

CrossTalk

January CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter 2004

Monkey Magic!



This month we enter the year of the monkey. People who are born in this year are thought to be **clever** and **skillful** – just like real monkeys. So why don't we take a look at some of history's most famous monkeys.

Let's start with a little **squirrel** monkey called Gordo. Gordo was a NASA 'Ape-O-Naut', and he was the first **ape** to go into space. He flew on the Jupiter AM-13 mission in 1958, but the **shuttle** had been designed to **sink** after coming back to earth, and so unfortunately Gordo died after the flight was completed.



Then there is Koko the gorilla, who is one of the most highly **educated** apes ever. She talks with humans through sign language, using over 1000 different signs to communicate **complex** questions and sentences. She also uses computers and takes photographs.

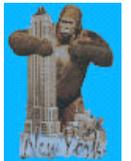


Koko's niece is also very famous. Her name is Binti-Jua, which means 'daughter of sunshine' in **Kiswahili**.

Binti-Jua became famous after she rescued a young boy who fell into her **enclosure** at Chicago zoo.

The 3-year old boy fell 18ft onto the concrete floor of the gorilla pit, hit his head and was knocked **unconscious**. Binti-Jua gently picked him up and carried him to the door of the enclosure, where the zookeepers could easily reach him. Someone **captured** the moment on video, and people around the world were touched by the gorilla's actions. The boy made a complete **recovery**.

Finally, there is the most famous monkey of them all – King Kong! King Kong is famous for **kidnapping** a young, beautiful lady, who he later developed a big **crush** on. He was then caught by humans and taken to New York to be displayed to the public. However, King Kong escaped, found his lady again and climbed the Empire state building. He fell to his death, but came back again 30 years later to fight Godzilla!



Do you know any other famous monkeys?

Glossary

(These words are in **color** in the story)

clever 賢い	skillful 熟練した	squirrel リス(リスザル)
ape 無尾猿(ゴリラ、チンパンジー、オラウータンなど)	shuttle シャトル	
sink 沈む	educated 教育された	complex 複雑な
enclosure 囲い(檻)	unconscious 意識不明	captured とらえた
kidnapping 誘拐すること	crush のぼせあがる	recovery 回復
		Kiswahili スワヒリ語

A Word From Us



Joshua Says: Well, another year has come and gone. As well as being the first month of the year, this month marks the first anniversary of the new format of our Newsletter. I hope you have all been enjoying the articles and games that come out each month. We look forward to more of your input as well in the issues to come! Happy New Year and lots of success with your English studies during this year.

Junko Says: Happy new year, everyone! I hope you all had a great holiday, and a nice rest! We all had a good time at the *Crossroads* Christmas party, so thank you to everyone who came. It was nice to see all of you looking so relaxed and happy. It was especially nice to hear everyone chatting in English! Good luck with your studies this year, and keep up the good work!



Joanna Says: Well...after more than two wonderful years in Matsuyama, I've finally decided to go back to England. I'd like to be closer to my family again, and also my boat! I'm going to miss all my friends, students and everyone at Crossroads very much – you have all made the last two years very special for me. I'll also miss karaoke boxes, Udon noodles, nabe and the deer of Miyajima. Goodbye everyone, and thank you for making me feel so welcome.



Grace Says: Hooray for surviving my first month in Matsuyama!! I would like to thank everyone for welcoming me and giving me lots of useful tips on living in Matsuyama. One of my strongest first impressions of Matsuyama is of the crazy drivers! I'm learning to keep my eyes open at all times for cars, especially when I'm riding around on my bicycle. Don't be surprised if I come to school one day in a cast!



Greg Says: Happy New Year! I had a great new year with my family in Australia. I went to Sydney for 3 weeks, and enjoyed spending my Christmas in the sun. It was about 38 degrees for most of the time I was there, so my Christmas dinner was barbeque food and a cold beer!



Tamara Says: I can't believe it's 2004 already! 2003 sure went by quickly. It doesn't seem a year ago that I was sitting at Ishite temple, freezing, and ringing in 2003. Now, here I am in Canada, sitting in Prince Albert, freezing and ringing in 2004! The big question now is 'What's your New Years Resolution?' I decided mine last November – to travel lighter! That means fewer suitcases with less stuff in them. I can't wait for my next trip to see how well I do!



Yuka Says: Happy New Year, everyone! Have you made any New Year resolutions for this year? I have – and here they are:
Learn to swim, cut down on sweets; Get up early, and read more books; Go on a trip, and meet more people;
These are the things I'd like to do this year!



A Word From You

Mika says: I am going to Canada to study English from January 16th to February 16th. While I am there, I would like to meet my friend Fumi who lives in Vancouver. I am hoping to have a great time in Canada so, I'll do my best there!



Kaori says: On December 14th my Kendo club's team entered a competition in Hiroshima. It is a young team, and contrary to our expectations they won!!!! It was the first time in our club's history, so everyone was happy! It was wonderful for us to see them do their best, and to cheer for them.



Notice Board

Happy New Year, Everyone!
Congratulations to;
Mika – Who has found a homestay placement in Canada for a month!
Have fun!

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 for details.

NET SITE OF THE MONTH: Check out your Chinese zodiac sign at the link below;
<http://www.chinatoday.com/culture/zodiac/zodiac.htm>

NET NOTEBOOK: Take a look at the internet activity notebook in our open-house. You'll find games, news and English learning sites.

Easy English Lesson

To space out

This verb has two different meanings in today's English; Firstly, it means to place things, leaving a space between each one.

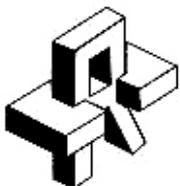
For example;

“The chairs are too close together. Can you **space them out** a little bit, please?”

Secondly, it's used to describe someone who is daydreaming, or whose attention is not in the room.

For example;

“Bob hasn't said anything for an hour. I think he's **spacing out!**”



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