

# CROSSROADS

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter June, 2025



In the 21st century, few technologies have captured our imagination and transformed industries quite like drones. These unmanned aerial vehicles, or UAVs, once existed mostly in the realm of science fiction, but today they are a common sight, from hobby shops to battlefields. Their journey from simple flying objects to sophisticated tools has been a fascinating one, marking over a hundred years of quiet but powerful progress. The idea of remotely controlled aircraft isn't new. Experiments in the early 1900s involved basic radio-controlled planes, mostly used for target practice by the military. Over decades, these early designs slowly evolved, incorporating new technologies like jet engines and better cameras, primarily for reconnaissance during conflicts like the Cold War. However, it was the integration of GPS in the 1980s and 90s, along with smaller, more powerful batteries and advanced sensors that truly paved the way for the drones we see today.

Drones are mostly associated with warfare. Their ability to fly into dangerous areas without risking human lives makes them invaluable for surveillance, gathering information about enemy positions, and even carrying out targeted attacks. This use continues today, with advanced military drones playing a significant role in modern conflicts.

However, the 21st century has seen drones fly far beyond the battlefield into our everyday lives. One of the most visually stunning examples is the drone light show. Instead of traditional fireworks, hundreds or even thousands of drones, equipped with LED lights, fly in perfect coordination to create amazing shapes and patterns in the night sky. For instance, during the opening ceremony of the 2024 Olympic Games, drones were used to form complex logos and figures, offering a spectacular and environmentally friendly alternative to traditional fireworks displays.

In agriculture, drones are revolutionizing farming. Farmers use them to monitor their crops from above, checking for areas that need more water or fertilizer, or identifying diseases early. For example, a drone equipped with special cameras can fly over a large field and quickly identify parts of the crop that are stressed or unhealthy, allowing farmers to apply treatment only where it's needed.



Photography and filmmaking have also been completely changed by drones. Professional and amateur photographers can now capture breathtaking aerial views that were once only possible with expensive helicopters. Drones can capture dramatic action shots just above tree tops or fly through narrow glacier crevasses to capture a unique perspective of wildlife and geography. Drones are also becoming vital tools in wildlife conservation. They help researchers monitor animal populations without disturbing them and assist rangers in protecting endangered species from poachers. For example, in Africa, drones with thermal cameras are used at night to spot poachers trying to illegally hunt rhinos or elephants, allowing park rangers to quickly respond and protect these vulnerable animals.

Drone technology has rapidly evolved from simple military tools to versatile instruments that serve a wide range of commercial and entertainment purposes. From dazzling light shows to precision farming and crucial conservation efforts, drones are making our world safer, more efficient, and more visually exciting. As these flying machines become even smarter and more accessible, what new and innovative ways might we discover to use them in the future?

*Article by Marek*

## Net News

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

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

For an interesting article about drone light shows, check out this site: <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c79ewz7qej4o>



This passage is about shopping. It is full of idioms. Do you know their meanings? Select the correct definition for each idiom from the list below:

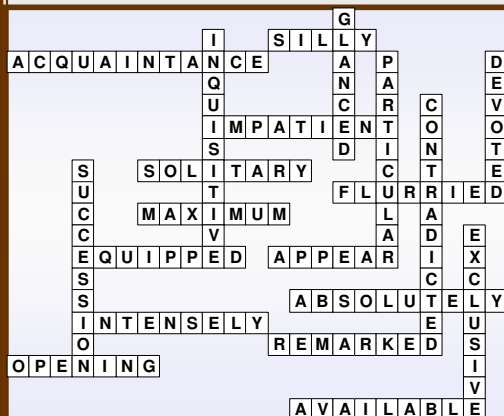
Last weekend I went shopping early, hoping to (1) **snag a bargain** before the crowds arrived. My favorite boutique was having a sale and the discounts were (2) **a steal**—designer shoes for half the price! I couldn't resist and so I (3) **splashed out on** a new coat, even though it (4) **cost an arm and a leg**. Still, I figured it was worth it for the quality.

My friend mentioned that it looked like I'd (5) **broken the bank**, but I just laughed. I'd been (6) **tightening my belt** for months, so I thought it was time to (7) **treat myself**. I even picked up a few items I really had no need of—a candle, some earrings—little things that (8) **caught my eye**.

My friend was (9) **green with envy** when she saw what I had brought home from the boutique. Admiring my purchases, she said it looked like I'd (10) **gotten the best bang for my bucks**. Sure, I agreed, but secretly I knew I'd be (11) **living on a shoestring** for a while. But it was totally worth it! Sometimes, you just have to (12) **let the credit card do the talking**!



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|---|---|
| <p>(1) A. A quick purchase at a good price.<br/>B. Not an honest deal.</p> <p>(2) A. To rob someone.<br/>B. A good bargain at very low price.</p> <p>(3) A. Jump into a swimming pool.<br/>B. Spend a lot of money.</p> <p>(4) A. Very cheap.<br/>B. Very expensive.</p> <p>(5) A. Spend more money than you can afford.<br/>B. Take out a bank loan.</p> <p>(6) A. Spend less money and save.<br/>B. Go on a diet.</p> | <p>(7) A. Eat some candy.<br/>B. Do something to please yourself.</p> <p>(8) A. Something has attracted your attention.<br/>B. Something blocks your vision.</p> <p>(9) A. Very jealous.<br/>B. Feeling sea-sick.</p> <p>(10) A. Great value for the money you spend.<br/>B. Get into financial problems.</p> <p>(11) A. Selling shoe strings for a living.<br/>B. Surviving on very little money.</p> <p>(12) A. Pay without using a credit card.<br/>B. Spend without thinking too seriously.</p> |
|---|---|



## ACROSS

- 3 foolish  
4 relationship less than a friendship  
8 annoyed, irritated  
10 being alone  
11 move in an agitated or confused manner  
12 greatest, largest  
14 provided with  
15 seem to be so  
16 completely  
17 to a great degree  
18 made a comment on  
19 the first move in a chess game  
20 obtainable or accessible

## Last Month's puzzle Solution

## DOWN

- 1 take a quick look  
2 curious, asking questions  
5 unique, special  
6 dedicated exclusively to  
7 being against  
9 follow on thing after another  
13 not shared with or open to others



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