

# Crossroads

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter May, 2024

## 43600 YEAR OLD CLONE

Currently airing on-line is a SF TV series called "Foundation," It is loosely based on a series of novels and short stories by the American author, Isaac Asimov. In the TV series, a trio of human clones, "Dawn", "Day" and "Dusk", who are "descendents" of Cleon 1<sup>st</sup>, have ruled the 12,000 year old Galactic Empire continuously for the past 400 years. They are genetically identical to each other and when one dies, another is "resurrected" from a clone "bank" containing Cleon's DNA. The clones serve as the personification of the Empire's permanency and consistency.

Cleon's descendent clones live in a fictional fantasy-world supposedly 1,000's of years into the future. Today's scientists have also been able to create clones (remember Dolly the sheep from 1997?) thanks to the advancement of modern technology.

But apart from the intervention of science and human technology (imaginary or otherwise), clones do actually occur naturally in nature.

Take, for example, the 43,600 year old, King's Holly. Like most plants, King's Holly flowers, but its flowers do not produce seeds or fruit of any kind. So, how does it propagate?



The King's Holly plant has survived for at least 43,600 years (some estimates put its age at 135,000 years!) by cloning itself. It does this by dropping branches onto the nearby soil which then take root and grow into new plants.

Today, all of the existing 300-odd critically endangered plants of this species grow within one, single narrow stretch of land just over a kilometre in length, in Tasmania, Australia. And as all the plants in the colony have been reproduced vegetatively, they are genetically identical to each other – i.e., clones.

The individual shrubs, or small trees, in the colony grow incredibly slow at a rate of about 0.26 mm per year. Dendrochronology (using growth rings to determine a tree's age) dated one stem to be 240 years old! They can reach a height about 8 meters.

King's Holly, or *Lomatia tasmanica*, to give it its scientific name, was first discovered in 1934 by Charles Denison King, a miner and avid naturalist, while prospecting for tin in south-western Tasmania. In 1965, he found a second colony about 5 km from his first discovery (which unfortunately had died out by then) and sent a clipping to the University of Tasmania. Both the plant and its discoverer are now celebrated in botanical circles.

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## Net News

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

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

More on King's Holly here:

<https://anpsa.org.au/APOL2008/nov08-s1.html>

# Some Thoughts for the Month



**Joshua Says:** There is a single word, research has suggested, that has the same meaning, and similar sound, in at least 31 languages – the study may be expanded to include more language in the future - in effect, a truly “universal word”, understood almost wherever you go. It’s a word that could be useful in your lesson, too. If you don’t understand what your teacher or classmates are saying, just utter this word... “huh” .. and you’ll immediately be understood!



**Junko Says:** There are two essential fats you can obtain through your diet; Omega 3 and Omega 6.  $\omega 3$  fats benefit your heart, brain and metabolism. Perilla seed oil, chia seeds, walnuts, soybeans and spinach are high in  $\omega 3$ .  $\omega 6$  fats benefit your heart, lowers cholesterol levels and reduces the risk of cancer. Safflower seeds, corn oil, soybean oil and walnuts are high in  $\omega 6$ . But don’t forget  $\omega 9$ . It increases energy, boosts your immune system and more. Olive oil is high in  $\omega 9$ .



**Marek Says:** I always pride myself in being able to do many things by myself around vehicles. DIY is relaxing, and a successful job really gives me a sense of accomplishment and fulfillment. The other day, I was quoted nearly 20.000yen for a tire change, which is simply scandalous, given that the tires themselves cost a tad more than just putting them on. A hefty bill like this is a great incentive to learn new skills!



**Mandcy dit:** Plus qu'un mois avant les jeux olympiques de Paris, les jeux seront tenus du 26 juillet au 16 août à travers toute la France et aussi Tahiti, une petite île française dans le Pacifique. La compétition de Football et de bateaux seront tenus à Marseille par exemple. Le Vendredi 26 juillet 2024 de 19h30 à 23h, (12h30 au Japon) se tiendra la cérémonie d'ouverture des Jeux Olympiques de Paris 2024. Cet événement se déroulera sur la Seine entre le Pont d'Austerlitz et le Pont d'Iéna. Au programme, une tour Eiffel qui brille, des défilés, des bateaux sur la Seine et bien sûr des chansons. J'ai hâte d'y être !

