

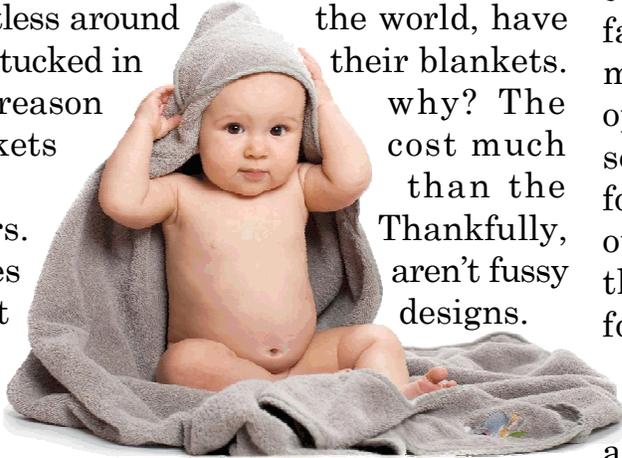
Crossroads

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter December, 2016

Monopolies

If you need a shovel, or a rope, or a bottle of washing liquid you probably have a preferred location to buy it from, but there are several backup options if that place falls through. It's the same with just about everything in the world. Some products, however, are different. For some reason, there's one place that has these things figured out, and they're the best at it, period!

If you have a baby in an American hospital then you can guarantee your baby will be wrapped in a towel made by Medline. They have had a monopoly on them since the 1950's. They've produced almost 25 million since the 80's and with all the countless washings you can understand why almost every baby in America, and countless around the world, have been tucked in their blankets. The reason why? The blankets cost much less than the others. Thankfully, babies aren't fussy about designs.



Net News

NET LESSONS: Too busy to come to CROSSROADS?

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

Here is a list, and some information on 10 monopolies:
www.toptenz.net/10-companies-never-realized-monopolies.php

There has been a lot of talk about the President recently but did you know one company has made nearly every President's shoes? Johnston & Murphy trace their roots back to 1850 where they were enlisted to make shoes for President Millard Fillmore. They must have done a fine job because they have made just about every single pair of presidential shoes since then, including shoes for Presidents Lincoln, Ford and Obama. No doubt they are sizing up Trump's feet as we speak.



Some people see the fortune cookie as a mystical part of eating Chinese food. In reality the Chinese neither eat nor make these treats and they are entirely an American invention. What is interesting is that 99% of the fortune cookies in America come from one single factory in New York which makes 4 million of them a day! The factory operates 24 hours a day and the cookies sell so fast that if they shut the factory for 36 hours they would completely run out of stock. What is even crazier is that they have a database of over 10,000 fortunes which were all written by just one person.

So next time you buy something from a shop, take a moment to think. It could have come from a chain of factories in the next city or it could have come from the undisputed masters of making that product.



Article by Matt

Some Thoughts for the Month



Joshua Says: OK, I'll confess! Apart from the daily newspaper and Internet articles (mostly) on the subject of teaching, I don't read much. Yet, I'd like to encourage our students to do just that – in English (or other foreign languages) of course! Reading, more than watching English movies (although these are a great help also) is perhaps the best way to develop your vocabulary outside of the classroom. It often leads to interesting discussions in class too.

Junko Says: We want to expand our language training services and we want to promote our school to as many of Matsuyama's people as possible. Increasing our sense of belonging to the International community and becoming more involved in global activities is a really important step for Japan to make now. I hope, therefore, that everyone will support our 1+1 campaign and help us spread the word.



Mark Says: This X'mas, I thought, would be the first year that my daughter would know the "truth" about Santa Claus. When we were talking recently she divulged that she had known the "truth" for a long time . . . and in knowing this she is much more grateful for what she receives. It was a very proud "parent" moment for me. It was a reminder that we should always show gratitude for what others do for us.

Matt Says: The final Formula 1 race of the season took place last month. It turned out to be a very strange event. Lewis Hamilton drove very slowly all race to try and stop Nico Rosberg from getting enough points but to no avail. Rosberg won his first drivers championship then immediately retired. 2016 has been a very strange year.



Danielle dit Pour moi, Noël étant au mois décembre, l'image que j'en ai est celle d'une période froide et neigeuse où l'on passe les longues soirées près du feu. Mais j'ai récemment réalisé que ce n'était pas le cas pour toute une moitié du globe ! En effet, il ne m'était jamais venu à l'esprit que pour les pays du sud, Noël devait sûrement avoir l'image d'une longue journée passé dans le jardin à se faire un barbecue entre amis...

