

CrossTalk

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter October, 2016

FORMULA ONE

While Football may have its drama and The Olympics its prestige, for me the most exciting sport in the world is Formula One racing. Its combination of Glitz, Glamour and High Octane Risk and Reward Action make it unique in the world of sports.



The famous Ferrari

It is named because the cars must adhere to a set of rule – the ‘formula’ – which make them the fastest and most

innovative in the world – hence, the “one”. With all the technology inside of them, F1 cars can drive at speeds in excess of 350km/h!

There are currently 11 teams competing in Formula 1, each fielding 2 drivers. Races take place on either specially built racetracks or on the streets of the host city.

The most famous circuit is the acclaimed Monte Carlo street circuit in Monaco, but races take place all over



Aerial view of the track at Monaco

the world, from Australia to the USA. There is even a racetrack in Japan at Suzuka circuit which is one of the oldest and most historic tracks on the calendar.

An F1 race weekend, called a Grand Prix, kicks off on Friday with two practice sessions. The teams and drivers use these sessions to learn the track, test new parts and set the car up to get the best out of it come race day.



On Saturday a third and final round of practice is run to fine-tune the car. Soon after, qualifying is run to determine the starting order of all the cars for the race in a three-session elimination style format. Cars are eliminated 5 at a time until 10 are left who race each other to set the fastest lap possible.

Sunday is the big race day. Barring any last-minute penalties or extraordinary circumstances, the drivers line their cars up in the order they qualified. When the starting lights go out, the cars take off and then it's up to the Fates to decide who sees the chequered flag first

The current F1 season is on Race 18 of 21 and is shaping up for a very exciting ending. Lewis Hamilton from Great Britain is trying to win his fourth world championship but his team-mate Nico Rosberg from Germany is fighting him all the way. The two have traded the lead in the points table all season long. Who will win



Sometimes things get a bit out of hand in F1 racing and this happens

in the end? All eyes will be on Abu Dhabi on the 27th of November to find out!

Article by Matt

Net News

NET LESSONS: Too busy to come to CROSSROADS?

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

For enthusiasts, here is a brief history of F1:

<http://en.espn.co.uk/f1/motorsport/story/3831.html>

Some Thoughts for the Month



Joshua Says: Have you heard the term “neuroplasticity”? Probably not, I guess. Psychologists and psychoanalysts have now discovered that the brain is much more flexible and “plastic” than traditional ideas in science and medicine would have us believe. Our brains, it seems, can *physically* change and develop no matter how old we are. This, if true, suggests to me that there is no limit or restriction to learning things at any age – even English!

Junko Says: We are planning to start using SNS and Internet Instant Messaging to send out useful information to our students about school projects, campaign offers and other useful information. So, we’d like you to support this new method for passing information along by letting us have your SNS/IIM info. For those who don’t yet have SNS/IIM, you will still be able to get access to the information we want to send to you through email, flyers, etc.



Mark Says: I remember when CDs became popular in the 80s, the promise was our music would last forever. Now, CDs, and even DVDs are a mostly redundant technology, with internet streaming being the most popular delivery method for films and music. I love the convenience but miss holding a tangible object in my hands. Tech is ever changing . . . I wonder how we will consume our media in another twenty years?

Matt Says: I attended my friends wedding recently on Gogoshima. It took place on the beach on a gloriously sunny day. My friend combined Western and Japanese styles to create a unique wedding ceremony and party afterwards for the 80+ guests. I was very happy to be there to celebrate with him and his beautiful new wife.



Danielle dit: Une des choses que j’apprécie le plus au Japon, c’est la qualité des transports. Outre la propreté et la relative facilité de naviguer dans les grandes gares, c’est surtout la ponctualité que j’apprécie le plus. Quand je vais en France par exemple, même si je ne reste qu’une dizaine de jours et ne prends presque pas les transports en commun, il m’arrive de prendre un train avec vingt minutes de retard. Impensable au Japon !

