

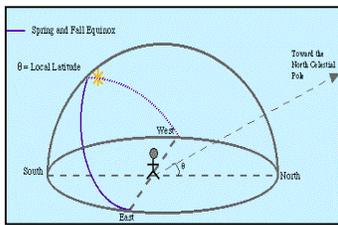
# CrossTalk

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

## Spring is Here!

The first day of spring is March 21<sup>st</sup>. On that **date**, night and day are **exactly** 12 hours long.

Also on the sun **precisely** East and down in the



that date, comes up in the goes precisely West.

This day is called the “Spring Equinox” (ee-kwin-ox) and is **officially** the end of winter. Days start to become longer, and warmer.

But spring is more than just another **season**. Spring is a special time that **inspires poets, painters, musicians** ...and lovers!

In spring, **nature** comes to life.

Flowers **replace frost**, trees are filled with the songs of birds, and **forest** animals wake-up from a long winter sleep.

The most romantic holiday, Valentine’s Day, is in February, but love really **blooms** in spring

people become often

There are also many holidays in spring such as St. Patrick’s Day which is on March, 17<sup>th</sup>; Easter on April 20<sup>th</sup> and of course, the month long holiday Sakura Matsuri starting on March 20<sup>th</sup> in Japan.

Most American universities have “spring break” during March. “Spring break” is famous for the **wild** parties, drinking - and sometimes trouble - students get into during their vacations!

Whatever *you* do this spring, have fun!



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

**date** = 日付

**officially** = 公式に

**poets** = 詩人

**nature** = 自然

**bloom** = (花が)咲く

**exactly** = 正確に

**season** = 季節

**painters** = 画家

**frost** = 霜

**wild** = 大騒ぎの

**precisely** = 正確に

**inspire** = 奮い立たせる

**musicians** = 音楽家

**forest** = 森

**replace** = ~にとって代わる

# A Word From Us



**Joshua Says:** English is Japanese! Does that sound strange? Most Japanese people think of English as “foreign”. But because it is Japan’s second language, you can simply think of it as *another* Japanese language. How easy it will be to learn English now that you know it’s simply a different kind of Japanese!

**Junko Says:** “Good Luck!” to our teacher Peter. Beginning in March, he will not be at CROSSROADS for a while. He has many exciting things planned for the next few months including a trip back to his home country, Poland! *Goodbye, Peter. Hope to see you soon!* – from everyone at CROSSROADS!



**Joanna Says:** I’ve been enjoying the end of winter, and eating a lot of delicious winter food before the hot weather comes! The other day I tried something called Motsu, which I think is cow intestine. It was delicious, but I found it difficult not to think about where it came from! Urrrghh!!

**Drew Says:** Maybe you won’t recognize me when you see me this month because I cut my hair *very* short. I like to cut it short about twice a year. It’s much easier to take care of and healthy for your head. Also, I save lots of money on haircuts!



**Tamara Says:** Have you ever noticed how everything smells different in the spring? That’s one thing I really miss about Canada. Once the snow has melted, birds return, flowers begin to bloom again, and the grass starts to turn green. The smell of freshly cut grass is something everyone should experience.

**Greg Says:** Last month, I tried a few restaurants for the first time and they were all delicious! The Yamatoya Hotel in Dogo was excellent. The food was great, and the sake was even better. Best of all, I went with a group of college students and they paid for everything!



**Yuka Says:** I’ve just begun taking lessons in pastel painting. It’s really fun to draw pictures. I’m still poor at painting, but I have painted a lot of beautiful flowers. Doing something completely different from ordinary life makes me feel refreshed so why don’t you try something new?

# A Word From You

**Yukiko Tamai Says:** I went to Italy recently. I went to five cities in one week! My favorite places were Florence and Venice. I saw a beautiful view of Florence from Michael Angelo Square, and I rode on a gondola in Venice!



**Akiko Kawabata Says:** I just returned from a trip to Spain. I expected the weather to be very cold but it was actually really warm! I recommend that everyone visit Spain at least once!

**Elijah Ochi:** Maybe you saw me play flute at the Christmas party last year. Well, I've begun to study jazz theory so I can be even better at the *next* Christmas party. I hope to play for you then!

## Student News

### Congratulations To:

Yoko Hattori – passed her entrance exam and will begin studying business at Litsumeikam University next April.

Tomomi Ninomiya – graduated from Matsuyama East High School on March 1<sup>st</sup>. She hopes to study biology at Kyushu University.

## Easy English Lesson

In English, a word for an “action” is called a verb. Some verbs are *irregular*.

For example:

**Present:** do go am have speak

**Past:** did went was had spoke

In English a word for a “thing” is called a noun. Some nouns are *irregular*.

For example:

**Singular:** (Only One):

person foot man fish

**Plural:** (Two or more.):

people feet men fish

Improve your English - learn all the irregulars!

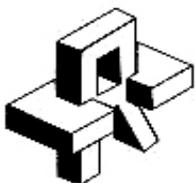
## Net News

**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, all *on-line*! Call now for more information.

### NET SITE OF THE MONTH:

St Patrick's day is March 17<sup>th</sup>. Learn more at [www.holidayspot.com/patrick/index.htm](http://www.holidayspot.com/patrick/index.htm)

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



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