

CrossTalk

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter April, 2017

Television Ratings

Television is a medium that can unite a country and sometimes even the world for moments in history. Recently, I was reading about how Rikidozen v Lou Thez in 1957 had an 80.9 rating (which means that 80% of every TV that existed in Japan at that time was tuned to the match) so I thought it would be interesting to see what events other countries have experienced over the years.



Rikidozen v Lou Thez

In the UK you would think that the most watched programs would be Royal events. However, in actual fact it is an event that has even more reverence than our monarch which is the 1966 World Cup Final where England won its first and only major football tournament.



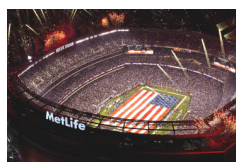
England's 1966 World Cup



Diana's Funeral

Closely following this is the funeral of Princess Diana and then surprisingly a documentary about the Queen from 1969.

Moving on to the United States, nineteen of the top twenty most watched programs were, unsurprisingly, Superbowls. The Superbowl is American Football's biggest event of the year with people who don't care at all about the sport watching for the extravagant commercials made specifically for the show. The only non-Superbowl in the top twenty was the finale of the TV series M*A*S*H, a TV show about the Vietnam War.



The Superbowl



M*A*S*H

Because of their sheer population China has one of the most watched News programs in the world with some of the highest prices for advertising anywhere. The CCTV Spring Festival Gala (which is similar to Japan's New Year's Eve shows), regularly attracts an audience of over 700 million.



CCTV's Spring Gala

Interestingly, the Spring Festival Gala is the number 2 most watched global event on TV despite it being virtually unknown outside of China. The only event that garnered more viewers was the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the 2008 Beijing Olympics. It's estimated that 4.7 to 5 billion people watched some part of the 2 week event which is 70% of the world population!

Article by Matt



Beijing Olympics 2008

Net News

NET LESSONS: Too busy to come to CROSSROADS?

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

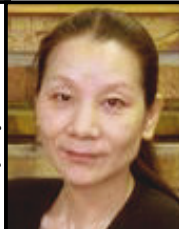
Here's how IMDb rates the current top TV series':
http://www.imdb.com/search/title?title_type=tv_series

Some Thoughts for the Month



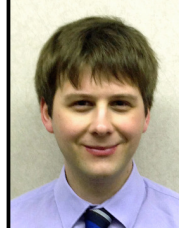
Joshua Says: Crossroads has been teaching English to people in Matsuyama for a very long time, as everyone knows. I often think about the people who have studied with us and have then, for whatever reasons, moved on. I wonder what our past friends are up to these days, how they are coping with life's challenges, have they benefited, do they still benefit, from the lessons they took with us.

Junko Says: Michelangelo created a work of sculpture – the Pieta – that helped launch his career more than any other previous work he had created. I saw the Pieta about 40 years ago in St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican. I guess no one can avoid being moved by the power and beauty contained within this work of art. Even now, when I look at a picture of the Pieta, it is difficult for me to stop gazing at it. Here is a quote from Michelangelo – "If people knew how hard I worked to get my mastery, it wouldn't seem so wonderful at all".



Matt Says: This month is a great one for me since not only do I have my birthday but I am going on holiday to where I used to live in China. I haven't been there in 10 months so I can't wait to go back to all my favorite places and see all my close friends again.

Nigel Says: To my current and past students, this is a parting message. I'll be moving to Hiroshima this month and so cannot stay at CR to continue our lessons. I hope I was able to make learning English enjoyable for you all. Remember, learning to communicate in English is more important than just learning English! Cheers, Nigel



Danielle dit En France, les farces que l'on fait le 1^{er} avril s'appellent les « poissons d'avril ». Cependant, on ne sait pas vraiment d'où vient ce nom. Plusieurs hypothèses sont proposées : un lien avec Pâques où le poisson prend une place alimentaire importante, changement de calendrier difficile, ouverture de la saison de pêche, etc. Une chose est sûre : le 1^{er} avril, il est difficile de ne pas se faire tromper !

