

CrossTalk

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter April, 2015

A One Way Ticket to Mars

MARS  ONE



Imagine having a ticket, a one way ticket, for a journey from which you could never return. Imagine having to

say goodbye to your friends and family with no hope of ever seeing them in the flesh again. Well in 2013 that's exactly what over 2500 people signed up for in the hopes of becoming modern day explorers and pioneers.

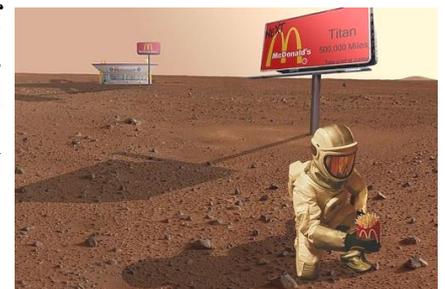
Mars One is a non-profit organization based in the Netherlands that in 2012 announced plans to land the first humans onto Mars and establish a permanent colony there by 2027. While most space exploration around the world is government funded, the idea of Mars One was to follow in the footsteps of early Dutch explorers such as Oliver van Noort (first sailor to circumnavigate the world) and Abel Tasman (discoverer of New Zealand and Tasmania) by selling shares in their venture. The largest source of funding was to come from selling rights to a reality television series chronicling the selection, training, journey and first years on Mars of the lucky (or perhaps unlucky) astronauts.

Astronaut selection would not be limited to the scientific elite, but instead was opened up to every member of the public. Within months thousands had applied and paid a registration fee. In 2013 this number was whittled down to 1058 applicants and then in 2015 further reduced to 100 (50 men and 50 women).

It is planned from here that the first stages of television production will begin, with the final 100 applicants taking part in challenges around the world, facing elimination until a final six groups of four applicants are chosen for the mission.

From its inception Mars One has received fiery criticism from the scientific community. While the organization has budgeted \$6bn US for the mission, NASA believes any mission to Mars is unlikely to see any change from \$100bn US. Former German astronaut Ulrich Water believes the mission is unethical because with current technology the probability of surviving the journey to Mars is only 30% and of surviving the first three months on the planet at less than 20%. The most recent criticism has come from one of the world's most respected scientists, Neil De Grasse Tyson. He has stated, "no one will be investing in a company with the goal of launching a life-threatening mission accompanied by a high risk of failing and a price tag in the billions. Even if investors can ignore the fact that the mission is dangerous and costly, they will not look away from the possibility that they might not get anything in return."

Just in the past week Mars One has announced that the mission has now been delayed by two years due to funding problems. In the midst of growing criticism and funding issues it remains to be seen as to whether Mars One will ever get off the ground, with the 100 applicants getting a chance of being the first earthlings to journey to, and colonize the red



Article by Mark

Net News

NET LESSONS: Too busy to come to CROSSROADS?
.... Try our *lessons through the net!*

SITE OF THE MONTH:

You can learn all about the Mars One project here:

<http://www.mars-one.com/>

Some Thoughts for the Month



Joshua Says: Koalas! Everyone is familiar with this Australian icon. While there used to be millions living in the wild, they are now an endangered species, mostly due to habitat loss. They are also supposed to be protected. So, it came as a shock to me to learn that the Victorian Government recently set about culling close to 700! The reason? They were starving due to a lack of eucalyptus trees (their main food source) in their area. The question is, of course, what happened to their trees?

Junko Says: We have started our regular mid-semester student survey and I will be asking everyone about the lessons and also to fill out a questionnaire. This is very important for all of us, students and teachers, and I'd like everyone to support our survey enthusiastically. Please tell us your honest and sincere opinions. We will do our best to use the information you give us to improve your lessons and the other services we provide here at Crossroads.



Mark Says: During the months of February and March I have been enjoying the 2015 Cricket World Cup being jointly hosted between Australia and New Zealand. Cricket remains a relatively unknown sport in Japan but is in fact the father of baseball. The world cup is also the third most watched sporting event in the world following the Olympics and the Football World Cup. Fittingly, the two teams to make the final on March 29 were Australia and NZ. Unfortunately (for me), Australia proved to be the dominant team with a convincing win.

Aaron Says: I love watching movies. It has been a hobby of mine since I was very young. Even in my college time, I took a few film classes. Lately I have been wanting to see more Japanese movies, but have not found many that caught my interest. I recently discovered one of my favorite directors, Itami Juzo, went to school in Matsuyama!



