

CROSSROADS

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter March, 2025

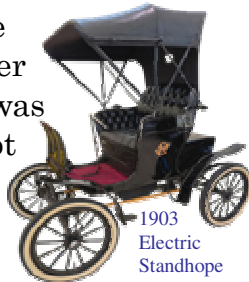
EV'S ARE NOT NEW!

Did you know that electric cars have been around since the early 1800's? Not only that, but in 1899, 90% of New York's taxis were



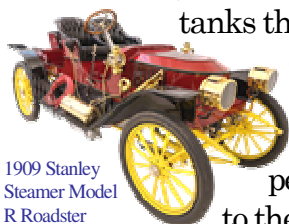
EV's. In fact, in 1900, electric cars were outselling all other types of cars, such as gas and steam driven vehicles. In 1902 an EV, the "Baker Torpedo", the first car to enclose the driver in a cabin, reached a speed of 80kph, although at the cost of two lives as it crashed into a group of spectators when its driver lost control of it.

A number of features helped to populate the EV's of the day. They included: no engine vibration while driving, they were very quiet running compared to other types of cars, they produced no smoke or backfire and they did not require external cranking of the motor in order to start the thing up - they were ready to start as soon as the driver sat in the driver's seat. Unlike other types of vehicles, another significant advantage for EV's was the fact that the driver did not need to change gears, which was hard to do in the early days of motor transportation.



1903 Electric Standhope

Steam powered cars took up to 45 minutes to get going on cold days and this was another reason why they were less popular than EV's. However, they did have a longer range with large



1909 Stanley Steamer Model R Roadster

tanks that could be filled up quickly once the tank ran dry. Still, there were not many safe roads to drive on so most people confined their journeys to the city limits at that time.

So, over a hundred years ago, we can say that EV's were the most popular vehicles available at the time. Then, what happened to knock them off the (automobile) pedestal?

Henry Ford! By 1908, Ford had his innovative assembly production line up and running, churning out his famous Model T's. In 1910, these vehicles were selling for a very reasonable price of US\$780 per unit (around US\$26,000 in today's money), compared to his competitors which cost much more at around US\$1,700 per unit. By 1924, he had reduced his prices to only US\$290 per unit. In addition, crude oil, recently discovered in Texas and Oklahoma at about this time, drastically reduced the cost of gasoline. And finally, Charles Kettering invented the electric starter, which eliminated the need to crank-start the motor, as was the case with the old gas or steam cars. By 1935, the electric car was finished.

BUT! As everyone is now aware, exhaust fumes from internal combustion engines cause serious damage to the environment, polluting the air and contributing to global warming. The answer? EV's have made a spectacular comeback. After tentative attempts in the 1960's to re-introduce them as an alternative to gasoline cars, EV's are once again all the rage - for now....



Japan's 2020 "Aspark Owl" EV

Net News

NET LESSONS: Too busy to come to CROSSROADS?

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

You can find a history of early cars here:

<https://www.caranddriver.com/features/g43480930/history-of-electric-cars/>

Some Thoughts for the Month



Joshua: You may have noticed that I'm fond of placing quotations in this section of our newsletter, especially if they can encourage you in some way to keep trying, never give up. Here's one by Marvin Phillips (a national speakers association member) that may set you thinking, and trying: "The only difference between try and triumph is the umph." Can you relate this quote to your efforts to study a second language?

Junko Says: Some of you have already been reading articles from the "Japan News", the newspaper we leave for you in our Open House. Now it is possible to listen to these articles on the "Japan News" website. You can listen to current news articles on Japan, as well as from the Washington Post and the Associated Press while you read ("shadow reading") If you'd like to try it out, just ask for the ID and password at the office.



Marek Says: Spring is coming in big steps, with plum and cherry trees blooming everywhere. As you have probably noticed, the season for plum blossom is a little delayed and other life forms are out of sync with nature too. Just the other day, at 1am, a mosquito had the audacity to land on my forehead after several attempts at landing on my ear. A quick and measured smack with a hand ruined the mosquito's plans for a bloody meal.