ACROSS

- 2 a nation's head of state
- 7 a sporting competition
- 11 feelings or a showing of great respect
- 12 excessive, overdone, wasteful
- 13 distinctly different from others
- 14 a way of communication information
- 16 in defiance or disregard of

DOWN

- 1 a film or TV program dealing with facts
- 3 advertisements on TV
- 4 an appraisal or ranking
- 5 real, a fact
- 6 essentially so, if not in fact
- 8 absolute, supreme, unlimited
- 9 a showy festive party
- 10 acquired, assembled
- 15 bring together

Play A Game!



(print version [here](#))



The Sports Page with Slab's Caro

NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE!

"Unbelievable". Anyone who watched the soccer game on March 8, 2017 could not help saying so. FC Barcelona (nicknamed "Barca") made a stunning comeback in the UEFA Champions League round of 16 against FC Paris Saint German (PSG).



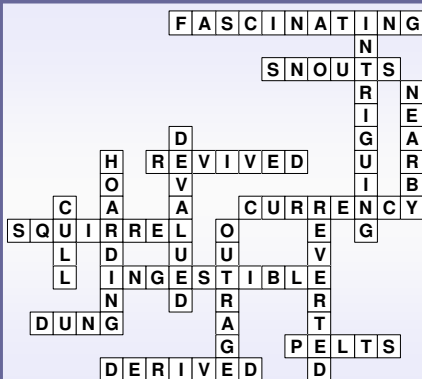
Only three weeks earlier, Barca was defeated 0-4 in Paris. In the European Cup's knockout round, final results are decided by the aggregate score after one match at home and one away have been played. In other words, Barca needed at least five goals in the return match to win. Many newspaper critics and TV commentators described it as "*Mission Impossible*". Indeed, even Ethan Hunt (portrayed by Tom Cruise in the *Mission Impossible* movies) might have been desperate in such a situation. There have been no teams in European soccer history that have overcome a 4 goal deficit. Later, I found out that the odds for a Barca win were 200-1, but no matter how optimistic a fan you might be, you could hardly bet on them and expect to win!

In Japan, the game between Barca and PSG was broadcast on TV at 4:30 in the morning. Honestly speaking, I hadn't expected Barca to complete a "*Mission Impossible*". It was only out of my habit as a soccer fan that I woke up early to watch it live. Barca started the game brilliantly and scored three goals. However, they also conceded one to PSG. The aggregate score from both games was 3-5 at half time. If the combined total score from both games had been 5-5 at full time, PSG would have gone on to the quarter finals because they had scored an away goal. In short, Barca needed three more goals. With only seven minutes left, most spectators must have regarded this as hopeless. I began to think I should have been sleeping instead of being depressed.

But the great players never give up. Barca scored twice within two minutes before scoring another in the last seconds of the game. As soon as they got the deciding goal, the referee blew the final whistle. They had made an historical triumph which is bound become a legend forever.

When I watch soccer games, I usually shout "Well!" or "Yes!" when goals are scored. However, this time I unintentionally made a queer, meaningless noise from the bottom of my throat, "AAAAARRRRRRGGGGGGHHHHH!" It must have gone through the entire apartment block so early in the morning. (Fortunately, I haven't yet received any complaints from my neighbors.) It was inconceivable! I couldn't believe my eyes. If it were not for a pain in my leg, which hit the edge of the table when I jumped for joy, I would have thought it was a dream.

"Miracle", "Amazing", "Heroic".... When I checked websites the next morning, European newspapers were full of favorable adjectives. At the press conference, the Barca coach proudly said it was a "victory for faith". I was ashamed I had given up so quickly. We must keep our faith to the last minute.



Last Month's puzzle Solution

ACROSS

- 1 holding a high level of interest
- 3 noses
- 7 brought back, reestablish
- 9 a system of money
- 11 a small furry animal
- 13 possible to eat and drink
- 14 animal manure
- 15 the fur and hides of animals
- 16 formed or developed from

DOWN

- 2 provoking curiosity
- 4 close
- 5 lowered in value
- 6 secretly storing valuables
- 8 reduce the population by selected killing
- 10 gone back to a previous state
- 12 anger, disgust, revulsion



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