

# CrossTalk

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter July, 2025

## Summer Remedies

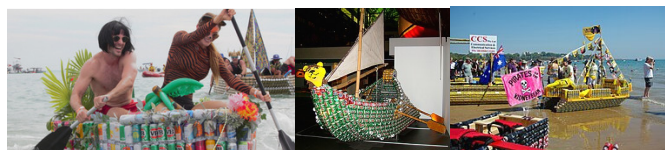
Have you noticed how hot it is this summer? Silly question, huh? The real question is what to do about it? Well, here are a few suggestions from around the world that might offer a solution – if you're willing to try them....

Everyone knows Australia is a hot place, and during summer up north in Darwin, it gets *really* hot. So, the locals decided to thumb their noses at the sun and have some fun.

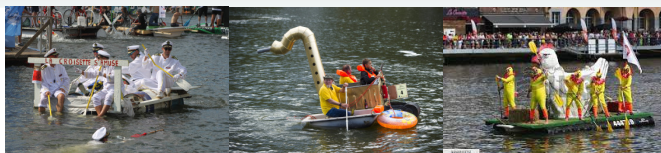
At first the solution was, in the best Australian tradition, simple; drink lots of beer. Beer has a cooling effect (they drink it chilled in Australia) and by the time you've finished 4 or 5 cans, you really don't notice the heat any more. This was an excellent remedy, but it had a negative side-effect - hundreds of empty beer-cans were being left all over the place, on footpaths, on roads, in parks and in other recreational areas. Darwin was getting a bad reputation!

So in 1974 the Darwin Local Tourist Promotion Association came up with a solution to the beer-can litter problem; they organized a beer-can regatta! That's right, they invited competitors to race in boats made out of empty, discarded beer-cans. This event has been held annually ever since, attracting crowds of up to 15,000 spectators each year, and the place now looks much cleaner, too!

If you want to learn how to make a beer-can boat, go here: <https://beercanregatta.org.au/boat-construction/>



But Australia is not the only place where the summer heat becomes intolerable. The Belgians have a similar solution for this problem – a *bathtub* regatta! On August 15th every year, participants compete in the 1km Régate de Baignoires down the Meuse River in Dinant (about 100Km from Brussels), something they have been doing regularly since 1982.



If you're thinking of entering this race, the rules are very simple: your "boat" must have a bathtub somewhere in its design and must be manually-propelled – no motors allowed!

There is no limit on the number of "crew-members" each craft can have, nor is there any limit on the designs used to augment each bathtub, so long as a tub is part of that design.

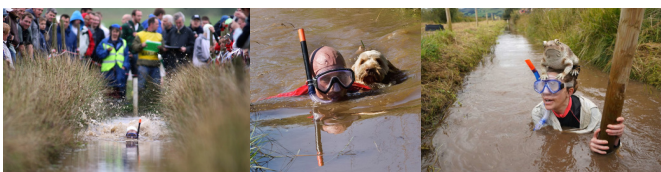
Each year about 50 tubs take part in this regatta and it attracts about 25,000 people, including "sailors" and spectators.

Then, for the really adventurous, every August there is the "World Bog Snorkelling Championship" at Llanwrtyd Wells in Wales, UK. This event has been held regularly since 1988 and it attracts enthusiasts from all over the world.

Competitors are required to complete two laps of a 55 meter long water-filled trench that organizers have cut through a peat bog. They are not allowed to "swim" in the conventional sense; rather they are restricted to leg-power only. They are permitted to wear snorkels, masks and flippers. A wetsuit is optional. Each competitor enters the bog-trench alone and the winner is the one who finishes the two laps in the shortest time.

This event is hugely popular, and attracts 100's of spectators, volunteers (to help set it up) and competitors every year.

And what is a peat bog, you may ask? Dark, smelly, muddy water full of all kinds of creepy-crawlies. Can't wait to get there, right?



## Net News

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

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

For some more weird festivals try this site:

<https://www.buzzfeed.com/palakmadlani/17-unique-festivals-from-around-the-world>

## *Some Thoughts for the Month*

**Joshua:** Our meeting last month with Representative Akihisa Shiozaki was a real eye-opener. I could not have been more pleased with the way everyone reacted in the situation. I don't think there was a single participant who did not have a question to ask him, in English! His answers were also in English (native level at that). One might have thought we were not even in Japan, the impression was so natural with everyone speaking in clear English. Congratulations to all who attended!

