

# Crossroads

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter March, 2023

## Post a Child

The U.S.A.'s Postal Service (the Post Office) was created way back in 1775, but it wasn't until January 1<sup>st</sup> 1913 that the *Parcel Post* Service was introduced, allowing customers to send parcels and packages weighing 4 pounds (1.8 kg) or more (up to a maximum of 50 pounds or 22.6 kg) through the regular post. Private delivery companies were operating at the time, but this decision by the Postal Service allowed people to send large items to anywhere the Postal Service normally operated, including rural areas.

At first there were very few guidelines as to exactly what could or couldn't be posted. This meant that people could send virtually anything through the Post with hardly any limits on size or weight.

So, thinking out of the box (no pun intended), people at that time began to get "creative" with Uncle Sam's new Parcel Service. They began to "saddle" the poor postmen with all kinds of "parcels" to deliver. Eggs, butter, live seafood, bricks, snakes and other animals, to name just a few, were among the unlikely items people wanted sent through this new service.

Take for example W. H. Coltharp, an enterprising builder from that era. In an effort to cut costs, he decided to post 40 tons of bricks 127 miles (about 204.3 Km) in 50 pound packages (the max weight allowed) to

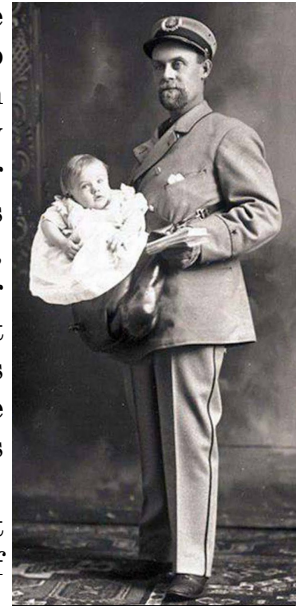


The bank that was delivered through the Parcel Post

a building site in Vernal, Utah where he was building a bank!

But perhaps the most bizarre example of "human ingenuity" concerning the new Parcel Post was accomplished mere weeks after this new service was introduced. Mr. and Mrs.

Jesse Beauge of Ohio are the first on record to have spotted a bargain and used this new service to "post" their infant son to his grandmother's house, some 1½ Km away, for just 15 cents (about \$3.72 or ¥500 in today's money). The story made it into the newspapers and soon others followed.



A staged, mock-up photograph of a letter carrier delivering a baby.

Probably the most famous case was that of May Pierstorff. In 1914, with the appropriate 52 cents worth of parcel post stamps affixed to her clothing, her parents posted her to her grandparents, some 187 Km away... much cheaper than sending her by passenger train. Her adventure inspired the publication of a children's book, "*Mailing May*".



May Pierstorff was 5 when in February, 1914, she was mailed by her parents in Idaho to nearby relatives.

Her unusual journey also came to the attention of the Postmaster General who promptly put a ban on "mailing people" from that day forth. Nevertheless, the practice persisted for some years before it finally petered out.

So, here's to "thinking outside the box!" ... always...

## Net News

**NET LESSONS:** Too busy to come to CROSSROADS?

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

For the official Smithsonian records go here:

<https://postalmuseum.si.edu/very-special-deliveries>

# Some Thoughts for the Month



**Joshua Says:** There is a question in linguists that has me worried enough to spend considerable time pondering the implications. Whatever the final answer, or answers, turns out to be (assuming an answer is even possible), this issue has huge significance to any second language learner. Does the language we think in, as we are communicating, affect the way we perceive and understand the world around us, including what is being said to us?

**Junko Says:** I love drinking Cinnamon Tea at night. Did you know it's the world's number one healthiest spice? Here are some of the benefits I recently found in an article: It's high in antioxidants, relieves inflammation, protects against heart disease, stabilizes blood-sugar, fights infection and viruses, promotes healthy skin, reduces the symptoms of allergies, acts as a natural preservative, and you can use it as a sweetener instead of sugar. I highly recommend it. Check out this site for more info: <https://draxe.com/nutrition/health-benefits-cinnamon/>



**Marek Says:** Spring is afoot, everybody! Plum and cherry blossoms entice with their beautiful flowers and, for a moment, it is easier to forget a Japanese cedar pollen allergy descending on most of us and enjoy the finer things early Spring has to offer. It is my most anticipated time of the year and every weekend I head off to the mountains to spot, photograph and admire nature coming back to life once more. I encourage all of you to do so, too!

**Mandcy dit:** Parlez-vous le langage des fleurs ? En effet, chaque fleur et chaque couleur à une signification. La rose rouge signifie un amour passionné, la rose rose désigne un amour doux et sucré, la rose blanche l'amour calme et qui dure très longtemps, la rose noire est la revanche. Mais attention si vous recevez une rose jaune, cela signifie "pardon", car on est cocu. N'offrez donc pas de fleurs jaunes sans y penser. Chaque fleur a un sens caché.