ACROSS

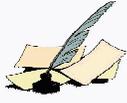
- 7 more bizarre or unusual
- 8 the end, nothing else will follow
- 9 unnecessarily worrying
- 10 beginnings
- 12 too many to count
- 14 generally agreed upon
- 15 follow or go back over
- 16 beyond ordinary understanding

DOWN

- 1 things to chose from
- 2 hired for work or military service
- 3 surely, certainly
- 4 pleasurable things to eat
- 5 more desired than another
- 6 one supplier controlling a particular market
- 11 circumstances relating to peoples lives
- 13 a hand tool

Play A Game!

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



Critic's corner with S(a)3's Taro: - "The Devil is Working in Japan!"

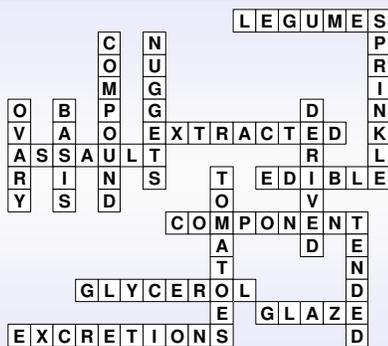
Have you ever read a "light Novel"? It is a genre of books available in Japan. They are not serious novels, but are books that can be read easily and casually. Nowadays, many Japanese people are too busy to read heavy volumes. Light novels don't have many pages ((literally light in weight). They are written in such easy words and phrases that you can read them with ease like cartoons and they are very popular among Japanese people, especially among teenagers. If you visit a bookstore, you will find many books categorized as light novels on the bookshelves. They are not "light" in regard to their market share.

Many light novels have a unique title to attract readers. The book I will introduce you to today is called "The Devil is a Part-timer" (it sounds interesting, doesn't it?). In the prologue, the King of the Devils was forced to leave his fantasy world after losing his struggle against the "Sainted Heroine". After a long journey, the King of the Devils arrived in another world, 21st century Japan, Tokyo. He lost his magical powers and became human in appearance. Without his powers, he was not able to go back to his own world. Therefore, he decided to live in Japan for a while. He named himself Mr. Mao ("moa" means *Satan* in Japanese). He rented a one-room apartment and began working at MacDonald's to make ends meet. At first, Mr. Mao was often at a loss with the differences between his own world and modern Japan. However, he tried his best to learn human languages and social manners. Within three months, he became an ideal part-timer and was respected by his colleagues.



One day, on his way to work, Mr. Mao met his old rival again. It was the Sainted Heroine who had been chasing the King of the Devils. When she came to our world, she also lost her magical powers. She named herself Ms. Yusha ("yusha" is *heroine* in Japanese). She was working as a Japanese office worker but she never forgot her real duty. As soon as she found Mr. Mao, she tried to attack him. However, just before she attempted to slash her arch enemy with her sword, Ms. Yusha was arrested by the police. In her own world, Ms. Yusha had been a heroine of justice, but in Japan, she was seen as a dangerous, insane woman who was trying to harm innocent Mr. Mao.

It was fortunate for Mr. Mao that his foe was arrested. However, he felt sorry for her. If he had not left his world, Ms. Yusha wouldn't have had to visit Japan. He decided to save her by explaining to the policeman that it was a couple's trivial quarrel. Ms. Yusha felt frustrated with being introduced as the devil's girlfriend, but she had to keep silent in order to get free from the police. Like this, Mr. Mao and Ms. Yusha sometimes battled, and sometimes helped each other to live in Japan. When you go to MacDonald's next time, look at the staff carefully. There could be a visitor from another world among them!



Last Month's puzzle Solution

ACROSS

- 1 types of beans or peas
- 8 removed or taken out of
- 9 physical attack
- 11 suitable for eating
- 12 a part of something
- 14 a sweet, syrupy alcohol obtained from fat or oil
- 15 a shiny, thin coating
- 16 waste matter discharged from the body

DOWN

- 2 loosely scatter or distribute
- 3 put or add together
- 4 small lumps of (usually) precious metal
- 5 the part of a flower that produces fruit
- 6 foundation
- 7 come or develop from
- 10 fruit, not vegetables
- 13 inclined to do something



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.