

Crossroads

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter, January 2012



There Be Dragons!

This year is the year of the dragon, according to the Chinese calendar. But did you know that dragons are common in Western myths and legends, too?

The most famous, for the English, is the story of Saint George and the Dragon. (Saint George is the patron saint of England.) George was a Roman and a Christian who lived in the third century AD. The story tells of a dragon, which lives by a lake, the only source of water for a nearby town. The townspeople have to sacrifice two sheep every time they want to draw water from the lake, and when sheep are not available, children - chosen by a lottery - are sacrificed. On one occasion, the King's daughter is selected. He offers the townspeople all his gold and silver to spare his daughter, but they refuse. As the poor girl is waiting by the lake to be eaten, along comes George. He kills the dragon with his sword. The pagan king and his daughter, along with the people of the town, convert to Christianity.

Dragons in Western legends are usually malevolent. In Asia they are often benevolent: in China, for example, they are associated with intelligence and longevity; in Japan with water, as in the story of Saint George. How did these myths arise? In ancient times, it is likely that Nile crocodiles ranged into southern Europe, having swum across the Mediterranean. These exotic beasts would have caused amazement and are possible sources of inspiration for dragon myths. In China, the remains of dinosaurs (there is a record from 300BC) may have inspired stories there.

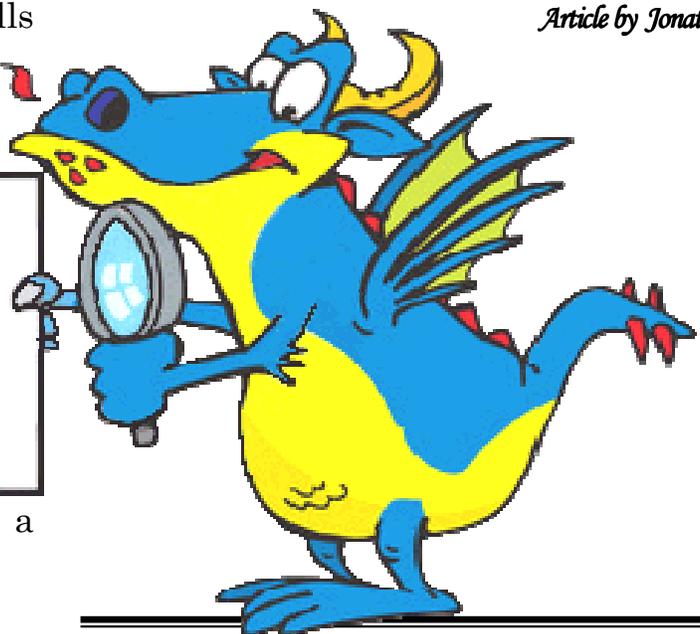
The sword with which Saint George killed the dragon was called Ascalon, the name Winston Churchill chose for his personal aircraft during World War II.

Article by Jonathan

Happy New Year, 2012

to you from everyone at

CROSSROADS



On the site where the dragon died, a spring arises which cures all diseases.

Some Thoughts for the Month



Joshua Says: Another new year is upon us and it's time to make resolutions and plans towards a bright and productive year ahead. Some of you will make trips overseas, others will get a new job, or even change your job. Whatever your plans for the coming year, we wish everyone all the success you deserve. "Happy New Year", everyone!

Junko Says: Last month I wrote about our new "face-book" HP. It can be a bit confusing to log-on if you are a beginner like me. Slowly but surely, however, we are expanding our face-book circle. I want to ask you all to take a look at our face-book HP and join in. Just open Face-book and tap in "Crossroads language Studio" and, if you like it, don't forget to tell us by clicking the "like button".



Jonathan Says: My son, who is 5, recently performed in his first concert. Being the youngest performer, he was 'top batter' (a Japanese /English phrase I learnt from Yukiko in S(A)3). He played violin, with me on guitar and then we played a tune with both of us playing one guitar - a sort of party trick - with him on my lap. He really enjoyed himself and I felt very proud.

Matthew Says: Making 'New Year's Resolutions' is a popular tradition in the U.K. Most people aim for a specific goal that will make their life better, to lose weight or to learn something new, for example. Most people, however, give up before February! I have made twenty-five resolutions one of which is to visit two countries I've never been to. What resolutions have you made for 2012?



Arno Dit: Per la prima volta sto trascorrendo l'inverno in Giappone, ed è fantastico, confrontando il mio paese in Italia direi che qui a Matsuyama non fa poi così freddo, ed è anche la prima volta che passo il capodanno qui, mi sono divertito tantissimo a fare manualmente il "mochi" usando il martello di legno, è bello vedere come in Giappone la festa per la fine dell'anno è molto spirituale, così anch'io sono andato al tempio il primo di gennaio.

NOTICE BOARD

THEY WENT TO EUROPE LAST YEAR, AND...

Eriko and Yukari from our A1 group traveled to Europe, separately, last year. Eriko went on her adventure first, followed by Yukari. When they had both returned they got together and had this to say:

E: Welcome back, Yukari! What was your trip like?
 Y: Yah! I can't believe I'm home! I enjoyed it soooooooooooooooooo much!!
 E: Wow, that's great! Tell me about the places you liked best.
 Y: The best place was,.... Innsbruck! I loved it!!
 E: Innsbruck?
 Y: It's in Australia.
 E: ??... But, you went to Europe, didn't you?
 Y: Oh! Ha, ha, sorry. Austria, it's in Austria. The city is not so big but really "cute" and there are lots of historical buildings from the Middle Ages. And, I also enjoyed my experience in a Christmas market there.
 E: Sounds wonderful! Did you get something from the market?
 Y: I got some hot wine. It was so yummy!
 E: I heard you drank alcohol every night. Is that true?
 Y: Completely! I was able to drink many kinds of beer and wine.
 E: I see..., so..., how did you travel around Europe? By yourself?
 Y: Actually, I joined a local tour called, "Contiki". It included sightseeing, accommodation, travel pass, food and other things. We traveled by coach. People came from all over the world and we became friends on the tour.
 E: Sounds interesting! In my case, I traveled alone. I especially like doing that in foreign countries. I'm excited about taking local undergrounds and busses. This time I also tried the "Tube", the Metro and double-deckers! On one bus in London I lost my way, but the driver helped me.

Eriko's photos from London...



...and Paris



Y: Such experiences always become wonderful memories.
 E: I agree. Something else happened to me. I broke my digital camera on my first day in Paris! I was so shocked and worried, but with the help of many kind people, I was able to get a new one in an electrical shop.
 Y: By the way, I bought some macarons in Paris! Here you are!!
 E: What a surprise! I also bought some in the same shop, "LADUREE"! Let's have these lovely macarons with tea!



Macarons from Paris

Yukari's route and some of her photos



*We'll hear more about Yukari's favorite places to visit next month...

Courses you can join at CROSSROADS

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+実技を通じた実用練習、だから誰でも分かる、自然に上達する。

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英語で歌う

英語で料理

英語でマジック

ピアノ

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ヨガ

レッスン料 ¥4,725/月~
詳細はお問合せ下さい

NET(ネット)レッスン

グループOR プライベート



KIDS' (キッズ) クラス

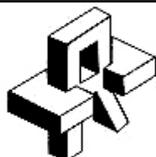
グループOR プライベート



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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