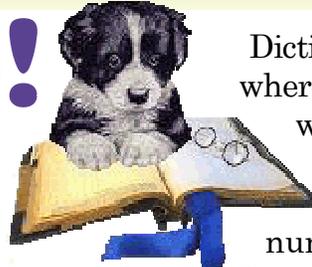


Crossroads

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter April, 2013

Look it up!



Dictionaries for languages where the pronunciation of words is not clear from their spelling, usually provide the pronunciation, often using the International Phonetic Alphabet.

While learning a foreign language most of us use a "dictionary". However, how much thought do we put into who makes dictionaries? What about who decides which words to include or exclude? Who does the "translations"? Who makes the examples? These are questions to which few bother to explore.

A good dictionary should contain definitions, examples of usage, pronunciation and spelling variants. The earliest dictionaries in the English language were glossaries of French, Italian or Latin words along with definitions of the foreign words in English. The word dictionary was invented by an Englishman called John of Garland in 1220 and an early non-alphabetical list of 8000 English words was the *Elementarie* created by Richard Mulcaster in 1592.

Samual Johnson's "A dictionary of the English Language" (1755) is considered to be the first reliable English Dictionary to have been commercially produced. Johnson's "Dictionary" remained the English-language standard for over 150 years, until the Oxford University Press began writing and releasing the Oxford English Dictionary in short chapters from 1884 onwards. It took nearly 50 years to complete and the completed OED was released in twelve volumes in 1928. It remains the most comprehensive and trusted English language dictionary to this day, with revisions and updates added by very sad people every three months. One of the main contributors to this modern day dictionary was an ex-army surgeon, William Chester Minor, a convicted murderer who was confined to an asylum for the criminally insane.

The Oxford English Dictionary lists over 250,000 distinct words, not including many technical, scientific, and slang terms.

When considering which dictionary to purchase it is recommended here that you choose one that contains the phrase "COBUILD". COBUILD is an acronym for Collins Birmingham University International Language Database, and is a British research facility set up at the University of Birmingham in 1980 and is funded by Collins publishers. The language database contains vast amounts of language sourced from the media including television, radio, newspapers and books. The language has been separated and analysed in order to provide information about a particular word's usage. For example, it tells us that 85% of native English speakers say "have a shower" while 15% say "take a shower". This information is useful when choosing which examples to select for usage of a word along with definitions and therefore can help you as a learner identify which is the "best" or most "natural" way of using a particular word in a particular way in a particular situation.

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:

For a really unique on-line dictionary, try this site:
<http://www.visuwords.com/>

Some Thoughts for the Month



Joshua Says: This spring our roof-top garden is looking better than it ever has. The wisteria is amazing. Last year I think we had one or two flowers but this year, it's hard to count them! The jasmine is in bloom and many of the new plants we have added are flowering too. And soon the first lavender will also be out. If you have a spare few minutes, go up to the roof-top and take a look around. There are a few shots on P3 here also.

Junko Says: Okaido's new car park has just opened in front of the 2-bancho entrance of Mitsukoshi. You can park your bicycle there for up to two hours, free, or ¥100 for 12 hours; a motor bike is also free for up to two hours and then ¥200 for up to 12 hours. Parking your car there will cost ¥100 for 50 minutes. I hope this new car park proves to be very convenient for you. If you want more details, come and see me in our office.



Matthew Says: It came to my attention recently that to be depressed is to be living in the past and to be anxious is to be living in the future and if you are at peace you are living in the present which explains why my three goldfish Ace, Jack and Queen always seem so content! Enjoy your spring!

Melissa Says: Avril ou le mois des cloches, des œufs en chocolat et n'oublions pas la fameuse chasse aux œufs! En Europe, on fête Pâques et tous les enfants ont 2 semaines de vacances, tandis qu'au Japon c'est la rentrée des classes. Du plus petit au plus grand, tous se mettent sur leur trente-et-un pour commencer cette nouvelle année scolaire en beauté.



Arnaud Dit: Avril, la saison des cerisiers. Vous pourrez peut-être me trouver au parc de Dogo en compagnie de mes amis français (mais il n'y en a pas beaucoup), et japonais. En France, il n'y a pas de cerisiers "en fleurs"! En revanche, nous avons des cerisiers qui donnent des Cerises! Et les cerises, c'est quand même vachement bon!

NOTICE BOARD



IT'S SPRING!

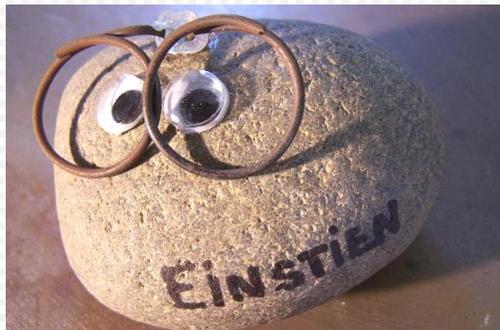


Some new "faces" to add to the fun.



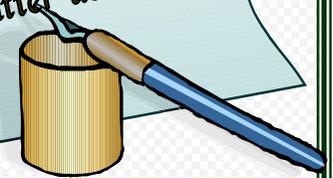
Pet's Corner

So, you want a pet, but you're too busy or too tired to take proper care of one. How would you like to have a pet that doesn't need feeding, washing, grooming or being taken for a walk every day? A pet that is always quiet, undemanding and won't cost you a penny? Such a pet would be all the rage, you'd think. And back in the 70's it was. It seemed then that everyone had one of these adorable critters, but the craze only lasted for a short time then, sadly, many of these poor creatures were just abandoned, left to fend for themselves. How sad, as they were really the ideal pet for busy people. But you can still have one. They are everywhere. You might even find one just outside your front door. And all you need to do is reach down and pick it up. "Pet rocks" are free and very easy to take of.



A THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Be who you are and
say what you feel
because those who
mind don't matter
and those who
matter don't mind



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.