

CrossTalk

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter October, 2024

MUTUALISM

In a symbiotic relationship between two unrelated species, benefits are not always shared by both participants. Parasites may benefit from the relationship with their hosts, but their hosts often suffer. Think of the fleas that your pet sometimes attracts, or the ticks on livestock. Other symbiotic relationships may result in one partner benefiting while the host does not suffer any harm, but, at the same time, does not gain any advantage.

Mutualism, on the other hand, describes the interaction between two distinct species where both partners benefit. Take, for example, the relationship between the Goby Fish and the Pistol Shrimp. The shrimp has very poor eyesight. When it is outside of its burrow, it is vulnerable to predators. The Goby has excellent eyesight and can easily identify danger, so when the shrimp is outside its burrow, it stays close to the Goby, touching the fish with one tentacle. This is how it can be instantly alerted to the presence of a predator. At such a time, they both dart back into the shrimp's burrow. And that's the deal, the shrimp gets protection, and the Goby gets a home. This relationship is even more remarkable when you consider the bond between two of these individuals starts when they are juveniles and lasts a lifetime, sharing the same burrow while avoiding predators.



Could such mutualist relationships ever involve humans with other species?

Eggs, larvae and beeswax from beehives are a great source of food for the Greater Honeyguides of Tanzania. Accessing the hives is not an easy task for these birds, so they enlist some assistance from people. When they discover a new hive, they alert the locals to its location and actively lead them to the hive, calling out directions along the way.

The Hadza people love honey and over many generations have learnt to rely on these birds to lead them to new sources. Once the humans



have accessed a hive and helped themselves to the honey, the Honeyguides move in to feast on what remains. Thus, both

species gain from the relationship.

Another well documented example involving humans is the bottlenose dolphins and fishermen of Laguna, Brazil, a partnership that has lasted for at least 150 years. The fishermen enlist the aid of the dolphins to catch fish; or are the dolphins using the fishermen? it's hard to say.

The waters around Laguna are murky which makes it difficult for the fishermen to see their prey and, thus, know just when and where to cast their nets. The dolphins understand this and will obligingly herd schools of mullet towards the fishermen. When the fish are suitably corralled close to the fishermen, the dolphins give a signal by either suddenly diving underwater, or jumping high out of the water. The fishermen get the message and cast their nets. The nets frighten and confuse the fish which then break up into smaller groups which become easier pickings for the dolphins. Sometimes the dolphins also manage to snatch a fish directly from one of the nets.

Research has shown that both species benefit from this partnership. The fishermen increase their catch by 400 percent and dolphins in this cooperative arrangement have been found to live 13% longer than dolphins that hunt solo.

In both cases, involving the honey-guides and the dolphins, we wonder who is in charge, and who's leading whom?



Net News

NET LESSONS: Too busy to come to CROSSROADS?

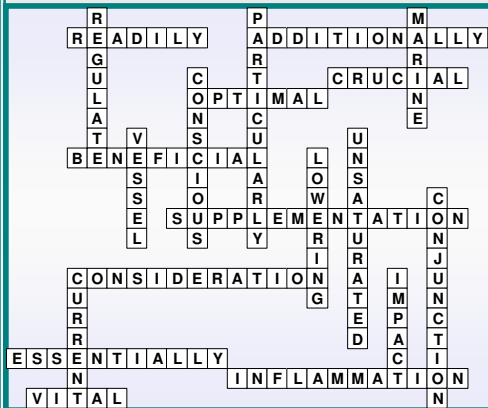
.... Try our *lessons on the net!*

More here: <https://learningenglish.voanews.com/a/humans-dolphins-working-together-to-fish/6943936.html>

How extensive is your vocabulary? Under the four categories below, add one word for each letter in the English alphabet



	ANIMALS	FRUIT & VEGETABLES	COUNTRIES	SPORTS
A	alligator	apple	Australia	athletics
B				
C				
D				
E				
F				
G				
H				
I				
J				
K				
L				
M				
N				
O				
P				
Q				
R				
S				
T				
U				
V				
W				
X				
Y				
Z				



Last Month's puzzle Solution

ACROSS

- 4 without difficulty
- 5 adding to
- 7 having great importance
- 8 best, most favorable
- 11 good for you
- 14 quantity added
- 15 think about
- 17 basically, fundamentally
- 18 pain, swelling due to injury
- 19 absolutely necessary

DOWN

- 1 give direction to, influence on
- 2 specifically, especially
- 3 relating to the sea
- 6 being awake, aware
- 9 a tube such as a vein or artery
- 10 not pure, can be diluted
- 12 lessening
- 13 joined or connected
- 15 now, the present time
- 16 have an effect upon



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

Ask Junko in our office, for the details.