

CrossTalk

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter November, 2024

TURKEY OR TURKEY

Bird or country, which came first?

The region that lies north of Egypt and east of Greece has been occupied since the 1300's by people commonly referred to as the Turks. However, it wasn't until after WW1, and the collapse of the Ottoman Empire, that this area officially became known as the Republic of Turkey.

But, the bird that Americans love to place at the centre of their Thanksgiving dinners does not come from Turkey. In fact, fossil records indicate that this bird actually originated in the Americas 23 million years ago; half a world away from the country we call Turkey, and clearly much older than any records of human beings living there.

So, what's the connection?

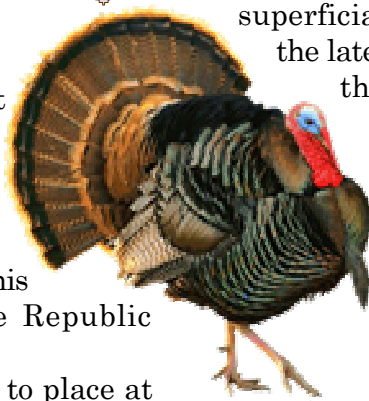
Well, let's start by looking at another bird somewhat similar in appearance and taste (at least to Europeans living in the 16th century) that originates from North Africa – the Guinea Fowl. This bird was nicknamed the “turkey-cock” or “turkey-hen” because it was being exported to Europe via Turkey.

Then, early European explorers discovered another bird roaming around in North America that looked much like the Guinea Fowl from Turkey. They began shipping this “new-world Guinea Fowl” back to Europe and it wasn't long before it became a hit, notably, with the British. As it resembled the bird that had already been coming in from the Turkish region, they named it... “a turkey”. The name stuck and to this day wherever you sit down for a special meal at Christmas or Thanksgiving, that bird sitting in the centre of the dining table is called a turkey!

OK, so where does the term “cold turkey” come from? Does it refer to leftovers you can find in an American refrigerator the day after Thanksgiving?

Tracing the term, “talking turkey” back to the early 19th century, a likely definition of this term suggests that it was an euphemism for deceitful, superficial speech or behavior. However, in the late 19th century and early 20th century, the meaning inexplicably changed to indicate talking frankly and directly.

To “talk turkey” meant not to “beat about the bush,” to talk straight, clearly and to the point. It may be that the term, “cold turkey”

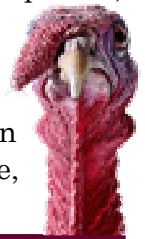


is a combination of *cold* (as in the matter-of-fact, straight-forward “cold truth”) and to *talk turkey* in a precise, non-ambiguous way, as mentioned above.

A further shift in the meaning of the term “cold turkey” came later in the 20th century. The term took on the meaning of quitting something suddenly. If you decided to give up smoking or drinking alcohol and you chose to do it the next day instead of gradually reducing your intake, you were quitting, “cold turkey.” These days, the term mostly refers to quitting hard drugs in this way – you remember John Lennon and Yoko Ono's song from 1969?

In fact, trying to understand the roots of the term “cold turkey” can lead to all kinds of confusion and disagreement, especially among intellectuals, many of whom are only too willing to waffle on in theories that, to the average person, mostly sound like pure gobbledygook.

Gobbledygook....? It's turkey talk. When a male turkey is courting a lady turkey, he emits a sound from deep in his throat; he gobbles..... gobble, gobble, gobble..... gobbledygook!



Net News

NET LESSONS: Too busy to come to CROSSROADS?

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

For the origin of other food names go here:

<https://www.dictionary.com/e/foods-named-after-places-toponyms/>

Some Thoughts for the Month



Joshua Says Recent research has found that the average person cannot tell the difference between AI generated poetry and verse created by a recognized human poet. Moreover, casual readers, unaware of who the authors of the poems they have read are, AI or human, tend to show a preference for the AI generated verse over the human variety. Poetry is a long established human art-form, often filled with feelings close to human emotions. And AI is doing it better!?

Junko Says: The shortage of labor is encouraging digitalization. For example, extended reality (XR) is used in the place of workers and is effective. XR unitization can produce realistic virtual objects or allow us to immerse ourselves in virtual realities, etc. This can be useful for maintenance and inspection work or for giving advice to field workers from a distant office. It sounds like we are extending the scope of our visual range, but what about our other senses?