Danielle dit; Bonjour à toutes et à tous. J'ai commencé à enseigner à Crossroads récemment et ça a déjà été très intéressant de discuter avec certains d'entre vous. Ca fait deux ans maintenant que je vis au Japon mais je découvre constamment de nouvelles choses en discutant avec les Japonais. Si vous voulez échanger avec moi à propos de nos différentes cultures ou autres, venez me voir et on discutera autour d'un café !

ACROSS

- 1 the first part or stage of an event
- 4 cannot be changed
- 5 a risky investment
- 8 remove or get rid of something
- 11 in the middle of things
- 12 to set up or begin something
- 14 an inhabitant of earth
- 15 a settlement of people far from their homeland
- 16 making a record of

DOWN

- 2 give no attention to
- 3 investing money in a project
- 6 cut down in number or size
- 7 the first to do something
- 9 an assignment given to someone
- 10 not conforming to approved standards
- 13 a separate period in a sequence of events

Play A Game!

[\(print version here\)](#)

NOTICE BOARD

Tomomi wants to tell us about Yo Yo Kitchen where she works:

Yo Yo Kitchen is a new style DELI-CAFÉ we opened on April 28th 2014. We have many kinds of dishes, sweets and drinks.

All of our dishes have a wholesome taste because they are made by hand. You can eat at Yo Yo or you can order a hot meal which we will prepare for you to take away.

I recommend our "salad corner". You can create your own original salad mix. We have many kinds of vegetables from Ehime Prefecture. One of them comes from our own farm. No agricultural chemicals are used in the production of any of the vegetables we use so they are very good for you.

The food at Yo Yo Kitchen is not only delicious, but it's also good for your health!

We have a large, bright space on the second floor that you can book for a party or event. You can find us in Nibancho near Central P.O. and close to Crossroads.

Please come to my restaurant!



Here is Ren's third installment in series 2 of his stay in China:

After my vacation, it was back to school as usual. University studies were much harder than I expected. My free time, outside of university, was filled doing homework! I had tests and presentations to give from late October to the beginning of November. All of this kept me quite busy.

In the middle of all this, my class held group activities. My class consisted of people from Japan, Korea, Nepal, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Austria, India, Indonesia, Slovenia, Spain, Bulgaria and others. Most could speak English. Of course, we tried to speak Chinese with each other, but when we couldn't communicate effectively, we had no choice but to use English.. Every time I had to do this, I realized just how influential English is as a language.

Our teacher took us to a large restaurant and we saw some classical Chinese performances there. I actually enjoyed spending the time with my classmates more than watching the performances. I got so excited on the day that I became sick the next day!



With my classmates

Performance 1

Performance 2

Pet's Corner

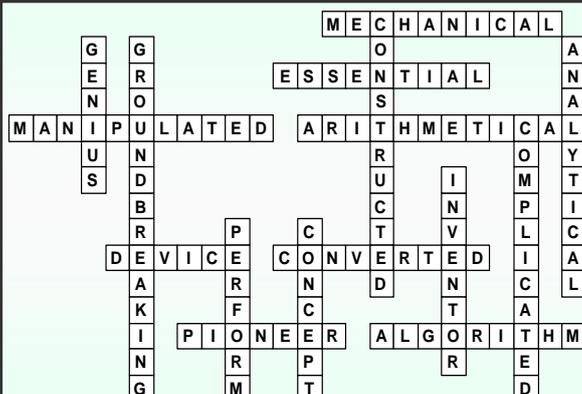
Unfortunately,

Have you ever wanted to have a Koala as a pet? What a unique experience that would be!

Australian makes it almost impossible to take one out of the country because they are an endangered and protected species. But not all is lost! There is an organization in Australia that is working very hard to protect koalas. You can help them in their endeavors and, at the same time, become the "foster parent" of one of these cuddly animals.

The program is called "Adopt a Koala". And this, they say, is what you can do for about ¥3,000 per month. If you'd like to learn more about becoming a koala "parent" go to <https://www.savethekoala.com/adopt-a-koala> for the details. And....

happy parenthood! Three possible candidates up for adoption RIGHT NOW are, from the top: BAKTER, CHESTERA and ARIS



Last Month's puzzle Solution

ACROSS

- 1 relating to machines
- 6 absolutely necessary
- 7 to control or influence
- 8 relating to math
- 13 an instrument used for a particular purpose
- 14 changed from one system or state to another
- 15 The first to achieve something
- 16 a precise rule showing how to solve a problem

DOWN

- 2 built
- 3 someone who has exceptional intelligence
- 4 something never done before
- 5 understanding by separating the whole into parts
- 9 not easy or simple
- 10 the first to think-up or make something
- 11 carry out an action
- 12 a theoretical idea



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.