

CrossTalk

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter July, 2022

KAKAPO

The introduction of dogs, cats, rats and other mammals that prey on the

From the brink of extinction in the mid-1990's, the Kakapo is making a comeback!

Kakapo, a jolly, rotund parrot once inhabited all of New Zealand, but today lives on only two or three small islands off the mainland's coast. Their total population had once declined to only about 40, but today that number is up to around 200 and has the possibility of reaching 250 at the end of the current breeding season.

Kakapos are unique in so many ways. Although they have wings, they are the world's only flightless parrot – they use their wings for balance and support as they scurry through the jungle. At about 60cm tall and weighing between 2 and 4kg they are also the world's heaviest parrot. When startled, their only defence is to freeze, hoping to blend in with the surrounding foliage. This was a useful strategy when their only predators were eagles that use sight to hunt. The fact that they are nocturnal also contributed to their survival - they roost in trees or on the ground during daylight hours – until recently. It only took a few hundred years for humanity to all but wipe out 50 million years of their evolution in New Zealand!

Before the 13th century, New Zealand was largely uninhabited with no native mammals



living on the islands; the Kakapo thrived. Then the Māori people arrived along with mammals and diseases. Next, the Europeans landed in the 18th century and things got a lot worse for the essentially defenceless Kakapo.



Kakapo has been devastating. Humans too have hunted them for food in the past. Yet, in spite of all this mistreatment, these birds remain friendly towards people even, in some cases, forming strong attachments. George Edward Grey, an English ornithologist wrote in his 1845 journal, that his pet kakapo's behavior was "more like a dog than a bird." According to the specialists that regularly work with them now, they are highly intelligent with each bird having a distinct personality. And... they have a pleasant "musty-sweet" odour as well...

Another interesting characteristic is that they are very long-lived with a life expectancy of over 90 years. Some estimates suggest they could live up to 120 or so!

The Kakapo is strictly vegetarian feeding on seeds, nuts, fruits and flowers.

There has been a lot of time, effort and money dedicated to preserving this unique NZ parrot. The few small islands they presently inhabit have been cleared of any and all potential predators and they are now surviving!



Department of Conservation worker with chicks

Net News

NET LESSONS: Too busy to come to CROSSROADS?

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

Go here for some more info about these parrots:
<https://www.rnz.co.nz/programmes/kakapo-files>

Some Thoughts for the Month



Joshua Says: It's been 6 months since we moved into our new building and we seem to have settled in nicely; even our plants have passed the crisis (my fault, I left them outside in the cold during last December) and all have survived, or are reviving after, the change. I am especially happy to note that none of our students quit because of the change and I thank our loyal students for that. Now if only we can get past this Corona thing...

Junko Says: As you know, reading English helps you increase your vocabulary, phrasing, and if you read for pleasure to the extent that you lose yourself in the story, you'll start to absorb English like a sponge. Here are two sites where you can read English stories for free online: 1. <https://www.classicshorts.com> : here you can choose a book by title or author; and 2. <https://learnenglish-new.com> : here 100 books are graded from beginners to advanced.



Marek Says: The recent assassination of former prime minister Shinzo Abe came as a shock to many people around the world, especially in Europe, where Mr. Abe was held in high regard as a politician and a popular persona of Japan. This unprecedented event may possibly embolden others to commit equally heinous acts such as this. Modern day Japan has always been seen as an exceptionally safe country with welcoming society, and I do hope it continues to be so.

Mandey dit: "Le saviez-vous ? Non seulement le pain est l'aliment principal des français mais il est aussi divin. C'est à dire que selon la religion catholique, le pain est la chair du Christ. Donc, si vous dînez avec des français, il faut faire attention que le pain ne soit pas posé à l'envers sur la table. En effet, le pain à l'envers est signe du malheur. Si le pain est à l'envers, alors le Diable va venir et il faut dessiner une croix sur le pain pour conjurer la malédiction. J'ai déjà vu beaucoup de français se mettre en colère. Alors, n'oubliez pas de faire attention au pain et bon appétit !!!"



