

Crossroads

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter June, 2016

Kick It in The BUTT

There is nothing quite as revolting as popping out to a restaurant for a meal, or going for a quick drink at a bar after work, then heading home reeking of cigarette smoke – especially if you are a non-smoker.



While much of the world has moved to outlawing cigarette smoking in enclosed spaces, in Japan it is still not unusual to be confronted by a wall of foggy smoke in a bar or the stale background stench of years of ciggy smoke infusion in taxis & hotel rooms.

Recently, the Japanese authorities have been working to improve smoking manners in this country. A growing number of cities have passed laws banning the practice indoors and in public spaces, relegating smokers to designated areas. With the 2020 Olympic Games just over the horizon, the push to clear the air of second-hand smoke is gaining momentum.

According to 2014 health statistics, the ratio of Japanese men aged 20 and older who smoke was just over 30%. This is a considerable decline since 1966 when smoking was at a peak. Then more than 80% of the male population was habitually dragging on a fag. While the number of women smokers has grown, the number is still relatively small at only 10% of the female population.

Net News

NET LESSONS: Too busy to come to CROSSROADS?

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

The history of tobacco smoking for history buffs:

<http://www.jti.com/about-tobacco/history-of->

Funding this addictive habit is still relatively inexpensive in Japan where a packet of cigarettes costs between ¥300 & ¥500. Compare this with countries such as The UK, Australia and New Zealand where the governments are actively trying to push the cost of the habit out of the reach of most people. In New Zealand for example, taxes account for about 95% of the cost of a packet of cigarettes (approx \$25 or ¥2000 for a pack of twenty). Couple this with those same countries introducing plain packaging laws and showing graphic images of disfigurements caused by smoking, the habit has moved into the realm of being a socially unacceptable activity.

While smoking certainly isn't as stigmatised in Japan as in some other countries, there are the beginnings of a slow move that is seeing a change in the habit. In 2003, to limit the effects of secondhand smoke in the workplace, the government introduced The Health Promotion Act. With this law the government offers financial assistance to businesses looking to build enclosed smoking areas in offices or other facilities. Shinkansen and some express trains have smoking rooms while other trains have banned the practice outright. A shift in smoking habits can also be seen in family households. Smokers indulging at home are increasingly apt to do so while standing under a kitchen ventilation fan or while out on the veranda or balcony, earning them the tag hotaruzoku (firefly tribe) for the night-time glow of their cigarettes.

But, if the government wants to clear the air by 2020 (which seems to be the goal for so many government initiatives) it will have to make a much more concerted effort to help those addicted to *kick the habit in the butt.*



Article by Mark

Some Thoughts for the Month



Joshua Says: June starts our second semester of the year. I'm pleased to see that almost 100% of our students signed up again for the new semester. This has been the trend for some time now and we are very pleased that so many of our present students are taking their English studies seriously. Junko, the teachers and I all strive to bring you the best English (or other language) experience we can, and it looks like it may be working!

Junko Says: Have you seen the textbooks, workbooks and TOEIC study books on the green shelf near the windows? They are all extra books we no longer use in classes. They are still useful for home study and we are selling them all at only 500 yen each! Also you will notice some Japanese – English books near them. They were given to us by a student and we are offering them to you free. Please take a look at these, some could be very useful to you.



Mark Says: In the April newsletter I wrote an article celebrating the joys of eating meat. It seems that this article has spread around the globe and caused a bit of an uprising. A few weeks ago in Tbilisi, Georgia, a large group entered a vegan café, pulled out grilled meat and sausages and started eating them and throwing them at staff and patrons. I could never condone this kind of behavior. Perhaps I will need to choose my newsletter topics more carefully in the future. 😊

Colm Says: The longest day of the year, or the summer solstice, falls on the twenty-first of June. The day is celebrated in many countries for its significance in terms of Nature and people's connection with a higher power. It's usually an especially good day to watch the sunrise. So if you woke up early on Tuesday 21st, it might have been worth your while looking out to the horizon.



Danielle dit: Le moi de mai en France aura été compliqué. Il y a d'abord eu de grandes grèves qui se poursuivent encore et qui visent les transports mais également la production d'énergie. Puis il y a eu de grandes inondations dans le centre de la France. A Paris, la Seine est montée à plus de six mètres, quasiment la hauteur des ponts à certains endroits. C'est très rare et beaucoup de clichés circulent sur Internet.

