

CrossTalk

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter March, 2022

Omnibus

They are not always on time, sometimes too crowded and not all that comfortable to sit (or stand) in, but buses are an essential mode of transportation in all major cities around the world. Buses? How long have they been a part of our daily life? And where did the name “bus” come from, anyway?

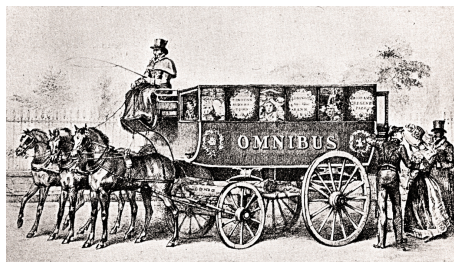
Blaise Pascal introduced the general public to a new concept of public transportation with the first horse-drawn “bus” in Paris way back in 1662. The idea was initially popular but clearly ahead of its time, as it lasted only 15 years before this mode of transport was abandoned. The problem was that the price for a ticket was too high and only the well-to-do could afford a ride.

The horse-drawn “bus” finally made a comeback in the early 19th century (some 150 years later!). This was again in France, in Bordeaux. These vehicles soon also appeared in Paris, New York and London. In those early days, it was common for passengers to ride on the roof as well as within the carriage.



Okay, so where did the name “bus” come from? “Bus” is a derivative of the Latin word *Omnibus* meaning “for all.” One account of how the horse-drawn vehicle became an Omnibus goes like this: In 1823 there was a hatter’s shop in front of one of the first “bus” stations in Nantes, France. The family name of the proprietor was Omnes. “Omnes Omnibus” was a pun on the Latin-sounding name *omnes* meaning “all” and *omnibus* meaning “for all.” It didn’t take long for the citizens of Nantes to decide that “Omnibus” was a suitable name for the vehicle too.

Thus (if this account is accurate) was born the name “Omnibus” to identify the vehicle used to



transport several people around in a carriage within the city.

In the 1830’s, steam powered Omnibuses started to operate at around the same time as the horse-drawn variety. Electric trolleys powered by overhead cables were soon to follow. The writing was on the wall for the end of the era of horse-drawn transportation.

Internal combustion engines were the next stage in the evolution of inner-city transportation and in 1905 motorized transport started to significantly replace the horse-drawn variety. The *Omnibus* then became known as the *Auto-bus*. In time, the names “Omnibus” and “Auto-bus” were abbreviated to just plain old “bus,” as we call them today.

But the word “omnibus” (meaning “for all” or “all”) doesn’t have to accept the indignity of being abbreviated to just three letters. As an adjective, *Omnibus* also means:

1. An anthology of one author’s or poet’s work published in single volume.
2. Also, a compilation of several TV or radio episodes into a single instalment.
3. An *omnibus survey* is marketing research where data on a wide variety of subjects is collected at the same time.

In fact, *omnibus* can describe almost anything with multiple components....just like a bus full of people.... Useful word, hah...!

Net News

NET LESSONS: Too busy to come to CROSSROADS?

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

Here are a variety of example sentences using *omnibus*:
<https://sentence.yourdictionary.com/omnibus>

Some Thoughts for the Month



Joshua Says: want to encourage our students to read English books and articles, watch English language movies and TV, and generally get more involved in this kind of home study. Of course “passive” learning is not as good as “pro-active” learning (speaking, etc), but this is probably the best way to keep involved between lessons. Take notes of new words and expressions, then bring these to class and try them out – of course, using your new words is the best way to remember them.

Junko Says: We have been offering our “New Ichibancho Opening Campaign” to new comers from the beginning of March. We hope that many people who need to and wish to speak English will get to know us at our new address. So, please give our 1+1 Special tickets to your friends and get a reduction (of 10% to 50%) off your own term fees next term.



Marek Says: The English language shares many words with other major European languages. Knowing the vocabulary of one European language almost invariably results in a knowledge of the vocabulary of another. For example, the word CURVE (a bend) exists in German, Italian, Spanish, Swedish as: KURVE, CURVA, CURVA, KURVA respectively. The knowledge of English allows you to fairly easily progress to a good command of another European language.

Mandey dit: Ce mois-ci, j'ai été très surprise par l'annonce de l'entrée en guerre de la Russie. En effet, l'Europe a été justement créé pour préserver la Paix et pour s'unir contre la guerre. C'est donc vraiment très triste de voir ça juste après ses longues années de corona. Petit point positif de ce mois de mars : comme je suis vraiment adorable, j'ai reçu beaucoup de gâteaux pour la white day. Je vais prendre 4 kilo avant l'été. C'est terrible mais c'était vraiment délicieux *-*