## ACROSS

- 2 brought back to life
- 5 widely known
- 9 giving human qualities to an idea
- 10 to get involved and cause an effect
- 11 exactly alike
- 14 an ancestor's offspring
- 15 an unofficial association of people
- 16 reproduce offspring
- 18 a small piece of a plant
- 19 searching for something
- 20 very surprisingly

## DOWN

- 1 decide conclusively
- 3 like bushes
- 4 everlasting
- 6 seriously
- 7 reproduced asexually
- 8 very keen, enthusiastic
- 12 stability, uniformity
- 13 a set of three similar things
- 17 exposure to public viewing

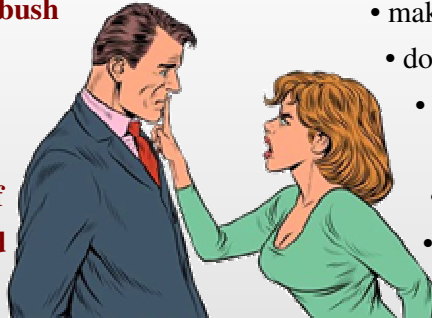
## Play A Game!

Find the answers on P1

(print version [here](#))

Match the plant, tree and garden idioms below with their correct definitions on the right, then place them in the passage below: (This is a hard one, even native speakers will find it tough!)

1. heard through the grapevine
2. can't see the wood for the trees
3. reap(ing) what you sow
4. lead (someone) down the garden path
5. beating around the bush
6. in a nutshell
7. seed money
8. old chestnut
9. turn over a new leaf
10. nip it/this in the bud
11. bed of roses
12. lose/lost your gourd
13. rake in
14. root and branch
15. money doesn't grow on trees



- too focused on details, can't see the big picture
- a place or situation that is very easy, trouble free
- to hear something from other people, not directly
- to change bad/wrong behavior and lead a better life
- make someone believe something that isn't true
- don't avoid the point
- money is not easy to come by
- the whole point in a summary
- an old story or idea often repeated
- gone/go crazy
- thoroughly or completely
- only something bad will happen if you go ahead
- prevent something happening before it begins
- to gain a lot (usually money)
- money used to start a new business or venture

**Husband:** Don't \_\_\_\_\_ wasting time with an \_\_\_\_\_ and get to the point! Tell me \_\_\_\_\_ what's troubling you.

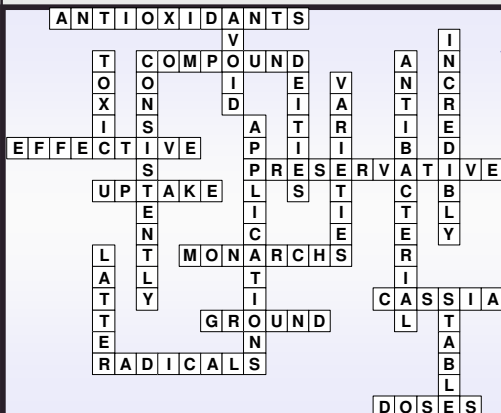
**Wife:** Well, okay. Yesterday,   1   that you want to setup a partnership with Donald Stump and use our savings as \_\_\_\_\_ to get started. Have you \_\_\_\_\_? You promised to \_\_\_\_\_ the last time you tried something like this.

**Husband:** But this time we're sure to \_\_\_\_\_ a fortune. You just can't \_\_\_\_\_!

**Wife:** What I *do* see is that \_\_\_\_\_ even if you think it does. I'm sorry, but I'm going to \_\_\_\_\_ before I let you \_\_\_\_\_ again. You have to learn that life is not a \_\_\_\_\_. You'll end up \_\_\_\_\_ if you go ahead with this.

**Husband:** What do you mean by *that*?

**Wife:** \_\_\_\_\_ ..., divorce!!



## Last Month's puzzle Solution

### ACROSS

- 1 prevent reactions to oxygen
- 5 combining more than one
- 10 functioning well
- 11 helps prevent food decaying
- 12 taking food into the body
- 14 leaders of nations
- 15 a type of tree or shrub
- 17 reduced to small particles
- 18 two or more atoms joined together
- 19 measured portions (medicine)

### DOWN

- 2 stay clear of
- 3 surprisingly, unlikely
- 4 poisonous
- 5 unchanging
- 6 god-like supernatural beings
- 7 destroying bacterial growth
- 8 different types of
- 9 usages
- 13 the second of two
- 16 unchanging



Don't forget...Our **SPECIAL 1+1 Campaign offer! Up to 50% off!!**

Ask Junko in our office, for the details.