**Junko Says:** Some of our students who joined our recent event had a chance to speak English with Congressman Akihisa Shiozaki, who is well-known as an excellent English speaker. He sincerely answered the participants' many questions in English clearly in sound and content. Everyone was right there in the meeting and encouraged each other to ask questions concerning their personal interests. We hope this experience will inspire everyone to continue improving their English.

**Marek Says:** In keeping with the topic of the main article, some of the more common ways of cooling oneself up, in European countries, is jumping into lakes and rivers; wearing a towel or a t-shirt dipped in a town centre fountain; wearing only shorts, and cooling down in shopping malls and air-conditioned public spaces. Naturally, I never had that problem in Scotland, but that increasingly ceases to be the case.

**Mandcy dit:** L'été est déjà arrivé !!! Et il fera tres chaud cette année. Voici les habitudes des francais en été : on boit des boissons avec beaucoup de glacons, idéalement de la limonade et du sirop : le diabolo ouvde la biere et de la limonade : le panaché. Puis, On ajoute des fruits coupé en tranches dans la carafe d eau. Et enfin, on utilise le brumisateu pour hydrater la peau. Cet été, restez au frais !!

**Find**

1 a way to solve a problem  
3 foot-wear for swimming  
4 possible but not necessary  
7 bold, daring  
8 people who man a vehicle  
13 harmful  
14 enlarge, add to  
15 caused to move  
16 occurring at fixed intervals  
17 an event for racing boats  
18 wet spongy ground  
19 a long ditch in the ground

## DOWN

1 swimming with a tube for breathing  
2 thrown away  
5 carbonized vegetable matter  
6 for refreshing, relaxing  
9 solution  
10 sharing in a group activity  
11 unbearable, not endurable  
12 by hand (print version he

## A Special Event was held at Crossroads last month on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

We had an informal meeting with Representative Akihisa Shiozaki who spoke with us on various topics of interest. "The house was full", and it was especially satisfying to see that everyone in attendance actually joined in and asked many questions, in English....., and with no sign of hesitation! And his answers were in (perfect) English also! The goal was to instill a greater level of confidence in communicating in English for our students, and it worked!

Many thanks,  
Akihisa!!



Here are some very common English mistakes we hear all the time. You have a choice of two. Cross out the incorrect sentence in each case.

I visited Fuji last weekend.

I have visited Fiji last weekend.

The new guy which works here is from America.

The new guy who works here is from America.

She's married with a professor.

She's married to a professor.

She got bored watching that movie.

She got boring watching that movie.

I must to call him immediately.

I must call him immediately.

Every audiences liked their performance.

Everyone in the audience liked their performance.

Although it was raining, we continued to play.

Although it was raining, but we continued to play.

I look forward to meet her.

I look forward to meeting her.

Where I can find a bank?

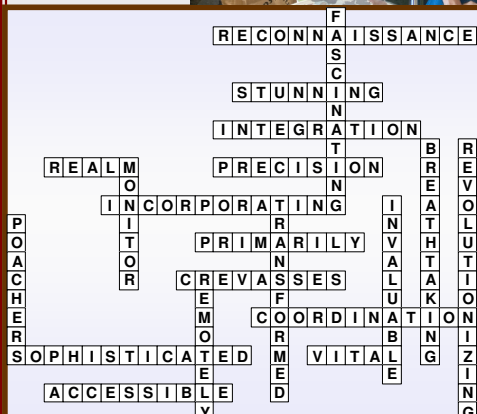
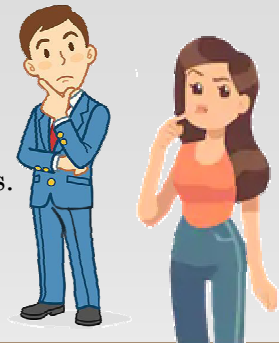
Where can I find a bank?

He comes from the United States.

He comes from United States.

When I will arrive, I'll call you.

When I arrive, I'll call you.



### ACROSS

- 2 searching for information
- 3 astonishing, amazing
- 4 mixing, combining into one
- 7 a field of interest
- 9 precise, highly accurate
- 10 including, joining together
- 14 for mainly
- 15 deep ravine
- 17 organizing, working together
- 18 intellectually appealing
- 19 absolutely necessary
- 20 easily obtained

### Last Month's puzzle Solution

### DOWN

- 1 captivatingly interesting
- 5 overwhelming, amazing
- 6 reforming, modernizing
- 8 keep under surveillance
- 11 changed or altered in some way
- 12 priceless
- 13 people who hunt illegally
- 16 from a distance, without physical contact



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