

CROSSROADS

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter, February 2010

Cupid, a Mascot for Valentine's Day

What would Valentine's Day be without Cupid? This little cherub's image is everywhere at this time of the year. Take away Cupid, and you may as well take away chocolate, candies, cards and flowers. But, where did this little guy originate from?

Cupid is Latin for "desire" (cupido) and to the ancient Romans, he was the personification of love itself, or, at least, "falling in love". He was the son of Venus and Mercury, or was it Mars? And, his main task was to go around piercing people's hearts with golden arrows, causing them to fall deeply in love.

To the Romans, Cupid was innocent and child-like; not malicious, though sometimes mischievous. To the ancient Greeks however, the god Eros, (whom the Romans co-opted as Cupid) was an older, more terrible god. Eros, still concerned with matters of love, carried both gold-tipped and lead-tipped arrows. The latter were used to spread loathing, jealousy and all that is contrary to what we consider healthy, romantic love.

Fortunately, it is the Roman Cupid that we cherish most, even if his arrows do cause mischief sometimes.

On one occasion, according to Roman legend, Cupid himself became the subject of a great love story. Venus, his mother, became jealous of Psyche, a mortal woman, because Psyche's beauty rivalled that of her own. She ordered Cupid to punish this upstart. But instead of punishing the beautiful Psyche, Cupid fell hopelessly in love with her. Defying his mother, Cupid married Psyche and they lived happily together – for a while.

Cupid set only one restriction on their relationship. Psyche should never look upon his face – it would be totally inappropriate for a mere mortal to look directly upon the face of a God!

Psyche accepted this situation at first and remained content, and deeply in love with, her mysterious husband.

But, one day curiosity got the better of her. Holding a candle, she snuck up on Cupid while he lay asleep. She found that her husband was an extraordinarily beautiful young man. As she looked upon him, a drop of candle wax fell onto his shoulder and he awoke. He was furious that she had disobeyed him. He abandoned her!

Some time later, heart-broken and lonely, Psyche asked Venus for help. Venus set her a series of difficult tasks to perform. Psyche succeeded in all except the last one. Curiosity once again got the better of her. While returning a box to Venus she peeked inside. This was forbidden and immediately she did this, a curse put her into a deep, death-like sleep. Cupid was devastated, and asked the gods to help her. They took pity on the young lovers and turned Psyche into a god so that she and Cupid could, at last, be together forever.



Net News

NET LESSONS: 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 is a site dedicated to Cupid:

www.free-clipart-graphics.net/cupid-graphics-history.html

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: The time has come (again) to say “goodbye” to one of our teachers. I can’t believe a year has passed since Alessio joined us here at Crossroads. We all wish him the best of good luck in the future and we will miss his happy smile and good humour – not to mention his selection of “background” music! And, of course, we won’t forget his pasta! “Good luck” Alessio and may the fortune be kind to you.

Junko Says: I too wish Alessio all the best for the future. “Good luck”, and let us know how you are getting on! Promise?! Change seems to be the order this month. We are losing Alessio, but we are welcoming Jonathan from England, our new teacher who will be taking over from Alessio. Also, you can’t have missed all the other changes going on this month to the office and Open House. We are sorry if this work might have inconvenienced anyone, but it will be over by the end of the month and well worth it.



Alessio Says: Hello Crossroads students, this is my last newsletter. I’m very sad because every time I want to write it 2 or 3 times, but Joshua lets me do only one... Anyway, I’m leaving soon and I’m very sad. After a year I have so many good things and nice moments in my mind...It is very hard to leave. I want to thank all my students for this beautiful experience. Everybody has been so nice and kind with me, it seems I’m leaving a piece of my heart here. I hope to come back next year though. All the best to all of you, I’m going to miss you a lot... ale :)

