

Crossroads Talk

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter October, 2015

Millennials - The Me, Me, Me, Generation

The Baby Boomers of the 1960s & 1970s were the first to be labelled the “Me” generation - a generation of people self-obsessed & focussed on self-fulfilment. This was evidenced in the 70s through a rise in disposable income, spent on parties & self-gratification. Baby Boomers have long reigned as the “most selfish generation”, until now. Now Baby Boomers have been eclipsed in their narcissism by the Millennials – those born from the late 1980s through the early 2000s.

So what is it that makes Millennials the most narcissistic?

Until the 1980s western education systems were based on competitiveness. From around the mid 80s the emphasis shifted to participation rather than triumph. Children were no longer encouraged to be “the best”, but rather to do the best that they could. As long as they tried their best at something they were “the best”. Praising children in whatever they did was encouraged – success or not. This has resulted in a generation, now in their teens and twenties, constantly having been told they were “the best at what they did” and that they were “special”.

Millennials are the best educated, least religious, most independent generation the world has known. However, at the same time, they are also perhaps the least civically engaged or politically active. They have little time for thinking about wider society, as now, free of an education system that constantly praised them, they work hard and seek instant gratification, believing they should be promoted quickly and often. They have swarmed to social media where they “go fishing” for selfie “likes” and provide constant status updates on what a great life they are having.

Researchers now recognise the downside of constant praise. A recent survey of children in The Netherlands found that “children believe it when their parents tell them that they are more special than others.” There is now a move away from over-praise in modern education systems as well as current parenting advice. The advice now is that warmth and encouragement is a better strategy than inflating the ego. Children and youths who said they were often told they were loved by their parents were more likely to show high self-esteem without the presence of narcissism. The researches found that children with high self-esteem did not see themselves as more special than others, but agreed with statements that they were happy with themselves and liked themselves as they were. Only time will tell as to whether the next generation – Generation Z – will be less self absorbed than the Millennials, but with external pressures such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram grooming the narcissistic traits in us all, it's sure to be a struggle.



Net News

NET LESSONS: Too busy to come to CROSSROADS?

.... Try our *lessons on the net!*

Who are the Millennials? Find out here:

<http://www.livescience.com/38061-millennials-generation-y.html>



Article by Mark

Some Thoughts for the Month



Joshua Says: This month we welcome a new teacher, Colm, to join us. Colm is originally from Ireland and has traveled to, and lived in, many countries, most recently, South Korea where he has been teaching for about 5 years. Colm will be taking over from Aaron who has to go back to the States to take care of some family matters. While we wish Aaron all the best of good luck in America, we also welcome Colm and look forward to working with him here at Crossroads.

Junko Says: Recently, I changed from Windows 8.1 to the new Windows 10 OS on my computer at work; at no cost! This is the first time Microsoft has shared their software with many users for free. Is selling software no longer a business option for such companies? This new OS is really quite good and neat looking too. I wonder, is this the beginning of a new age for computing? Surprisingly, I am really enjoying using it. How many more software companies will follow Microsoft's example? I can't wait to find out!



Mark Says For the past week or two I have been bemused by what appears to be short strips of toilet paper hanging from string around the streets of Matsuyama. Eventually it was explained to me that these are part of "Shide", and that the white paper represents lightning bolts which are supposed to ward off demons. This episode has reminded me that despite having lived in Japan for almost ten years, I still have a lot to learn about Japan's cultures and customs.

Colm Says: Hi! I'm Colm, the new teacher at Crossroads. It's good to be in Matsuyama during autumn, a beautiful time of the year with interesting stuff going on – special days for ceremonies, shrines, food and nature. If you've got an interest in History and culture, there's lots to talk about. Or if business English is your thing, I look forward to seeing you soon.



Danielle dit; Saviez-vous que presque 50% des emplois aux États-Unis pourraient être remplacés par des robots ? En France, cinq millions d'emplois seront ainsi remplacés d'ici dix ans. Je trouve la robotique, et la technologie en général, fascinante mais cela pose de grandes questions. Une question fondamentale pour l'avenir est selon moi "Que faire quand les humains ne seront plus nécessaires à la majorité de l'emploi ?"