Mandcy dit: Est-ce la fin de la libéralisation? La libéralisation designe le libre marché des biens (import-export) entre plusieurs pays. En effet, le president americain a annoncé une augmentation de 20 à 25 % sur l'importation de produits. En y reflechissant bien, je nai aucun produit americain à la maison, en y reflechissant encore plus, tous mes appareils ménagers, mes cosmetiques et ma nourriture sont japonaises, coreennes, chinoise ou française. Et vous, qu'est-ce que vous en penser ?



ACROSS

- 1 making something happen
- 2 put something together
- 3 not yet processed
- 5 produced by vigorous action
- 10 ahead of the times
- 11 a position of great importance
- 13 a shaking motion
- 14 the act of burning something
- 15 a loud noise from exploding fuel
- 16 significantly, greatly
- 17 hesitant, uncertain
- 18 rotating a lever

DOWN

- 1 return to a successful activity
- 3 restricted
- 4 gases ejected by an engine
- 6 ejected gases
- 7 important
- 8 sensational, thrilling
- 9 terminated, ended
- 12 a strong trend or fad

Play A Game!

Find the answers on P1

The crossword puzzle grid is 15 columns wide and 15 rows high. The starting points for the clues are as follows:

- 1 Across: Row 1, Column 1
- 2 Across: Row 2, Column 1
- 3 Across: Row 3, Column 1
- 4 Down: Row 1, Column 14
- 5 Down: Row 1, Column 11
- 6 Down: Row 1, Column 10
- 7 Down: Row 1, Column 7
- 8 Down: Row 1, Column 8
- 9 Down: Row 1, Column 9
- 10 Down: Row 1, Column 10
- 11 Down: Row 1, Column 11
- 12 Down: Row 1, Column 12
- 13 Down: Row 1, Column 13
- 14 Down: Row 1, Column 14
- 15 Down: Row 1, Column 15
- 16 Down: Row 1, Column 16
- 17 Down: Row 1, Column 17
- 18 Down: Row 1, Column 18

Illustrations include a green tractor, a black classic car, a red and blue vintage car, a gas station attendant, a green vintage car, a yellow and red vintage car, a blue vintage car, a red vintage motorcycle, and a steam engine.

(print version here)

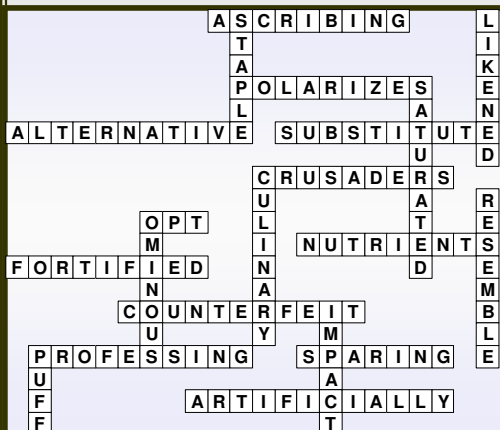
Here is an article from the "Breaking News", their Free English News Lessons page. See if you can replace the missing words.

The next ice age will be late. An ice age is a long period of _____ weather. There is a huge increase in the _____ of ice in the world. Mountain glaciers become _____. The researchers are from the UK. They think the next ice age will _____ in 10,000 years. However, that could be _____ because of human _____ and climate change. Global warming could make it "very _____" that the next ice age will arrive ____ _.

Melting ice in the North and South Poles will ____ _ the ice age. A researcher _____ how past ice ages happened. He ____ _ one million years of climate _____. He found _____ between the Earth's axis, global temperatures, and the amount of _____ at the North and South Poles. When the amount of ice is _____, ice ages happen at _____ intervals. The researcher said _____ ice means a longer _____ between ice ages.



- 1.bigger 2.data 3.studied 4.delayed 5.stable 6.ice 7.push back
8.less 9.on time 10.looked at 11.relationships 12.freezing 13.gap
14.amount 15.arrive 16.regular 17.activity 18.unlikely



ACROSS Last Month's puzzle Solution

- 1 assigning some quality to
4 separates into two opposite positions
6 in place of another
7 in place of
8 fighters for a cause or belief
10 select as an alternative
11 substances when digested give energy
12 made stronger
13 not genuine
15 stating openly
16 avoiding waste
17 not naturally

DOWN

- 2 necessary, important
3 described as similar
5 the most concentrated solution of
8 relating to cooking or food
9 appear like
10 indicating something evil
14 influence strongly
15 to swell or cause to enlarge



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

Ask Junko in our office, for the details.