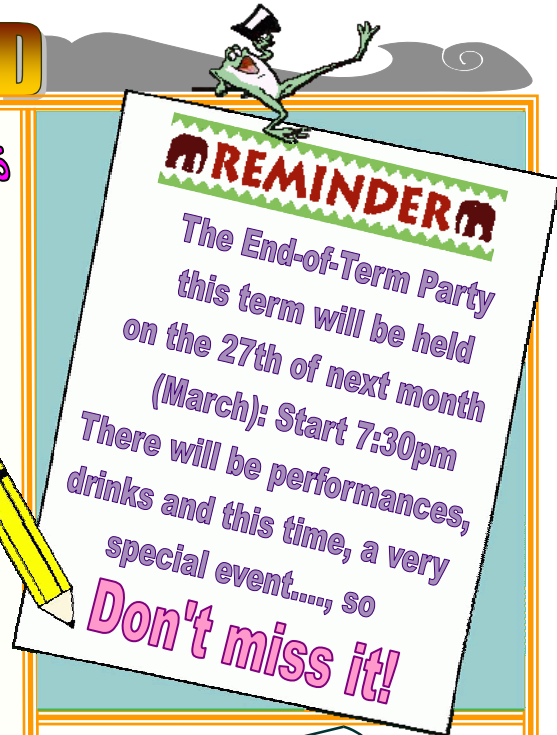
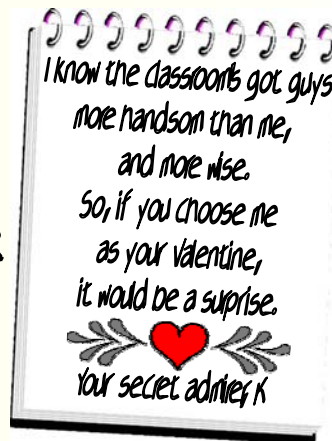
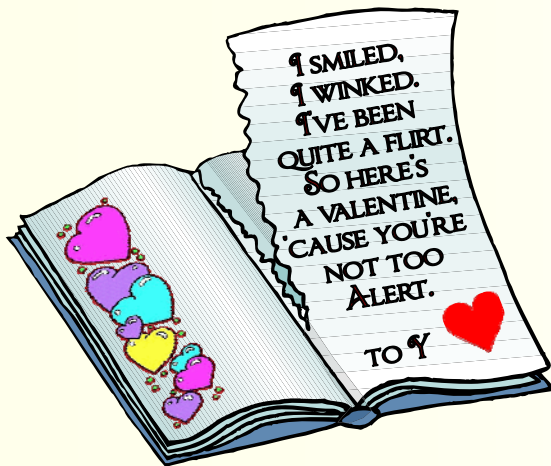
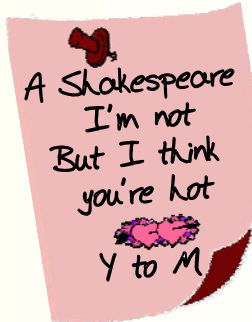
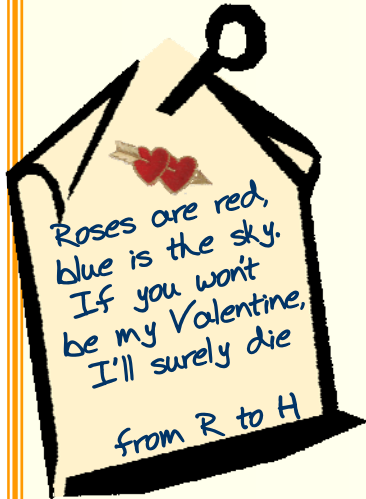
Greg Says: I can’t seem to grasp the Japanese custom of Valentine’s Day. Why do people feel they “have to” give “giddi choccos”? Valentine’s Day is a day for love, romance and Cupid. I much prefer the western style of Valentine’s gifts (mostly cards or over-priced roses) which are usually given anonymously with only a “?” in place of the giver’s name. It makes it very interesting trying to work out who your secret admirer is. Sometimes it’s your friend or sister tricking you into thinking you have an admirer!



Kevin Dit: Un mois s'est déjà écoulé depuis le début de cette nouvelle année ! Le temps passe tellement vite, vous ne trouvez pas? Cela fait maintenant un peu plus d'un mois que j'enseigne à Crossroads, et j'ai l'impression que c'était hier! Dans quelques jours, Alessio va nous quitter pour rentrer en Italie... c'est un peu triste. Mais souhaitons lui bonne chance dans ce qu'il entreprendra, en espérant qu'il revienne vite! En attendant, nous allons accueillir un nouvel enseignant très bientôt ! Entre les changements de professeurs et l'ouverture prochaine du Café International, beaucoup de choses changent à Crossroads en ce début d'année !

NOTICE BOARD

Here're some of your Valentine's messages



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

NET(ネット) レッスン

グループOR プライベート

レッスン料 ¥4,725/月~
詳細はお問合わせ下さい



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



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