

CrossTalk


CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter January, 2025

SNAKES!

"I swear by Apollo the Healer and by Asclepius and by [Hygieia](#) and [Panacea](#) and by all the gods ..." Thus begins the original Hippocratic Oath (not "hypocritical", though some may fail to recognize the difference), from the 5th century B.C., ancient Greece. A variation of this oath is still used in the medical profession to this day.

One of the Gods mentioned in the Oath, Asclepius, was the Greek god of medicine and the son of Apollo, the god of healing (among other attributes he was famous for). Asclepius was usually depicted holding a staff entwined with a snake. The snake symbolizes health and healing. You



 can still see the snake, along with Asclepius' staff, at the center of today's World Health Organization's logo. The ancients looked on the snake as a symbol of health and healing because, among other attributes, it could shed and then regenerate its skin.

Another ancient symbol involving a snake, in this case two snakes, and a staff, is the staff of Hermes, the herald of the ancient Greek gods. Although this symbol has appeared in association with the medical profession, it is more correctly associated with commerce and trade. Hermes (Mercury to the Romans) is the ancient God of wealth, luck, fertility, travelers, languages, oratory, wit, cunning and trade. He was depicted as having wings on his heels, on his hat and his staff also had wings along with two snakes wrapped around it.



To the Greeks then, snakes weren't all bad...

Many cultures have revered snakes throughout the ages, and many still do. In some parts of India, for example, snakes are still worshiped as gods. In Hindu culture, they symbolize death, rebirth, and fertility. In Chinese culture, the snake is the creator deity. Nuwa, a goddess, was part human and part serpent and is believed to have created the first humans to walk the earth.

But perhaps the oldest snake myth we have comes from Australian Aboriginal culture. According to this legend, long ago in the "dreamtime," a time when no creature walked the earth, the Rainbow Serpent awoke from a long underground slumber, burrowed her way to the surface, and started to travel far and wide over the earth leaving huge tracks wherever she went. She then called the frogs, which had also been sleeping underground, to join her on the surface. Their bellies were full of water, so she tickled them and they laughed so much that they had to regurgitate the water. This water then spilled over the land and filled the tracks she had left, becoming the rivers and ocean. The vegetation and creatures, including man, soon followed. Thus, according to this legend, life itself as we know it is in debt to the snake!



So, you see, the snake is not only dangerous, deceitful, cunning, etc., but also considered very beneficial to people in many cultures throughout the world. So, as you are making your New Year's Resolutions, consider one of the snake's most important attributes, a symbol for new beginnings, a time to cast off old bad habits and start anew!

Happy New Year!

Net News

NET LESSONS: Too busy to come to CROSSROADS?

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

More about the Australian rainbow serpent here:

<https://japingkaaboriginalart.com/articles/rainbow-serpent/>

Some Thoughts for the Month



Joshua It's the Year of the Snake, but don't worry, this is a great opportunity! For what? To follow the snake's example and "turn over a new leaf." The snake, in many cultures, symbolizes rebirth and new beginnings. The snake sheds its skin and refreshes itself, starts anew...., and you can too! Cast off your old concerns about not being able to speak English well enough and make the decision that this year you *will* improve you English!! Happy New Year!

Junko Says: It's that time of the year when we make promises to ourselves; you know, promises to improve on something, promises *not* to do something, a promise, one way or another, to turn over a new leaf. It's New Year's resolution time! So, what is/are your promise(s) for the coming year? Whatever your resolutions are, I truly hope you succeed, especially if you hope to study harder and improve your second language skills during the year! Happy New year, everyone!!



Marek Says: New Year's holiday came and went, seemingly at breakneck speed, and I hope we are all armed with New Year resolutions and a few extra kilograms under the belt from holiday feasting, ready to face the "Year of the Snake". Unfortunately, the pesky influenza is making its rounds in Japan, so let's make a conscious effort to minimize spreading the virus, and above all, please take care of your health!

