

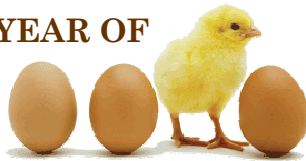
CrossTalk

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter January, 2017

"cock-a-doodle-do"

Next to the bark of a dog or the meowing of a cat, "cock-a-doodle-do" is one of the most recognizable animal sounds on Earth. But not just a noisy commotion at the crack of dawn, roosters, and their chicken lady friends, are far more complicated creatures than commonly believed. What science has learned about the avian brain over the past 15 or so years contradicts hundreds of years of misinformation, harmful stereotyping and downright prejudice.

WELCOME TO THE YEAR OF THE ROOSTER!



Results from recent research have confirmed that in areas of communication, brain and cognitive function and social behavior, chickens and roosters (as well as other members of the avian family) are as sophisticated as some primates. For example, chickens don't just learn from trial and error. They retain memories from past experiences along with knowledge of the surrounding situation then apply that knowledge when making decisions. They can solve complex problems and they empathize with individuals from their own flock that are suffering or are in danger. They have also been observed to demonstrate an awareness of themselves as distinct from others in their group. The "pecking order" that chickens organize themselves into, based on each individual's social status, is evidence of their ability to reason logically.



Chickens have over 30 distinct vocalizations that communicate a wide range of information. Results from research by Carolyn Smith of Macquarie University in Australia have shown just how well chickens can communicate with each other. One example "is how males entice females with food as a form of "courtship" that does not immediately lead to mating. This means that females, not only take their time toevaluate the males' behavior, but they also must form an *opinion* about various males - and their reputations for providing food - and then commit these various experiences to memory. Only then does the female express a mating preference."

Chicks are taught about edible food from their mothers and retain what they learn, while mothers modified their teaching based on the progress of their chicks' learning.

While science provides us with insight and understanding about chicken behavior, anyone with an inquisitive mind and normal human sensibilities, must begin to question the way the poultry industry deals with these intelligent creatures and also question why it is that we continue to treat these birds like unfeeling, unthinking objects.



Net News

NET LESSONS: Too busy to come to CROSSROADS?

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

Here are 10 surprising facts about chickens:

<http://www.peta.org/action/10-surprising-facts-chickens/>

Some Thoughts for the Month



Joshua Says: With Japan's population dramatically dropping while aging at the same time, the domestic market for goods and services here is also shrinking. The most logical response for local manufacturers and suppliers will be to search for opportunities to expand in overseas markets. This will mean that command of foreign languages, especially English, will become essential. One result is that Japan, even Ehime, will become much more "internationalized" in the near future.

Junko Says: Recently I found an Australian reality TV series called "Bondi Vet". It follows the lives of a team of veterinarians at a Bondi Junction veterinary clinic in Sydney. The team rescues and treats animals from a wide range of locations such as normal family homes, office buildings, public spaces, streets and even from national parks. "Bondi Vet" was nominated the best reality TV program in Australia in 2016. If you are interested, you can watch this program on YouTube.



Mark Says: Unfortunately, over the New Year holiday period I was unlucky enough to contract Norovirus. As a result, I spent most of my time in bed, stretched out on the sofa watching TV or in the smallest room in the house. Ironically, I recovered just in the nick of time for my return to work. Go figure!

Matt Says: : In England, Christmas is viewed as a family holiday and New Year is for friends and partying. However, in Japan this is obviously reversed. New Years Eve is generally seen in the west as the night of the year where bars make the most money so it was strange to see 80% of them closed while I was walking around town.



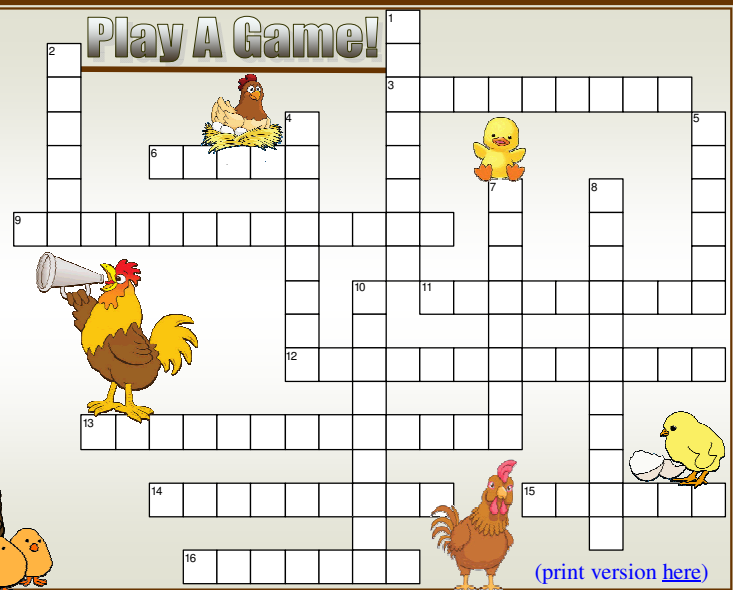
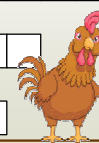
Danielle dit Je vous souhaite à tous et à toutes une bonne et heureuse année 2017 et que celle-ci vous apporte plein de bonnes choses. Au début de l'année, il convient, plus par tradition que par conviction, de prendre de bonnes résolutions pour l'année à venir (que l'on ne tient en général pas très longtemps). Quelles sont vos bonnes résolutions pour l'année qui vient ?

ACROSS

- 3 thorough, plain and blunt honesty
- 6 characteristic of birds
- 9 mental response to external stimuli
- 11 a noisy disturbance
- 12 refined, complex
- 13 sounds made for communicating
- 14 relating to how the brain works
- 15 encourage through promises or persuasion
- 16 not simple

DOWN

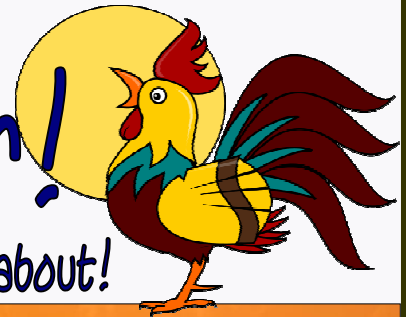
- 1 changed
- 2 suitable as food
- 4 deep or clear understanding
- 5 hold back, keep
- 7 monkeys, apes and humans
- 8 goes against
- 10 understand the feelings of others



([print version here](#))

Happy New Year!

Something to crow about!



If you are born lucky,
even your rooster
will lay eggs.

- Russian Proverb

An optimist sees the light
before the dawn breaks.

The cock may crow,
but it's the hen
that lays the eggs.

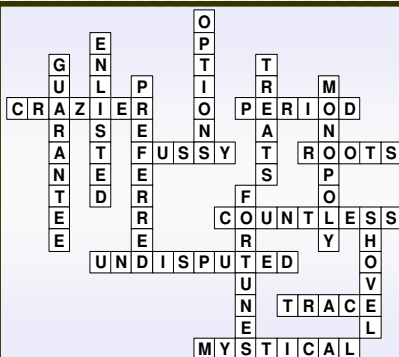
- Margaret Thatcher

Many a rich bird
feathers his nest
by fowl means.

Chicken or Egg?
Scientists have concluded
that the chicken came
first,
because the protein
that makes egg shells
is only produced by hens.

Even a blind hen some-
times finds a grain.

- German Proverb



Last Month's puzzle Solution

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



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.