

# CrossTalk

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter September, 2025

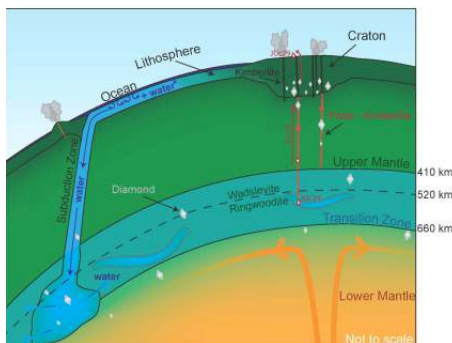
## Walking on Water

You are walking on water! ....No, not in the biblical sense, of course, but water is underneath every step you take. It can even be claimed that you are “floating” on it, whether you are sitting, sleeping, or walking. “How so?”

The idea of a subterranean ocean, it turns out, is not so strange, or even new. Jules Verne envisaged the existence of an ocean deep within the earth way back in 1864. In his novel, “*Journey to the Center of the Earth*,” he took his fictional protagonists on a fantastic adventure deep beneath the Earth’s crust. At one point in their journey they entered an unimaginably vast cavern containing an immense ocean.

Verne imagined this subterranean ocean to be like the oceans on the Earth’s surface. Although such an ocean could not literally be possible deep within the Earth, according to recent scientific findings, Verne’s ocean may yet be closer to the truth than anyone (except Verne) could have imagined.

Scientists now say that hidden in the Earth’s mantle, some 700 kilometers below the surface at a depth where diamonds are formed, a reservoir of water exists estimated by some to be as much as three times the volume of all the oceans on Earth’s surface combined! It is not the sloshing, gushing liquid Verne envisioned, and it has no resemblance to the oceans that we are familiar with on the Earth’s surface. But it *is* water. Lots of it!



So, what does this under Earth “water” look like?

These are images of synthesized ringwoodite.

On the Earth’s surface, natural ringwoodite is very rare, but, apparently, abundant deep within the Earth. It is a blue mineral that forms under immense pressure and extreme heat and, it is believed, holds a vast volume of water locked within it.

Recently, traces of ringwoodite were found in some diamonds in Brazil that are believed to have been forced to the surface by volcanic activity. One theory suggests that all of the Earth’s surface water comes from this hidden reservoir deep within the Earth and, over millions of years, has surfaced to form our oceans, lakes and rivers. In turn, surface water is returned to the mantle via plate tectonics, so the volume on the surface remains constant while this process continues.

Now, here’s a thought: Forget about climate change and rising sea levels; if all the water below us, trapped in this ringwoodite, should decided to stay on the Earth’s surface once it gets there, a huge percentage of the Earth’s landmass would be inundated and the only places where it would be possible for us to live would be on mountain tops!

## Net News

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

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

Go here for more on our under earth “ocien”:

<https://ssec.si.edu/stemvisions-blog/there-ocean-below-your-feet>

# Some Thoughts for the Month



**Joshua:** “Knowledge without understanding.” This is a concept that had me thinking seriously about what might be wrong with the general approach to education. The standards applied to “education” are still based on imparting and retaining “knowledge,” with little concern for understanding the knowledge that is being retained. Then, I thought, isn’t this how AI translation software is designed - great knowledge of the target language, but very little understanding? Is this why it is, and always will be, less than perfect?

**Junko Says:** Last month, I wrote about creating original English stories using ChatGPT to encourage you to read more. “Comprehensive Input” is the key; i.e., reading books that are slightly above your current level. When you ask Chat to write something for you, use the CEFR six-level system (A1 beginner, to C2 advanced) plus the number of words you’d like Chat to use. For example, you might ask Chat to “write a short story based on ‘Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire’ at the A2 level with 1,000 words. Read on and on....



**Marek Says:** It is already mid-September, and the scorching heat shows no signs of relenting. Many of my students remarked that this year is marginally warmer and the heat persists longer than in the previous year. It’s fair to say that we are all looking forward to a much-needed break in the weather, temperature-wise, ideally without the typhoons. Even the evenings, which usually offer some relief, remain oppressively warm. The seasonal shift feels delayed, as if summer is unwilling to loosen its grip.