ACROSS

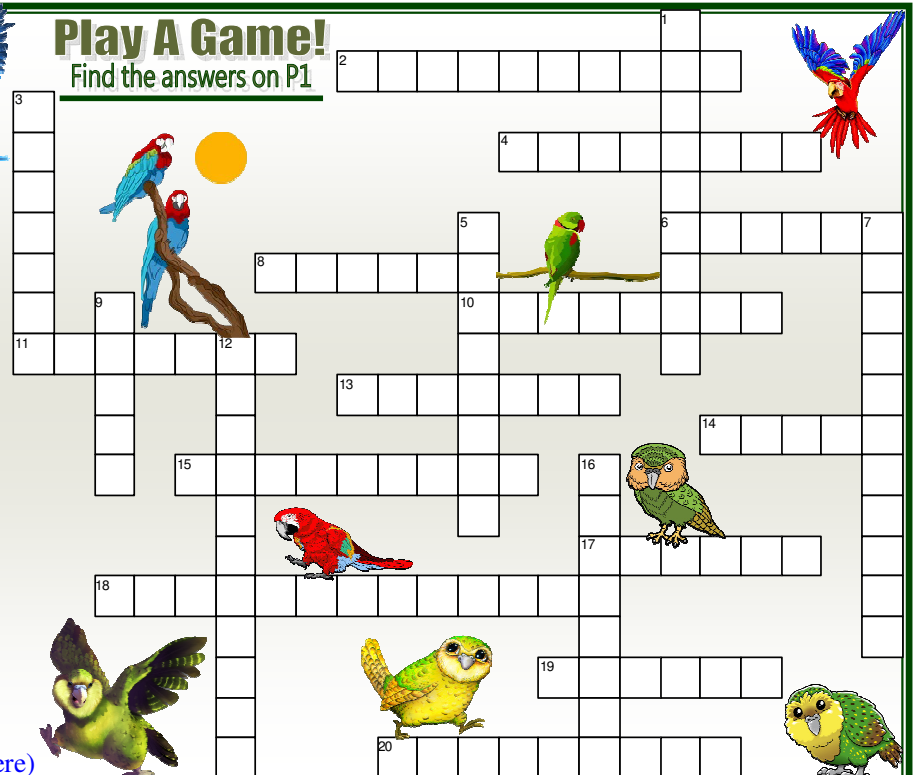
- 2 no longer existing
- 4 surprised suddenly
- 6 fat, round shape
- 8 suddenly stop moving
- 10 return to an earlier condition
- 11 grow vigorously
- 13 a cluster of plant leaves
- 14 settle down, sit or stay
- 15 devoted to
- 17 moving, rushing about hurriedly
- 18 a zoologist who studies birds
- 19 one of a kind
- 20 animals that prey on other animals

DOWN

- 1 active at night
- 3 exist or be situated in
- 5 grown worse or less
- 7 having a completely destroying effect
- 9 up to the limit
- 12 basically, fundamentally
- 16 easily recognizable ([print version here](#))

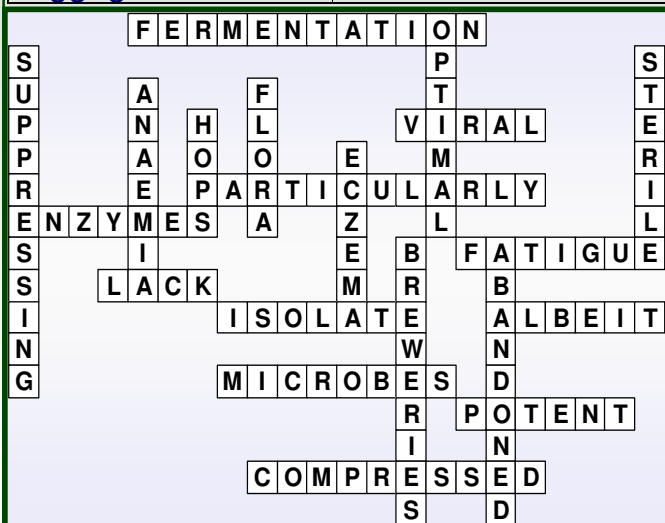
Play A Game!

Find the answers on P1



What's it called? Not only do the British and Americans spell some words differently, they also have completely different words for certain things. The lists below are for items in UK English and in US English. See if you can link the words that have the same meaning:

UK	US	UK	US
aubergine	trunk	motorway	mail
autumn	roommate	nappy	elementary school
bill	drugstore	pavement	high school
bin	apartment	petrol	boot
boot	yard	post	appetizer
bonnet (of a car)	two weeks	postcode	candy
chips	eggplant	primary school	vest
cooker	mail box	queue	diaper
chemist's (shop)	fall	rubber	freeway/highway
C V	period	rubbish	subway
flat	trash can	secondary school	streetcar/cable car
garden	resume	trunk (of a car)	cab
dustbin	French fries	solicitor	gas/gasoline
flatmate	elevator	starter	closet
fortnight	hood	sweets	pants
full stop	truck	taxi	garbage
holiday	stove	tram	line
indicator (on a car)	check	trousers	zip code
letter box	baggage	underground	undershirt
lift	garbage can	vest	sidewalk
lorry	blinker	waistcoat	lawyer
luggage	vacation	wardrobe	eraser



ACROSS Last Month's puzzle Solution

- 1 breakdown of sugar to alcohol
- 8 relating to, or caused by a virus
- 10 distinctly, uniquely different
- 11 proteins produced in body cells
- 13 loss of energy and strength
- 15 needing or missing something
- 16 separate
- 17 even though
- 18 tiny life forms
- 19 having a strong physical or chemical effect
- 20 pressed tightly together

DOWN

- 2 best, most favorable
- 3 bringing under control by force
- 4 incapable of reproducing
- 5 lack of red blood-cells in the blood
- 6 plant life
- 7 used in the production of beer
- 9 inflammatory condition of the skin
- 12 companies that produce beer
- 14 stopped given up



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.