Marek Says: We are reaching an influenza season, which typically lasts from December through March, and declining temperatures and low humidity create excellent conditions for flu virus to spread among the population. I hardly ever catch a flu, but this year I came down with it, and not just for a day or two, as usual, but for a full week with an agonising headache and muscle pain and totally defunct voice. Maybe I'm getting old...

Mandcy dit: Chaque année, le troisième jeudi de novembre, le Japon est le premier pays dans le monde a pouvoir savourer le beaujolais nouveau. Rendez-vous donc le jeudi 21 novembre pour déguster une bonne bouteille. Cette année, le prix est de 3,256 yens pour 750 ml. C'est un peu cher, mais généralement, les marchands japonais choisissent la meilleure qualité pour les consommateurs japonais. Selon les experts, les récoltes ont etc mauvaises cette année, donc la production est plus petite. Toutefois la qualité est meilleure et le vin est plus tannin et concentré. J'ai vraiment hâte de le deguster.



ACROSS

- 4 especially, in particular
- 5 people who use their brains creatively
- 8 normally, usually
- 10 looked similar to
- 12 a gentler way of saying something
- 14 sincerely, honestly
- 16 lived in
- 17 food remaining after a meal
- 18 follow the course of something to its beginning
- 19 unexplainable, unexpected

DOWN

- 1 gives off, discharges
- 2 vague, lengthy and uninteresting talk
- 3 moving about aimlessly
- 4 a descriptive name for a person or thing
- 6 dishonest, deceptive
- 7 unclear, more than one meaning
- 9 came into existence
- 11 to a certain extent
- 13 exact, accurate
- 15 from a past geological age ([print version here](#))

Play A Game! Find the answers on P1

The crossword puzzle grid is filled with empty cells. Several turkey illustrations are placed on the grid to indicate the starting points for the clues. The numbers 1 through 19 are placed in the top-left corners of the starting cells for each clue. The grid is partially filled with letters from the clues provided in the 'ACROSS' and 'DOWN' sections.

Let's take another look at some English idioms. This time, related to food:

1. "A piece of cake" means: a) Something to eat.

b) A very kind and gentle person.

c) Something very easy to accomplish.



2. "The big cheese" means: a) A country's capital city.

b) A very important person.

c) Very dishonest, a big lie.



3. "Full of beans" means: a) Very lively with lots of energy.

b) An overcrowded place.

c) Exaggerating the truth.



4. "Apple of your eye" means: a) You look tired, your irises are red.

b) Someone who is very special to you.

c) Something is blocking your view.



5. "Butter someone up" means: a) To rub suntan oil on someone.

b) To stop someone from speaking.

c) To flatter someone in order to get what you want



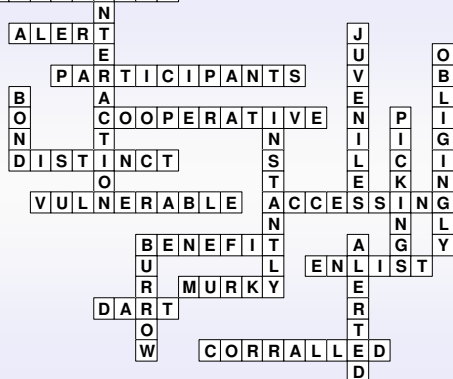
6. "As useful as a chocolate teapot" means: a) You are multi-talented.

b) Very practical.

c) Not very practical



PARASITES



ACROSS

- 1 fleas, lice, ticks, bedbugs
- 3 give a warning signal
- 6 taking part in
- 8 the joint activity of two or more
- 11 clearly defined
- 12 open to attack
- 13 getting into
- 14 aiding well-being
- 16 engage someone for work
- 17 not clear
- 18 move suddenly, quickly
- 19 gathered and enclosed securely

Last Month's puzzle Solution

DOWN

- 2 acting together
- 4 young people
- 5 willingly helpful
- 7 brought together and connected
- 9 without delay
- 10 (often) ill-gotten gains
- 14 hole made by an animal
- 15 warned of danger



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