

Crossroads

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter, December 2009

CHRISTMAS SUPERSTITIONS

During Christmas, Christians celebrate the birth of Christ, and many of the traditions and rituals associated with Christmas are very old, some stretching all the way back to pagan times before the Christian era began. These traditions have filtered down through the ages and now remain with us as nothing more than mere superstitions, yet many are still practiced today.

Take the traditional Christmas cake and pudding for example. During Victorian times, everyone in the family would help to make the Christmas cake. Each member of the household would take it in turns to stir the cake mix thrice (three times) and make a wish for a gift from Santa. They would also place silver charms and coins into the pudding mix – a sixpenny coin for luck, a thimble for prosperity, a ring and a bachelor's button were also added and if a young maiden of the house found either of these in her pudding desert, she was sure to soon find a husband. The placing of silver coins into the family's Christmas pudding, after boiling them to kill any bacteria that may be on them, is still practiced in some places, but the purpose these days is more along the lines of giving children a pleasant surprise, as well as a little extra pocket-money.

Evergreens can be seen everywhere at this time of the year. Since the 15th century, Ivy and Holly have been an essential part of church decorations during Christmas celebrations and, along with Mistletoe, are commonly found in homes as well.

The Christian tradition uses evergreens to symbolism endurance, while the berries they produce represent resurrection. But, like so many elements in Christmas traditions, we can trace the symbolic use of these plants back to the pre-Christian era.

Holly has traditionally been symbolic of masculinity, while Ivy was considered feminine – the European “yin and yang” of the plant world! It followed that if too much ivy was use in the Christmas decorations, bad luck would befall the household. And if the Holly used in the Christmas decorations was smooth, it was said that the wife ruled the house; if prickly, the husband was boss!

Mistletoe, also known as Celtic-All-Heal, has been popular since the time of the druids, and has always been associated with fertility, and kissing. It is still believed that luck will favor those who kiss under the Mistletoe, and turn against those who avoid it!



Net News

NET LESSONS: Are you too busy to come to CROSSROADS?... Try our *lessons on the Internet!* It's CROSSROADS in your home or office! You get CROSSROADS' great teachers, teaching programs, even classmates, *on-line!* Call for details: **089 9217595**

NET SITE OF THE MONTH:

Here's a good site for everything about Christmas:
<http://www.thehistoryofchristmas.com/>

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.

Some Thoughts for the Month



Joshua Says: Well, it will be some time before we see another message from Emilie in this column as she is going on a sabbatical for 6 months. I, and everyone at Crossroads, wish her good fortune and we look forward to seeing her back with us next year. In the mean time, look for news from her in Paris, and other places on her travels, in future Page 3 spreads every now and then. I know it will be interesting to hear from her!

Junko Says: Performance-party night was a quiet event last month, but the plays our students put on were really well done – as always. It amazes me every term. The English level seems to go up for each group each time they perform. Even the “acting” seems to improve! I am so please to see this kind of success as I know the more serious aspect of learning English is well taken care of too. Congratulations to all the participants. Well done!



Alessio Says: Hello Crossroads students, November was the month of our end of term party. It was much fun and the students did a very good job performing! I was very happy for them. Everybody enjoyed the party and we spent a nice day all together, and Christmas is coming... I love it! There is always a magical atmosphere in the air and, even if Japan has imported this holiday, it is always special for me. It is said that during Christmas people are more gentle and kind and everybody behaves in a better way. Do you think it is true?

Greg Says: Memories come flooding back, as Christmas knocks on the door once again, of when I was younger hiding under the tree at night waiting for Santa to appear. But naturally gravity would suck my eyelids shut (Santa’s magic power I presumed) and I would wake up in my bed with presents under the tree. One year I painted my uncles car dark green (as a gift); except I used paving paint (I was only 4)!!!!!! That was one present he really didn’t want.



Emilie Dit: Joyeux Noël à tous! Je rentre à Paris à la fin du mois de décembre pour célébrer Noël en famille. Je serai absente de Matsuyama pendant six mois. Pendant cette période, Kévin, originaire de Vineuil près de Blois dans le Loir et Cher, va me remplacer. Continuez à étudier le Français avec assiduité! Je voudrais écouter vos progrès à mon retour. Je souhaite à tout le monde de bonnes fêtes de fin d’année. Portez-vous bien! À l’année prochaine!

NOTICE BOARD

THE END-OF-TERM PERFORMANCE PARTY '09-11-28



In(b)1 performing "Polt The Alien"

In(a)1's "Lethal Kiss"

After performance "party-time"

MERRY XMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR STUDENTS

クロスローズの好きなコースで英語を学ぶ。

"GENERAL (ジェネラル) コース

英語+実践練習

60分 x 2回/週:

1学期-4ヶ月毎にレベルが上がる
クロスローズのメインプログラム

90分 x 1回/週:

忙しい方のための週1レッスン

プライベート(個人)

月2回からレッスン回数自由選択

セミプライベート(セミ個人):

月3回からレッスン回数自由選択

クロスローズで学べるその他の外国語

フランス語 - スペイン語 - ドイツ語 - イタリア語 - ロシア語 - 中国語 - 韓国語



COSMOPOLITAN (コスモポリタン) コース

英語+実技を通した実用練習、だから誰でも分かる、自然に上達する。

英語でギターを習う

英語で歌う

英語で料理

英語でマジック

ピアノ

英語劇

ヨガ

レッスン料 ¥4,725/月~
詳細はお問合せ下さい



KIDS' (キッズ) クラス

グループOR プライベート



MOTHER & CHILD

(マザー&チャイルド)

グループOR プライベート

CROSSROADS

ランゲージスタジオ
英会話スクール

〒790-0004 松山市大街道
2丁目1-3 2F, 3F

Phone: 0120-21-7594

Tel: (089) 921-7595

Fax: (089) 921-7319

E-mail: info@crossroadsco.com

Web Site: www.crossroadsco.com