**Mandey dit:** Ca y est, c’est la rentrée, c’est le moment pour les enfants de faire leur rentrée des classes, les auteurs font leur rentrée littéraire et les policiers font leur rentrée politique. Mais aussi, les citoyens. Après de bonnes et longues vacances d’été, ils sont pleins d’énergie ..... pour faire la grève !! En effet. Le premier Ministre français a quitté son poste récemment, parce qu’il a perdu le vote de confiance. Il est vrai que ces dernières années la hausse des prix et la baisse du pouvoir d’achat motivent les français à manifester pour obtenir plus de droits et de confort. Bonne rentrée à tous !!



## ACROSS

- 2 main characters in a novel
- 6 outer layer of the earth
- 7 a mental image
- 8 a great quantity of something
- 13 a lake or large tank for storing water
- 16 a layer beneath the crust
- 18 covered with water
- 19 a rapid flow or spurt
- 20 results, answers

## DOWN

- 1 unchanging
- 3 similar in appearance
- 4 made by combining different elements
- 5 a large cave
- 9 under the earth’s surface
- 10 imagined, not real
- 11 far greater than normal
- 12 spilling, splashing
- 14 great in size
- 15 unable to see
- 17 great in size

**Play A Game!**  
Find the answers on P1



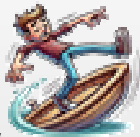
([print version here](#))

To go with this month's P1 theme, here are some sea/water idioms. See if you can pick the correct meaning in each case:

- You're *in deep water*:**
1. You should try the shallow end of the pool first.
  2. You're in serious trouble, or in a difficult situation.
  3. You're not thinking clearly.



- Don't rock the boat:**
1. Don't cause trouble.
  2. Don't give up. Do your best.
  3. Don't say what you don't mean.



- Weather the storm:**
1. Be sure of your plans before trying them out.
  2. Survive a tough situation.
  3. Prepare yourself before the situation gets difficult.



- A whale of a time:**
1. Don't eat too much food at one meal.
  2. Greatly enjoying something.
  3. Taking more than your share of something.



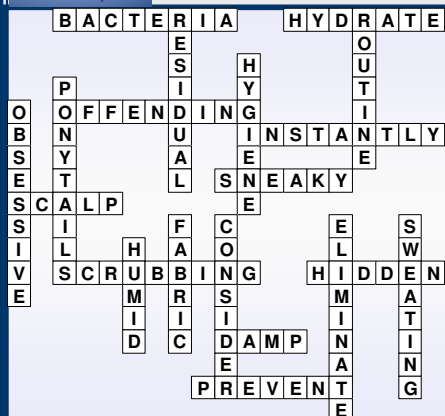
- Cast adrift:**
1. Thinking outside the box, coming up with unique ideas.
  2. Walking away from a chance to succeed.
  3. Left alone, unsupported, abandoned.



- Smooth Sailing:**
1. Easy progress, no problems.
  2. Go slowly and carefully and you'll be OK.
  3. Keep focused on your long-term goals.



- A drop in the ocean:**
1. Overdoing things, even a little, can lead to failure.
  2. Know when you've had enough, know your limit.
  3. Insignificant, unimportant.



## Last Month's puzzle Solution

### ACROSS

- 1 microorganisms, germs
- 3 containing or adding water
- 8 causing displeasure
- 9 without delay
- 10 quiet, secretive
- 11 skin that covers the head
- 17 clean by brushing hard
- 18 something you can't see
- 19 slight wetness
- 20 keep from happening

### DOWN

- 2 remaining, left over
- 4 repetitive, unvarying habit
- 5 clean
- 6 a hair style
- 7 compulsive behavior
- 12 types of cloth
- 13 think carefully
- 14 bring to an end, get rid of
- 15 wet with perspiration
- 16 containing a lot of water



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

Ask Junko in our office, for the details.