ACROSS

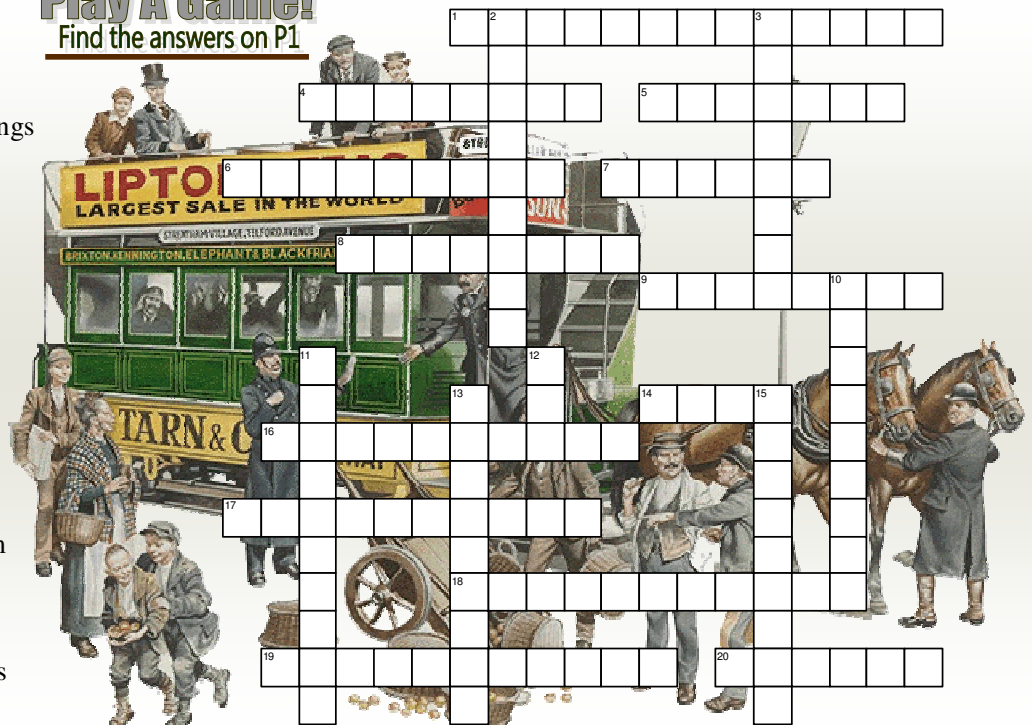
- 1 in an important way
- 4 parts of a broadcast serial
- 5 idea
- 6 a collection of various things
- 7 able to pay for
- 8 many of
- 9 restored or returned
- 14 how something is done
- 16 parts of something
- 17 based on or imitating something
- 18 made shorter
- 19 things gathered together
- 20 someone who makes and sells hats

DOWN

- 2 insult to one's self-esteem
- 3 true, correct
- 10 left behind
- 11 the owner of a business
- 12 a humorous play on words
- 13 at the beginning
- 15 absolutely necessary

Play A Game!

Find the answers on P1



([print version here](#))

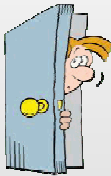
Try again! Select the correct interpretation, A, B or C for each of the following proverb:

"You can catch more flies with honey than with vinegar" –



- A: It's better to eat sweet things rather than sour things.
- B: You should stop flies from coming into your house.
- C: Use persuasion and politeness to win people to your side rather than confrontation and threats.

"When one door shuts, another will open" –



- A: When you loose an opportunity to do something, an opportunity to do something else will appear.
- B: You can't succeed if you continually change your mind.
- C: Keep trying, never give up on your dreams.

"Watch the doughnut, not the hole" –

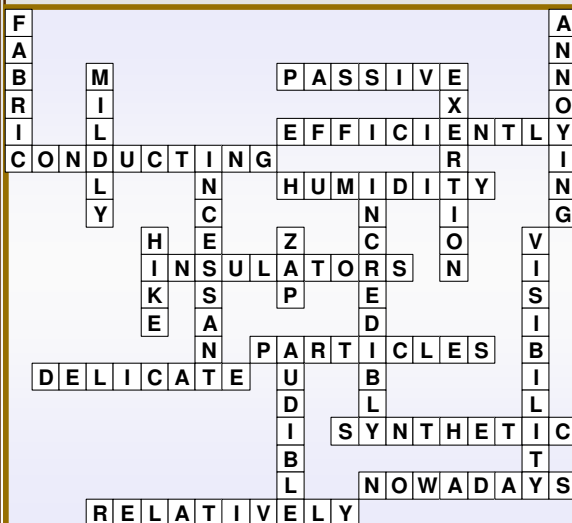


- A: It is not good for your health to eat junk-food every day.
- B: When making an important decision, it is better to see the whole picture, not just the details.
- C: Focus on what you have and not on what you don't have.

"The squeaky wheel gets the grease" –



- A: If you talk too much, people will start to ignore you.
- B: People who complain the most are the ones that get the most attention.
- C: If you complain too much, your friends and colleagues will not offer you any help.



Last Month's puzzle Solution

ACROSS

- 4 opposite of aggressive
- 6 able to accomplish a purpose
- 7 direct the course of something
- 9 water in the atmosphere
- 14 materials to protect from noise, heat, etc.
- 15 tiny pieces of anything
- 17 easily broken or damaged
- 18 not of natural origin
- 19 currently happening or

DOWN

- 1 cloth often for wearing
- 2 disturbing, irritating
- 3 to a moderate extent
- 5 making a great effort
- 8 continuing for a long time
- 10 not easy to believe
- 11 a walk usually for exercise
- 12 strike suddenly
- 13 observable with the eye
- 16 able to hear



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.