

# CrossTalk

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter February, 2013



## Tom and Jerry

Tom and Jerry are one of the most famous partnerships in the history of television and cinema. Tom the cat and Jerry the mouse have a rivalry that extends back to the 1940's. They were created by William Hanna and Joseph Barbera for Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer designed to be shown before movies shown at the theatre. Between 1940 and 1957 a total of 114 cartoons were made. This was followed by another 13 released in 1961 and then a further 34 between 1963 and 1967. (161 in total).

The plot of Tom and Jerry almost always involves Tom trying to hunt down and murder Jerry. However Jerry nearly always thwarts Tom at every turn. Due to the violence involved in the attacks by Tom - using axes, bombs, firearms, traps and poisons and the violence involved in the defenses by Jerry - burning, electrocuting, clubbing and chopping Tom in half - the cartoon has been heavily criticized by some soccer moms (in the U.S.), Daily Mail readers (in the U.K) and do-gooders across western English speaking society.

In America, the duo have been criticized for reinforcing stereo-types of blacks and their ancestral roots. For example, one cartoon known as "His House Friday" (a spoof of Robinson Crusoe) is never played in America due to its depiction of cannibals. Interestingly, the book *Robinson Crusoe*, still considered a classic in Britain, has also been heavily criticized by previous British colonial countries due to its content and promotion of English superiority.

Other characters involve Spike the dog and his son Tyke and occasionally these two team up with Jerry to fight Tom, or occasionally Tom and Jerry collude to fight Spike! There is almost no dialogue by Tom or Jerry though there often is by other characters, Tom's owner and some of the other animals, the dog (Spike), the chick (Quacker), Jerry's nephew (Nibbles) and Jerry's cousin (Cousin Muscles) all talk at some point.

The radio is also used to initiate the story and reveal context for the audience. The cartoon is also an extremely effective tool for learning languages as there is no dialogue and only musical instrumentals in the background, therefore it is possible to practice by inserting your own dialogue, or describing what is happening during the scene!

*Article by Matthew*



## Net News

**NET LESSONS:** Are you too busy to come to CROSSROADS?....Try our *lessons on the Internet!*

**SITE OF THE MONTH:**

Here's a site about the history of Tom & Jerry:

<http://historyinworld.blogspot.jp/2012/03/history-of-tom-jerry.html>

# *Some Thoughts for the Month*



**Joshua Says:** I'm very happy to note that some of you are taking advantage of our 1+1 campaign. This is such a great way to introduce your friends and acquaintances to the "world of second languages". The new students are settling in well and earnestly trying to gain second language skills while studying here with us. Let's all continue to support this great idea even more.

**Junko Says:** Open Sky! 3 or 4 LCC's (low cost carriers) will make their services available to overseas passengers, as well as to Japanese people. "The Open Sky Policy" will operate fully from this summer, as the Japanese government is expecting many more overseas visitors to come here. But this is also a chance for many of you to go overseas inexpensively to visit or study. Check out the prices with any of the new low-cost carriers. You'll be surprised!



**Matthew Says:** I was in a convenience store last week when I bought two chocolate bars and some crisps. The assistant put everything I bought into a plastic bag. I removed the items from the plastic bag and placed them in my coat pockets because it is ridiculous to use a bag for such items. Then the woman in front of me asked the assistant for a plastic bag for a toothbrush she had just bought, so the assistant gave her mine!

**Craig Says:** The last weekend in January we had a bit of a cold snap, and I played football in the snow for the first time in years. It was a nice memory of playing football back home, although it made the ground in Shiroyama park even harder than usual! But over the last few days, it has become noticeably warmer and I hope that spring is just around the corner.

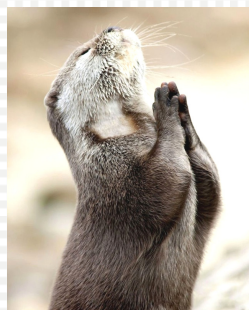


**Arnaud Dit:** En Fevrier, de plus en plus de francais prennent une semaine de vacances avec leurs enfants pour pouvoir partir au ski. Tous les francais ne partent pas en vacance en meme temps. contrairement au Japon, il y a un systeme de rotation des vacances. la France est divisee en 3 zones.

# NOTICE BOARD

## Pet's Corner

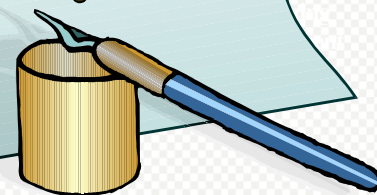
Now, this is a really speedy cat! Take note Tom. George here is only a house pet, but you will not find any mice running around in his neighborhood!



And, Alessandro here, a very distant cousin of Jerry's, has no intension of paying him a visit, either. In fact, Alessandro desperately hopes that he'll never run into George in anyone's neighborhood!

A THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

It's not important to be the best, only that we try our best



## SHE'S THE BEST!

Greg's daughter, Joy, has done it again! This time she won the under 18 y/o "Greg Norman International Junior Master's" golf tournament in Australia. Young golfers from all over the world are invited to this tournament and Joy came in first! Not bad for an eleven year old girl!

Greg says; "She played amazing and made an old dog (me) proud". But Joy was very level-headed about her win. Said Joy; "The level of competition was nowhere near as high as in the World Tournament in the USA. The best players didn't go to Australia simply because it's too far to travel. But, they will all play in the USA event."

So, what's next for Joy? The July World Tournament in the USA, of course!

Joy picked up a second trophy along the way. For this one she competed against both boys and girls.



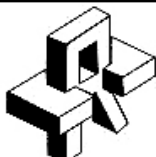
Joy holding her trophy



The Greg Norman Junior Master's trophy will now add Joy's name to the list of winners.

Don't forget... Our SPECIAL 1+1 Campaign offer! Up to 50% off!!

See our notice board, or ask Junko in our office, for the details.



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