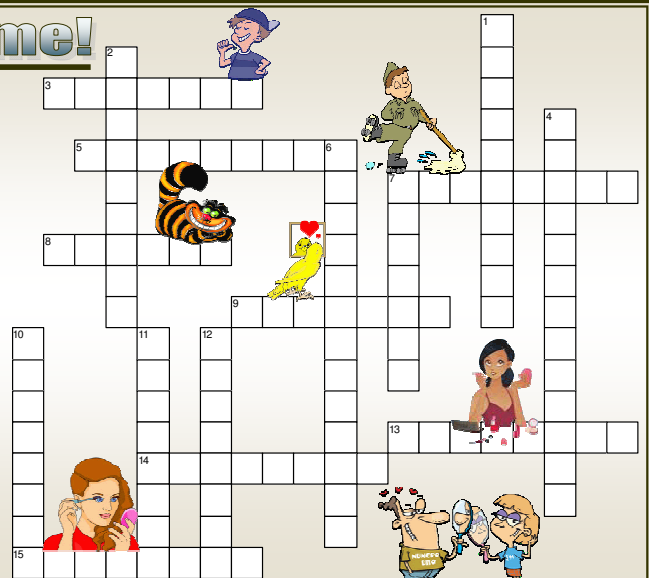
ACROSS

- 3 a successful outcome after a contest
- 5 something that can be discarded after using
- 7 unchanging, steadfast
- 8 a photo of oneself
- 9 move in large numbers
- 13 educating for a future role or function
- 14 giving complete attention to
- 15 the negative aspect of something

DOWN

- 1 excessive admiration of oneself
- 2 relating to or belonging to a city
- 4 being greatly satisfied
- 6 an expression of support
- 7 now
- 10 taking over or surpassed
- 11 giving importance or significance to
- 12 excessively preoccupied with something

Play A Game!



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

NOTICE BOARD

The Science Column with SCS's Sakiko:

Tagliamento River in North Italy is famous among freshwater ecologists. It flows from the Alps to the Mediterranean Sea to a point between Trieste and Venice. The river has broad floorplains and dynamic meandering channels.

The Tagliamento River is well-known as a “semi-natural” river; “semi-natural” meaning mostly no human influence. Surprisingly, this river has no dams, hence maintains



a non-controlled flow of water while most rivers have several dams in their basins for flood control. The reason for the absence of large dams is that the Tagliamento River has been ignored politically for a long time. Historically, the basin of this river has had little human settlement and has been used only for agriculture. To be honest, the basin has not been a primary important area for government intending to promote human life. Therefore, the Tagliamento River has avoided the construction of dams.

The reason why freshwater ecologists are interested in the Tagliamento is that the river can set standards for river restoration projects. Recently, there have been a lot of river restoration projects on-going in the world such as the improvement of water quality, the creation of gravel sandbars and resolving intermittent water flow conditions. However, everybody knows the ideal goal for river restoration projects



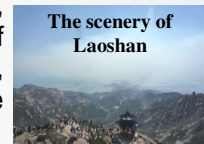
means creating river environments without human impact. In order to realize an ideal river environment, freshwater ecologists study the semi-natural river, the Tagliamento.

Here is the 9th installment of Ren's "My stay in China", series 2.

In my last report, I wrote about my journey during my university's vacation. After that, my second semester started at the beginning of March. In late March, I went to a suburb of Beijing called Ming Shisan Ling with my new classmates. I suggested going on this short trip to my classmates. There are many magical sites there, but to be honest the entrance fee was pretty expensive and the area is quite large. So we decided to visit just two of the main sites. Anyway, we enjoyed this trip a lot. The day after this trip we boasted about it to our classmates.



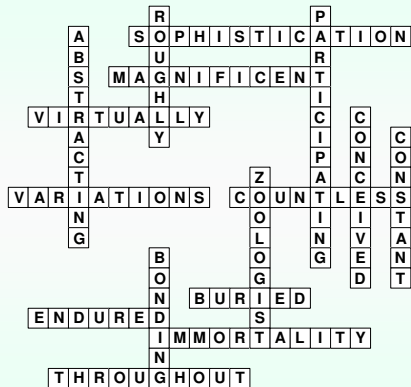
Next, I had a three day holiday. During this break, I went to Qingdao on my own. Qingdao was impressive, but so too was the hotel I stayed in. Because the hotel is located on a beach, it had a sea-water pool. I swam every day while there. In addition, the hotel service was very good. Often there was some fruit left in my room, but I was too lazy to peel it. The staff noticed this and peeled the fruit for me, leaving a message for me! (see the picture on the right) It's quite rare to see the seaside in China. I have heard that many Chinese people can't even swim as a result of living in China's interior, and the places where they can swim are limited. I was excited to see the sea while in China.



During my stay in Qingdao, I climbed a mountain located near the sea, named Laoshan. Looking at the scenery from Laoshan, I was reminded of how I had imagined China's natural environment would be before I got there. What I had imagined was mountains with a lot of rocks. It was a glamorous scene with a seaside view. I was satisfied with it.....

(to be continued)

Last Month's puzzle Solution



ACROSS

- 4 complexity, refinement
- 5 of extraordinarily high quality
- 6 the same in essence, but not in actuality
- 10 a little different from others of the same kind
- 11 to many to count
- 13 placed underground
- 14 continue through hardship
- 15 the ability to live forever
- 16 everywhere

DOWN

- 1 fairly close to correct
- 2 taking part in an activity
- 3 theorizing, conceptualizing
- 7 created, thought up
- 8 unchanging
- 9 a specialist concerned with animals
- 12 developing a close personal relationship



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