Mandcy dit: Bonne année et mes meilleurs voeux pour l'année 2025. Je vous souhaite à tous beaucoup de bonheur. Avez-vous pris des résolutions pour cette année ? Vous allez commencer quelque chose, continuer quelque chose ou arrêter quelque chose ? Personnellement, j'avais décidé de marcher et voyager beaucoup. Mais à Nouvel-an, je me suis blessée au pied accidentellement. Donc. Je dois rester à la maison et guérir. Alors ma resolution de cette année est de ne pas prendre de résolution !!!



ACROSS

- 2 restore or make newly
- 6 distinguishing characteristics
- 8 have profound respect for
- 11 a snake
- 12 an old traditional story
- 16 move by digging
- 18 something a little different
- 19 misleading falsehood
- 20 be connected with








DOWN






- 1 a messenger, bringer of news
- 3 wound or twisted together
- 4 a strong rod or stick
- 5 make a solemn promise
- 7 sleep
- 9 bring up or being back
- 10 distinct quality or characteristic
- 13 shown or represented as
- 14 cast off, remove
- 15 a godlike being
- 17 stomach



Play A Game!

Find the answers on P1

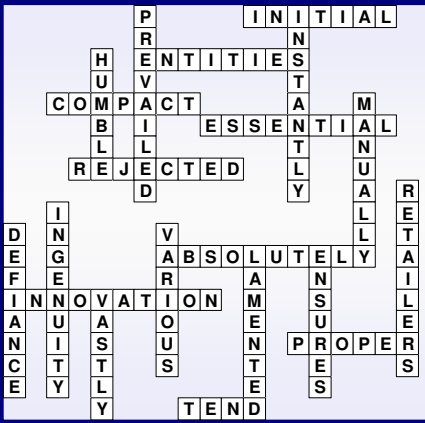
Here are a few common expressions you may hear native English speakers use. Use the images as a guide and select the correct phrases from the boxes below:

Work can be  () sometimes. One minute, you're  (),  presentations and meeting deadlines, and the next, you're  () emails and wondering where the day went. It's like  (); just when you think you've got everything under control, something  () and  ().

Take yesterday, for example. My friend Ron had a last-minute assignment  () at work, and he had to  () to get it done on time. He was running around  () all day, juggling meetings and phone calls, and dealing with  (). By the time he had everything sorted out, he was  ().

But, I told him, "hey Ron, you've  (), right?" I don't think my advice helped. He just  () at me, then turned and walked away, grumbling.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) pops up – something unexpected or not planned for 2) a mountain of paperwork – too much work to get through 3) a real grind - dreary, monotonous, or difficult labor, study, or routine 4) looked daggers – stare with hostility, scowl 5) completely wiped – very tired, exhausted 6) drowning in – overwhelmed 7) like a headless chicken – disorganized, out of control | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8) spinning plates – trying to do something difficult 9) pull out all the stops – to spare no effort 10) throws a wrench in the works – to cause a problem preventing a successful outcome 11) gotta roll with the punches – you've got to cope with and survive adversity 12) on top of the world - very happy 13) nailing (it) – successfully complete a task 14) dropped on his lap – suddenly, unexpectedly |
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Last Month's puzzle Solution

<p>ACROSS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 at the beginning 5 having their own distinct existence 6 closely united 8 absolutely necessary 9 not accepted 14 completely 17 starting something for the first time 19 appropriate, suitable 20 inclined to be or do 	<p>DOWN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 proved stronger, superior 3 without hesitation or delay 4 meek or modest 7 by hand 10 sellers of goods to the public 11 the power of creative imagination 12 resistant, fight against challenge 13 many different kinds 15 express grief, sorrow 16 makes certain 18 to a great extent
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Don't forget...Our SPECIAL 1+1 Campaign offer! Up to 50% off!!
 Ask Junko in our office, for the details.