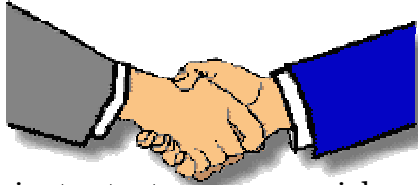


Crossroads

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter February, 2016

Shake on It



You've just started a new job and your manager is showing you around the office and introducing you to your new colleagues. After claspng a never-ending stream of sweaty hands the first stop needs be the bathroom to fully disinfect the swathe of bacteria now infesting your right palm.

Yes, the Western custom of the handshake is spreading its grip around the world. But it's not as warm a gesture as it sometimes seems. The original handshake arose as an easy weapons check via the ancient Romans, who, upon first encounter, latched onto each other's arms to feel for any weapons hidden up the sleeves.

Nowadays, etiquette workshops and online body-language tutorials regularly churn out advice on how to deliver the perfect handshake. The wrong kind of grip could leave a bad impression for decades to come, but a firm one, they say, could land you a coveted job or wow that gorgeous stranger. And oh, how complex a thing it is to give that perfect handshake. How long should I hold? How firmly should I grip? What to do about my sweaty palms? How do I get out of a handshake that has been going on far too long?

In addition to forcing us into physical contact with someone we might ordinarily avoid, handshakes are also natural vehicles for spreading infectious diseases. They're ticking germ bombs — with the *Centre for Disease Control* in the U.S. estimating that nearly 80 percent of infections are transmitted by hands, which teem with millions of bacteria and viruses. This has led some, particularly the younger “hip” generation to laud a safer salutation — the fist bump — while health officials promoted the elbow bump during Haiti's cholera outbreak, Mexico's swine flu scare and the recent Ebola epidemic. But fist bumps are too hipster and elbow bumps are just awkward. Imagine knocking elbows with your future boss at a high-stakes job interview.

The European and Latin American kisses on the cheeks are even likelier to pass on the flu. But how about the bow, so commonly practiced in East and South East Asia. The icky factor for the bow? Zero. It's an all-in-one, touch-free alternative rooted in humility rather than power trips. No physical contact required. No running for the bathroom for a quick disinfect after greetings are completed.

Business globalization over the past few decades has seen the handshake creeping from West to East. In a time when there are some question marks over the future effectiveness of antibiotics in fighting off infection, perhaps it would be wise for the world to adopt the practice of bowing as a universal (non contact) greeting.

Net News

NET LESSONS: Too busy to come to CROSSROADS?

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

If you have any doubts about how to shake hands correctly, go here: <http://www.wikihow.com/Shake-Hands>

The Limp, Dead Fish



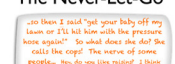
The Bone Crusher



The Misfire



The Never-Let-Go



Sweaty McSweaterson



The Hipster



Photo courtesy of theatmeal.com

Article by Mark

Some Thoughts for the Month



Joshua Says: What is the “correct” spelling or pronunciation of English. American English versus British English is most commonly debated in this respect. However, as I have expressed in this space before, English “belongs” to no culture but the International culture. Arguing back and fourth between British versus American is no more valid than arguing which is more accurate, Egyptian, French or Japanese English; pointless! English is growing with input from every corner of the globe and no single culture has priority or “ownership”.

Junko Says: The 4th of February is the first day of spring. Contrary to what this may imply, the first day of “spring” is likely to be the coldest day of the year; the peak of the cold weather. On the one hand, the days are cold; on the other hand the first day of spring singles the end of the cold weather. From now on, I will watch our outside garden attentively, while waiting for the *real* start of the new spring.



Mark Says: I've being doing a lot of cycling over the past several months and in that time I have become acutely aware of the unpredictability of Matsuyama drivers. Some students have even explained that at intersections the rule book is often thrown out the window. So, when driving around Matsuyama, please take care and be on the lookout for pedestrians and cyclists.

Colm Says: I got some great advice from two of my students about places to eat at in Matsuyama. Ryoko directed me to Enya, a nicely designed traditional Japanese restaurant (excellent Tai Meshi); while Eiji told me about a small place specializing in Onisuki (Onigiri's smaller brother). It pays to listen to students when it comes to food.