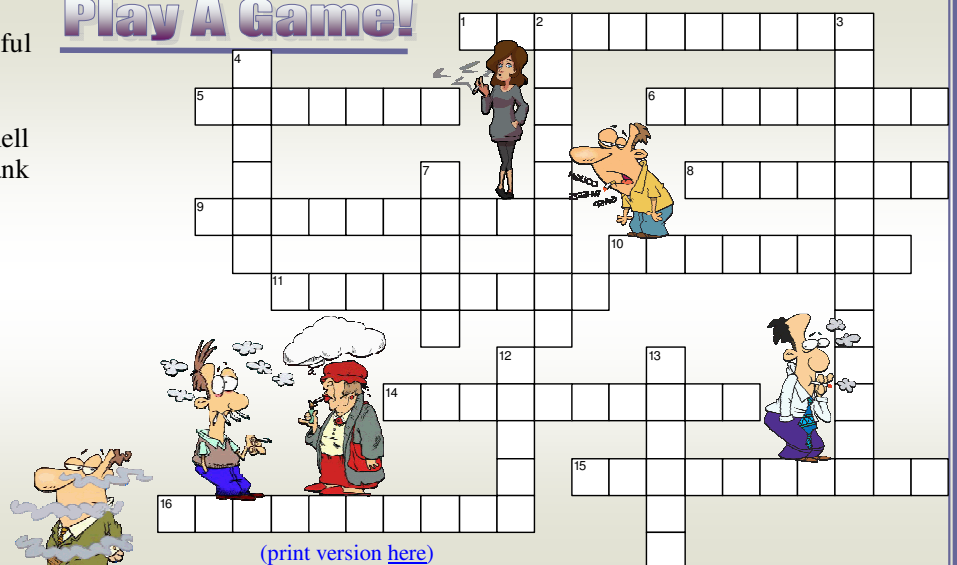
ACROSS

- 1 accused and classified as disgraceful
- 5 officially prohibiting something
- 6 closed in or surrounded
- 8 giving off a strong, unpleasant smell
- 9 assigning to a lower position or rank
- 10 a forward moving force or power
- 11 greatly offensive, disgusting
- 14 assigned a task or job to someone
- 15 opposed in a hostile way
- 16 by habit or custom

DOWN

- 2 enjoying to excess
- 3 damaged or spoiled appearance
- 4 forbidden by law
- 7 not fresh
- 12 short for cigarette
- 13 an unpleasant odor, smell

Play A Game!



NOTICE BOARD

Some thoughts on conversation that might help you in the classroom

"There is no conversation more boring than the one where everybody agrees" - [Michel Eyquem De Montaigne](#) 1533-1592, French Philosopher.

"Conversation would be vastly improved by the constant use of four simple words - I do not know: [Andre Maurois](#) 1885-1967, French Writer.






"The true spirit of conversation consists in building on another man's observation, not overturning it" - [Edward G. Bulwer-Lytton](#) 1803-1873, British Novelist, Poet.

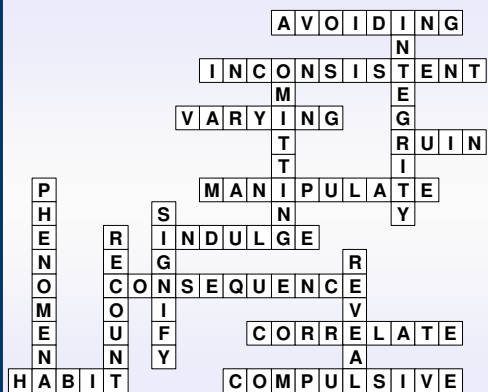
"No one will ever shine in conversation who thinks of saying fine things: to please, one must say many things indifferent, and many very bad" - 1668-1740, British Prelate.

"Saying what we think gives a wider range of conversation than saying what we know" - [Cullen Hightower](#), 1923- 2008, US Humorist.

"The great gift of conversation lies less in displaying it ourselves than in drawing it out of others" - [Jean De La Bruyere](#) 1645-1696, French Classical Writer.

And for word-buffs here are some things about English words you didn't know...

- The longest one-syllable word in the English language is "screched." 
- "Underground" and "underfund" are the only words in the English language that begins and ends with the letters "und." 
- The longest place-name still in use is TaumatawhakatangiHangakoauauotamateaturipukaka pikimaungahoronukupokaiwenuakitanatahu, a hill in New Zealand. 
- The longest word in the English language, according to the Oxford English Dictionary, is pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanoconiosis.
- Los Angeles's full name is "El Pueblo de Nuestra Senora la Reina de los Angeles de Porciuncula" and can be abbreviated to 3.63% of its size, "L.A." 
- There are only four words in the English language which end in "-dous" tremendous, horrendous, stupendous, and hazardous.
- "Dreamt" is the only English word that ends in the letters "mt".
- A pregnant goldfish is called a twit. And, a goldfish has a memory span of only three seconds, like most "twits." 
- The combination of the letters "ough" can be pronounced in nine different ways. The following sentence contains them all: "A rough-coated, dough-faced, thoughtful ploughman strode through the streets of Scarborough; after falling into a slough, he coughed and hiccoughed."



Last Month's puzzle Solution

ACROSS

- 1 keeping out of the way of
- 3 not in agreement
- 5 being different in some away
- 6 destroy
- 8 influence something for personal gain
- 11 enjoy to excess without restraint
- 13 a result caused by a certain action
- 14 having a mutual relation
- 15 a pattern of behavior
- 16 obsessive habitual behavior

DOWN

- 2 honesty, truthfulness, reliability
- 4 leaving out
- 7 a remarkable development
- 9 convey r express a meaning
- 10 describe something that has happened
- 12 make visible or known



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