just the tool he needed for that particular job. With this key, he let himself into their house while the young couple was out. He settled into a comfortable chair, turned on the TV, helped himself to whatever food was available, fixed himself a whisky, lit up a cigarette and waited for their return.

The moment they walked into the house, Claude jumped up "in surprise" and demanded to know what they thought they were doing by **barging** into "his house" like that! When they protested that it was *their* house, he pretended to get even more **aggravated** and demanded that they prove it. Did they have the **deeds** to the house? He **ranted and raged** so much that the poor young couple started to believe that perhaps this wasn't really their house after all. And, by the time Claude had taken his "joke" as far as he dared, they were beginning to wonder if they had ever bought a new house in the first place!

Finally, Claude **relented** and with a big grin on his face, introduced himself as their new neighbor, but by this time the young couple was too exhausted to see the "joke".

Instead, they promptly invited Claude to "get out" of their house and never return! Poor Claude could not understand why they were so angry, but everyone else could. ...

So, if you do not like being the subject of a practical joke, be **wary** on April 1<sup>st</sup>, and, if you see Claude coming your way, RUN!!



Guess who?

## Glossary

(These words are in **colour** in the story)

**dread** ひどく恐れている

**pranks** 悪ふざけ

**acquaintance** 知人

**resourceful** 工夫に富んだ

**skeleton key** (多種の錠をあけられる)合鍵

**barging** 乱入する

**aggravated** 怒る

**deeds** 証書

**ranted and raged** 激怒して怒鳴り散らした

**relented** 気持ちを和らげる

**wary** 用心深い

# A Word From Us



**Joshua Says:** On behalf of everyone at Crossroads – students and staff alike – let’s send Greg and Kasumi a big “congratulations” on the arrival of their new baby daughter, Katie! Katie is their second daughter and her “big” sister, Joy, seems just as thrilled as Mom and Dad about this “new arrival”; take a look at the picture on P3. Katie is the first of three similar “big events” coming up during the year. Stay tuned for news about more additions to our “extended family” as they arrive.

**Junko Says:** There is a great “free movie site” on the internet. The movies on this site usually do not have Japanese subtitles, so they are quite useful for home English study. Also, sometimes you can see very new movies such as “The Departed” which won a lot of Academy awards this year. There are so many movies listed on this site. If you are good at avoiding the occasional “pop-up” advertisement that appears on this site, please take a look at [//peekvid.com](http://peekvid.com) and enjoy movies on the internet!



**Alice Says:** This month I have been mostly learning about Japanese culture. I went to a lecture about the making of sake – and we were able to sample some of the local products! I also had the chance to practice music with a friend. We sat in the spring sunshine under the cherry blossom trees by Ishite River – it was beautiful and very inspiring to make happy music!!! I can understand why cherry blossom is so important in Japan!

**Adrienne Says:** Japanese people take their social duties very seriously. I’m always amazed by this. A woman in my neighbourhood once told me that in Japan there is *no excuse* for not doing your duty, and she wasn’t kidding! I have even seen mothers take very sick babies to PTA volleyball games because it was the mother’s duty to play! And, very ill elderly women come to neighbourhood events and pass-out while making taco-yaki because, well, it was their duty to do it! People seem very afraid of what others will say about them.



**Greg Says:** A little ray of sunshine entered into my world at 7:24pm on the 21<sup>st</sup> of last month. Her name is Katie and she weighed 3500. All went well with delivery and all is going well in the early stages of babyhood. Thank you to Joshua, Junko and the staff of Crossroads for the lovely flowers which were so kindly sent and thank you to all the students who have passed on their best wishes.

**William Says:** The folk music of my home of Newfoundland was derived from the traditions of Ireland, England, and Scotland. The music sings of the ocean, the land, the fishery, and the shaping elements of Nature - for example, the wind. These days Matsuyama is visited by an unusually gusting wind...it reminds me of home.



**Yuka Says:** Time passes so quickly and it’s already March. Just 8 years ago, I came back from Tokyo. Since then I’ve been enjoying my life here in Matsuyama. Staying in one place is comfortable because moving requires a lot of time and energy. But there is a problem, and it’s quite serious. I feel my house is getting smaller and smaller. I mean I am surrounded by a pile of things. Now is the time to start cleaning and doing away with unnecessary things.

# A Word From You

**Special from Suzuko – OUR TRIP TO GREECE, Part 2:** It took 5 hours to fly from Doha to Athens. On the first day of sightseeing we went to Corinthos where we saw the ancient canal that connects the Aegean Sea and the Ionian Sea. It was built in the 4<sup>th</sup> century BC. We also saw an ancient outdoor theatre there. The acoustics were so good that when the tour guide ripped a piece of paper on the stage, we could hear it all the way up to the top row of seats where we sat; no microphones, of course.

During our trip my husband became ill with “acute viral gastroenteritis”. Very fortunately, we found a Greek doctor who could speak Japanese. Unfortunately, my husband gave his stomach virus to most of the other members in our tour!



## Notice Board

Congratulations from everyone at Crossroads to Greg and Kasumi on the arrival of their new baby daughter, Katie.



Joy with her new baby sister.

It's **SPRING CAMPAIGN** time!!!

So, don't forget to spread the word! Tell your friends about these great offers..

- \* No Joining fee and
  - \* Up to 10% off tuition fees – for all those who join up next month!
  - \* Also, there's a present for you if you introduce your friend!
- Get the details from Junko 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. 089 921 7595

### **NET SITE OF THE MONTH:**

For those interested, here is a list of the all-time top 100 April Fools' pranks:

<http://www.museumofhoaxes.com/hoax/aprilfool/>

**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

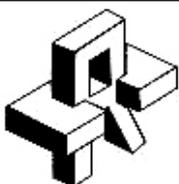
### **COSMOPOLITAN COURSES:**

“Singing in English” with Alice  
“Magic English” with Iain  
Yoga with Dean  
“Cooking in English” with Alice & Dean

Guitar with William  
Piano with Adrienne  
Acting with Alice

**NETLESSONS:**  
group or private

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



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