## ACROSS

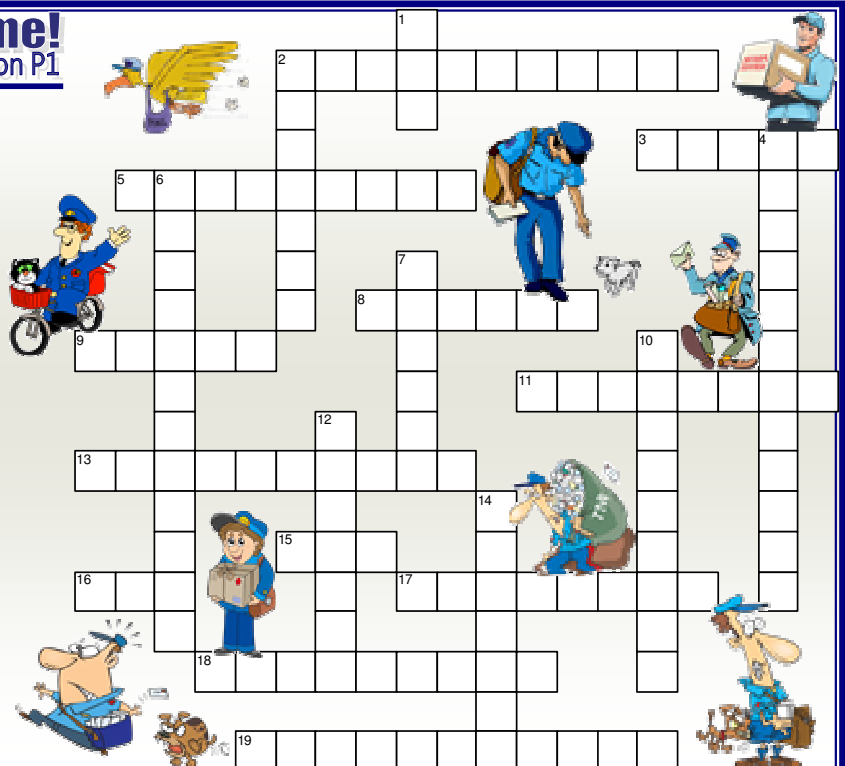
- 2 suitable, correct
- 3 relating to the countryside
- 5 continued without stopping
- 8 almost not or nothing
- 9 ahead in time
- 11 not much chance of being or occurring
- 13 set a course of action
- 15 forbid
- 16 a humorous play on words
- 17 with no delay
- 18 creative, imaginative
- 19 ended weakly (2 words)

## DOWN

- 1 a distinctive period in time
- 2 attached to
- 4 successfully completed
- 6 innovative, inventive, creative
- 7 add a burden or impose a task
- 10 all but 100% real
- 12 strange, weird, unconventional
- 14 noticed

## Play A Game!

Find the answers on P1

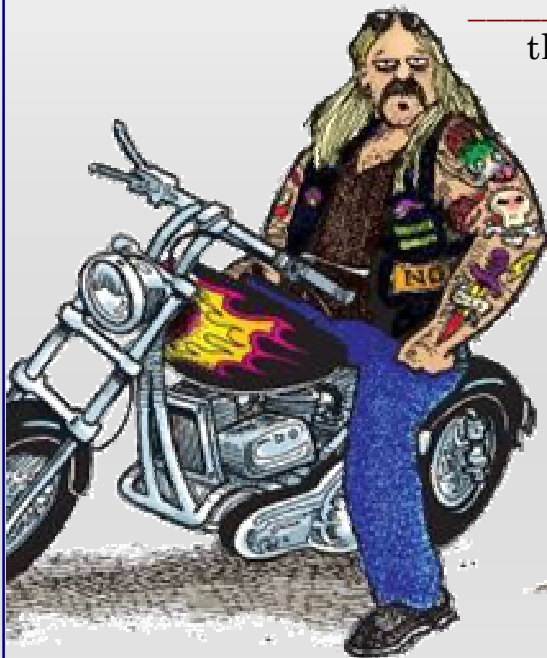


(print version [here](#))

The passage below describes a person (Fred), his neighbors and his motorcycle. See if you can fill in the missing vocabulary from the given list.

1. catches 2. necessary 3. ignore 4. discontinue 5. desist 6. petition  
 7. habit 8. Needless 9. revving 10. politely 11. ride 12. interesting  
 13. keeps 14. neighbors 15. explains

My friend Fred loves his motorbike, but there's a problem. He has the \_\_\_\_\_ of getting up early every morning and \_\_\_\_\_ its motor non-stop for about 30 minutes. He doesn't \_\_\_\_\_ it anywhere and when he's finished, he goes back inside, has his breakfast, puts on his suit and \_\_\_\_\_ the bus to go to work.



\_\_\_\_\_ to say, his \_\_\_\_\_ are not very happy about this. They have asked him many times to stop, but he \_\_\_\_\_ explains that it is \_\_\_\_\_ to do this in order to keep his bike in working order. He \_\_\_\_\_ to them that his work \_\_\_\_\_ him busy 7 days a week and he doesn't have many opportunities to ride it. Last week his neighbors got together, signed a \_\_\_\_\_ and handed it to him with threats of taking legal action if he didn't \_\_\_\_\_! It's now up to hm.

Will he \_\_\_\_\_ this habit or will he just \_\_\_\_\_ his neighbors? It will be \_\_\_\_\_ to find out.

D	ALTERNATIVES										N	
E												
CURRENT					CONSUMPTION							
I	F										O	
V	R										L	
E	P	COMPROMISES										S
D	A	T										R
A	I	H										U
R	O	Y										N
P	SUSTAINABLE										C	
R	D	T										L
E	E	T										A
V	M	S										C
A	O	I										N
L	G	N										T
BEVERAGE					CHRONIC					L		
N	A										A	
T	P										C	
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	C										E	
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## Last Month's puzzle Solution

- ACROSS**
- 2 possible choices
  - 4 in the present time
  - 5 the process of eating
  - 9 agreements between two sides
  - 10 referring to milk products
  - 12 not possible to contradict
  - 14 providing nourishment
  - 17 liquid suitable for drinking
  - 18 long-lasting and recurrent suffering
  - 19 give energy and build tissue in animals
  - 20 easily obtained
- DOWN**
- 1 formed or developed from
  - 3 unwilling to accept
  - 6 bubbly, foam-like
  - 7 absolutely necessary
  - 8 trying to sell or give support to
  - 11 most common
  - 13 a statistic relating to human population
  - 15 a quality or characteristic of something
  - 16 a sugar contained in milk

**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.