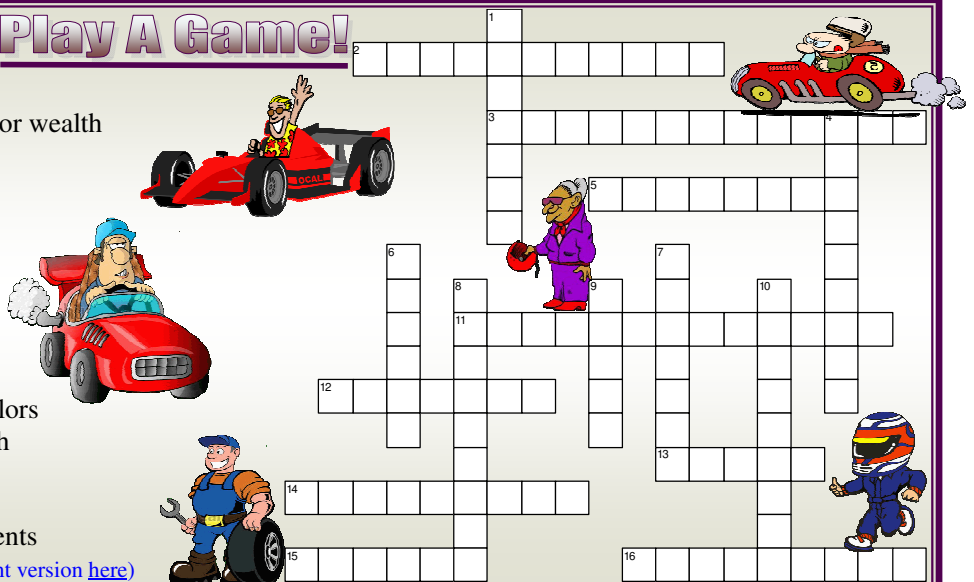
ACROSS

- 2 removing or getting rid of something
- 3 verall conditions
- 5 a high recognition through success or wealth
- 11 beyond ordinary
- 12 belonging to the present
- 13 tasteless showiness
- 14 greatly praised and approved of
- 15 found in gasoline used as fuel
- 16 of this time, now

DOWN

- 1 a route around a particular place
- 4 a pattern with alternating square colors
- 6 be in accordance or compatible with
- 7 the act of excluding someone
- 8 come to a clear decision
- 9 deities that determine the future events
- 10 ahead of the times

Play A Game!



([print version here](#))

Australian "tsuyukusa" Cartonema – by S(A)1's Yūkiyo

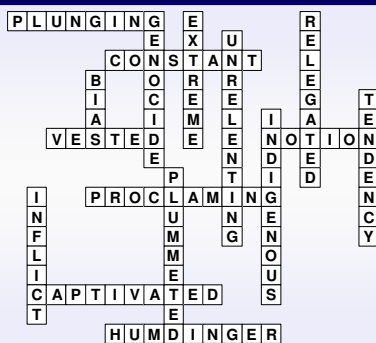
I am interested in Commelinaceae plants ("tsuyukusa-ka" in Japanese). There are about 650 species in the Commelinaceae family. Most of them grow in tropical or subtropical areas. As I like Australian flowers, my husband and I stayed in Western Australia for three months to look at flowers there. On the second day after our arrival in Perth in September, 2005, we visited "Kings Park". After taking pictures of some flowers there, we casually dropped in at a shop where souvenirs and books were being sold. We bought a beautiful water-colored flower book, "The Beautiful Flowers of Kings Park Western Australia". There were four flower illustrations on the cover. Three of them were of "Kangaroo Paws" and the other was like a Commelinaceae plant. At that time, I had just started researching Commelinaceae and I didn't know much about them. By reading the book's explanation, we found out the plant was Cartonema Phillydroides, an Australian native species of Commelinaceae. It flowers in October and November and is not common in bush-land. I was very happy to get this information. We immediately rented a car and started looking for Cartonema. We visited Kings Park, again



and again and went to more than twenty national parks, some of them several times. Even though we couldn't find Cartonema, we were able to take a lot of pictures of wild flowers. Some parks were so wild that we were bitten by ticks!

Two and a half months had already passed but still we couldn't find any Cartonema. We began to feel tired. Then we found a web site that had some pictures of Cartonema and an e-mail address. I contacted the site and asked if they could tell us where the Cartonema was growing. I attached my Commelinaceae homepage address showing my botanical interest. The owner of the site generously told me where to go. What kindness! The place turned out to be where we had already been. It was just at the end of the national park. We went back the next day and after looking for several hours, we finally found an area populated with them. It looked like a Cartonema reservation. There were no other plants there, only Cartonema flowers for 300m². Since it is one of Australia's native plants, it is protected. Kind Australians were worried about losing the Cartonema from the national park because there was a plan to build a highway across the park at that time.

In 2013, a famous Japanese botanist mailed me asking me to let him know where the Cartonema was growing. He said that he needed to look at real Cartonema because he as planning a lecture about the evolution of Commelinaceae. I asked a botanist at Ehime University whether or not the person was reliable. As his answer was okay, I mailed the location to him. A few weeks later he mailed me telling me he was able to find the place and sent me a picture. It showed their population was much bigger than it had been eight years ago. The species is still protected by the Australian people.



Last Month's puzzle Solution

ACROSS

- 1 dropping or falling suddenly
- 6 unchanging
- 10 fixed and absolute
- 11 vague idea
- 14 stating, announcing, declaring
- 15 strongly attracted
- 16 something remarkably outstanding

DOWN

- 2 systematic killing of many people
- 3 far beyond normal
- 4 assigned to a lower position
- 5 never stopping or easing up
- 7 influence unfairly
- 8 a general inclination toward something
- 9 people originating in the land they inhabit
- 12 drop sharply
- 13 cause pain or damage



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