

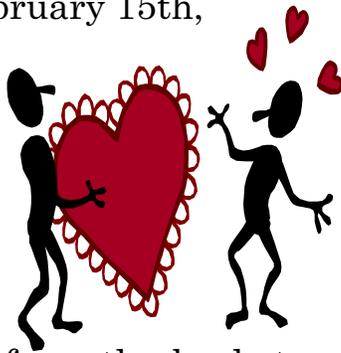
# CrossTalk

February The Newsletter of **CROSSROADS** Language Studio 2003

## The Month for Love

On February 14<sup>th</sup>, there is a holiday called Valentine's Day. It is a day for **romance**, gifts, and love. But how did it begin?

In **ancient** Rome, on February 15<sup>th</sup>, there was a **festival** for a **Goddess** named Juno. During this festival, the names of girls were written on paper and put in a **basket**. Then, each young man would pick the name of a girl from the basket. The boy and girl stayed together as a **couple** for the rest of the year!



There are many old **beliefs** and **customs** about Valentine's Day. For Example:

♥ 1,000 years ago, people thought birds **picked** their **mates** on February 14<sup>th</sup>, and if a woman saw a bird flying on that day, she would know who she was going to marry.

If she saw a *robin*, she would marry a **sailor**. If she saw a *sparrow*, she would marry a poor man but be very happy.

If she saw a *goldfinch*, she would marry a **millionaire**!

♥ In the Middle Ages, people believed if you cut an apple in half and counted the seeds, you would know how many children you would have!

♥ In the country of Wales, wooden keys and **keyholes** were made and given to loved ones. This meant, "you **unlock** my heart."

People began giving flowers on Valentine's Day in the 17<sup>th</sup> century when a daughter of the King of France gave a party in honor of Saint Valentine. Each lady at the party got flowers from the man chosen as valentine.

Today, **affection** by chocolates



You can romantic

people show giving flowers, and valentine each other.

celebrate this holiday at CROSSROADS' Valentine's Party. It's Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup> from 9-11pm at CROSSROADS.

♥ HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY! ♥

## GLOSSARY (These words are in Purple in the story)

romance = ロマンズ  
Goddess = 女神  
beliefs = 信念・考え  
mates = 連れ合い  
keyholes = 鍵穴

ancient = 古代の  
basket = かご  
customs = 慣習  
sailor = 船乗り  
unlock = 鍵を開ける

festival = お祭り  
couple = 恋人同士  
picked = 拾い上げた  
millionaire = 億万長者  
affection = 愛情

# A Word From Us



**Joshua Says:** Last month's peace conference in Matsuyama reminds me that English is the language of peace. Why do I believe that? Because countries that do business together don't go to war against each other. English is now the language of international business, so doing international business in English spreads peace!

**Junko Says:** It is interesting to me that in Europe, more people speak English than in Japan. Why do you think that is true? In the past, Japan was isolated from the West. But today there is a lot of tourism and business between East and West. I hope soon, all Japanese people will start to speak English as well as Europeans!



**Joanna Says:** Happy New Year! I went back to England for a few weeks and had a great time seeing my family and friends again. I ate an enormous Turkey for Christmas and a lot of roast potatoes. I also drank plenty of wine to keep me warm! If you want to see a picture of the Turkey I ate – let me know!

**Drew Says:** I am very lucky because many musicians in Matsuyama let me play drums with them in jazz clubs here, so I bought a drum set last month because playing music is like speaking English - you have to practice to improve! If you play an instrument, maybe we can play together sometime.



**Tamara Says:** Last month I bought special shoes to help me dance to Flamenco music. Flamenco comes from southern Spain and is a very emotional type of folk dance. There will be a Flamenco show in Matsuyama in March. If you would like to see it, let me know and I will give you more information.

**Greg Says:** Happy Valentine's Day! I hope you all have a special person in your heart to share the holiday with. I'm happy to have *two* special people in my life - my wife, and my little daughter. Whether you give flowers, chocolates or a Valentine's card, show someone how you feel about them on February 14<sup>th</sup>.



**Peter Says:** In January, I went to Nagano. I had a great time snowboarding and travelling around the area. I saw many interesting sites including the big ski jump that was built for the Olympics. It was also very fun meeting all the foreigners who were there!

**Yuka Says:** I want to tell you about a very interesting book I read. It's called "Fantastic Mr. Fox." It's written by Roald Dahl. The book was a gift from Joanna! It's a book for children, but I enjoyed it very much. The pictures are cute and funny. And how clever the fox is! I know you will love reading it, too!



# A Word From You

**Kazuko Ishimaru**  
and her Shiba-dog  
“Lucky”



**NEW PETS  
FOR 2  
STUDENTS!**



**Saori Kakiuchi**  
and her Chihuahua  
“Mamme”

**Sakiko Ochi Says:** My school had a marathon festival. I had to run 3 kilometers. It was a lot of hard work to get ready for it but I had a fun time!

**Mika Kaida Says:** I had a wisdom tooth pulled out on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January. The doctor was skillful, so I had no pain and my mouth did not swell...so I was lucky!!

## Easy English Lesson

‘USED TO’ has two important meanings:

- 1.) Something you did in the past, but not now.
  - a). I **used to** smoke, but I stopped last year.
  - b). Tom **used to** like Mary, now he likes Ann.
- 2.) Something that was strange for you in the beginning, but now is comfortable for you.
  - a). I didn't like sushi, but now I'm **used to** it.
  - b). Are you **used to** Japan's cold winters yet?

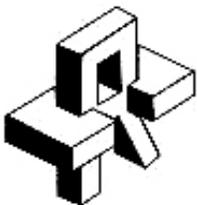
**Do you have a question? Please ask us!**

## Net News

**NET LESSONS:** Are you too busy to come to CROSSROADS for English lessons? Try our lessons *on the internet!* It's CROSSROADS in **your home!** You get CROSSROADS' great teachers, materials, even classmates, *on-line!* Call now for information.

**NET SITE OF THE MONTH:** Chocolate is a popular Valentine's gift. Learn **everything** about it at: [-www.exploratorium.edu/chocolate](http://www.exploratorium.edu/chocolate)

**NET NOTEBOOK:** Check out the internet activity notebook in our open-house. You'll find games, internet news and English learning sites.



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