

CrossTalk

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter November, 2022

Heal it with a Purr...

Why do cats purr? Most people would say that it is because they are expressing contentment, even happiness. But research has found that this is far from whole story.



Yes, cats often purr when they are happy, noticeably when they are being stroked by their human or when they are being fed. But they also purr when they are nervous or stressed, very often when they are severely injured, when giving birth and even when dying. Most intriguing however, is that they have been observed to purr when their human is stressed, hurt or sick!

When a cat purrs, they do so within a frequency of 20-150 Hertz, and this may have therapeutic benefits for themselves as well as their humans. Purring has been linked to lowering stress, helping relieve dyspnoea, lessening the chance of a heart attack (cat owners have 40% less risk of having a heart attack), even strengthening damaged bones, joints and tendons. There are many reports of people suffering from migraine who have had their headaches eased, even cured, when they lie down with their head near a purring cat. And scientific research suggests that cat owners live longer than people without a pet around the house.

So, what's in a purr? All feline species purr. For this to be so, purring must have an important function in their lives. There has to be a very good reason for cats to use up energy purring at times when they are physically stressed or ill. It has been surmised that purring is, in fact, a part of their survival mechanism.

Research has found that "sound therapy" can promote bone growth, aid healing of bone fractures, relieve pain, breathlessness and inflammation in people. The frequencies used to achieve these results correspond exactly to the frequencies in a cat's purr, 20-150 Hertz.

If a cat is injured or stressed, they know how to take care of themselves. But what explains their tendency to purr when their human is suffering? This is truly fascinating. Is it unadulterated love your cat feels for you? Or, are they only worried about securing their next meal? Whatever it is, to behave in such a way requires a level of (cat) intelligence and is also proof that cross-species communication is very real.



Net News

NET LESSONS: Too busy to come to CROSSROADS?

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

If you're feeling stressed, here's a link to a "purr machine":
<https://mynoise.net/NoiseMachines/catPurrNoiseGenerator.php>

This month, we'll take another look at some slang – specifically, Australian slang. For those planning to visit Australia, knowing the local lingo might just save your life!

Barry: That **bloke**’ll be here this **arvo** and he’s gonna bring his **ankle biter** with him.

Denis: Oh, he’s alright, **mate**. I know he comes from back of **woop woop**, but he’s no **Yobbo**. He’s a **fair dinkum Aussie** and besides, he **barracks** for out **footy** team.

Barry: Yeah well, I think only a **nong** would bring a little kid to a **grog** and **snags barbie**. Nobody’s going to have any **lollies** or **fairy floss** to give him What’ll he have for **tucker**? There won’t even be any **mackers**!

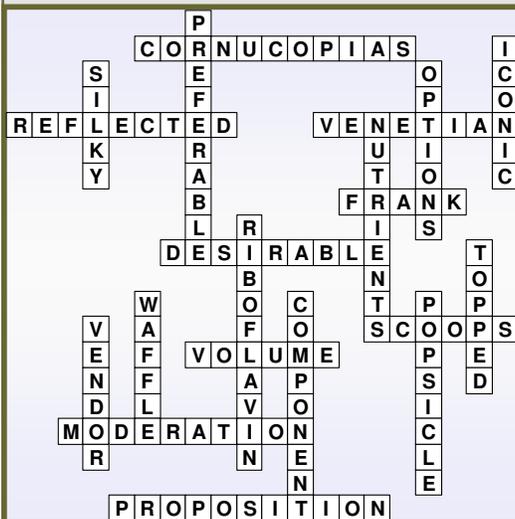
Denis: **She’ll be right**, mate. I’ll get some tucker for him. You know, **scones** or **biscuits** or ... **chips** or something. So, stop **whinging**.



Write the slang word in the text above next to its definition in the lists below:

- McDonald’s hamburger _____
- French fries _____
- complaining _____
- idiot, stupid person _____
- food _____
- man _____
- a long way from civilization _____
- everything will be okay _____
- something honest or genuine _____
- to cheer for _____
- sausages _____
- afternoon _____

- an Australian _____
- candy _____
- alcohol _____
- (US) cookies _____
- Australian football _____
- small child _____
- (US) “redneck” _____
- cotton candy _____
- biscuits _____
- BBQ _____
- friend _____



Last Month's puzzle Solution

ACROSS

- 2 like a goat’s horn symbolizing prosperity
- 6 evidence of a certain quality
- 7 a person who comes from an area in North Italy
- 9 direct, straight manner or speech
- 11 worth having
- 17 a way to serve ice cream
- 18 3-D space
- 19 avoiding excesses
- 20 offered for acceptance or rejection

DOWN

- 1 most desirable
- 3 well known, representative of its type
- 4 smooth to the touch, gleaming surface
- 5 choices
- 8 give energy and build tissue in animals
- 10 a vitamin B that prevents weight loss
- 12 finish up or add on last
- 13 like a pancake
- 14 a part of something larger
- 15 an icy treat on a stick
- 16 seller of goods or services



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See our notice board, or ask Junko in our office, for the details.