Danielle dit: Quel début d'année mes aïeux ! Entre les disparitions d'artistes tels que Lemmy Kilmister, David Bowie ou encore l'acteur Alan Rickman, les conflits internationaux, et, plus localement, le temps bizarre et très froid que nous avons eu en ce début d'année, c'est à se demander comment 2016 va finir. En espérant que février soit plus clément!

ACROSS

- 1 a follower of the latest trends
- 4 stay clear of, stay away from
- 6 hold firmly
- 8 an area or strip of something
- 9 praise or honor
- 10 kill microorganisms and germs
- 12 (out) produce at a fast rate
- 13 holding firmly and tightly
- 15 came into existence, form or shape

DOWN

- 2 rules governing social behavior
- 3 greatly desired
- 5 living on or in a host in large numbers
- 7 moving slowly but surely
- 9 taken hold of, gripped
- 11 a very bad feeling, soft and sticky
- 14 to impress greatly

Play A Game!

(print version [here](#))

NOTICE BOARD

Take Chances to Communicate: By S(a)3's Taro

If you want to communicate in foreign languages, how will you study them? Most Japanese students tend to learn grammar systematically. Needless to say, I understand the importance of grammar. However, it is sometimes useful to memorize complete phrases. When I go abroad, I always memorize practical sentences, like "Where is the restroom?" or "How much is it?", in local languages.



In Yokohama with some other soccer fans from around the world.

Last December, I visited Yokohama to watch soccer, the Club World Cup final. The game was between FC Barcelona from Spain and FC River Plate from Argentina. Both teams' fans speak Spanish. Therefore, before going to Yokohama stadium, I learned some Spanish phrases such as, "Podria sacarnos una oyo juntos?" (Would you please take a photo with me?) or "Muchisimas gracias" (Thank you very much).

By memorizing single words in phrases, you can suppose their meaning easily. From the above sentences, you can guess "podria" means "would you", "juntos" means "together" and "muchisimas" is "very much" in Spanish. I think this guessing approach can help you learn new words.

Furthermore, many Argentineans looked very happy when I talked to them in Spanish. I'm very glad if they value my attitude to communicate in their language. When you make friends with foreign people, I recommend you try to use their native languages as much as possible. It will relax them and smooth your relationships. In fact, I conversed in a mixture of English and Spanish.

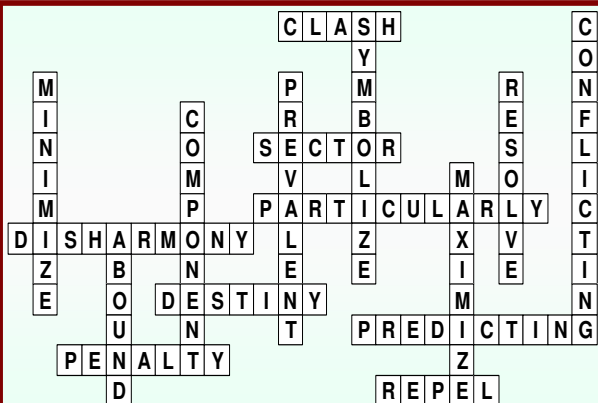
In my opinion, the most important factor in international communications is to take positive chances. You may upgrade your language skills at home alone through textbooks and audio books. However, languages must be spoken actively. Let's find the opportunity and talk aloud. First of all, you shouldn't skip weekly CROSSROADS classes! Don't miss this valuable opportunity!!

Pet's Corner

Let's shake on it!

Did you think people were the only creatures to shake hands, paws, or whatever?

Take a look at these critters greeting each other.



Last Month's puzzle Solution

ACROSS

- 1 when opposing forces meet, they...
- 8 part of the whole
- 10 uniquely or distinctly characteristic
- 11 not suited or compatible together
- 13 one's inescapable future
- 14 telling the future
- 15 forced compensation for a wrongdoing

DOWN

- 2 represent with a image or model
- 3 in disagreement
- 4 make as small as possible
- 5 most frequent or common
- 6 bring to a final conclusion
- 7 an individual part on something
- 9 make as big as possible
- 12 plentiful



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.