

# Cross Talk

September CROSSWORDS Language Studio's Newsletter 2006

## Believe it or not!

As this is Halloween month, let's take a peek at the "off-beat" side of the world around us. Following are a few of life's more unusual "mysteries":

1. Many believe that we humans use only 10 percent of our brains; an idea that has been around for at least a century. Well, scientific research has now proved that this is just not so. We use most, if not all, of our brain all of the time, even when we're asleep! Of course, it often *seems* as though we only use 10% of our brains, most of the time...



2. This is especially **relevant** when we consider the next item. It has been a common **assumption** that brain cells stop growing when we become adults. Not true say the scientists. Yes, most of our brain cells grow during the **developmental** period of childhood, but they continue to grow in adults too. Hard to believe this one, isn't it?!

3. "Chickens can live without a head" (like most *people* – no, no, just kidding!). This is actually true in many cases, and not just for a few minutes! Cut a chicken's head off and it can continue to **stagger** around because the brain stem is often left **partially** intact. It is even claimed that one tough old bird (his name was "Mike") was observed to live for *eighteen months* after being beheaded! How on earth did he manage to eat?!



4. "Lightning never strikes the same place twice". Really? Lightning, in fact favors certain spots, particularly high locations. The Empire State Building in NY is struck about 25 times every year! Duck!!

5. "Cats always land on their feet". This is absolutely true, mostly... From a height this is so, but if a cat is held upside-down and dropped from only about 30cms or less they have no time to **flip** over and, so....



Now please, do not try this on your pet at home!

6. "There is no gravity in space". Actually, there is no such thing as "zero-gravity". Gravity is everywhere, even in space. Pictures taken of astronauts make them "look" weightless because they are in continuous freefall towards the Earth.

7. "Hair and fingernails continue growing after death." (Well, we did remind you that this is Halloween month...) Some people have observed that the hair and fingernails of their dearly departed continue to grow after death, but this is merely a **creepy** illusion. What is really happening is that poor old granny's body is **dehydrating** and her skin is actually **contracting**, exposing extra nail and hair which take longer to be effected by her present state of "un-well-being".

And, so with that, happy Halloween everyone!



## Glossary

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

**relevant** 関連している  
**stagger** よろよろ歩く  
**creepy** 気味の悪い

**assumption** 仮説  
**partially** 部分的に  
**dehydrating** 脱水していく

**developmental** 発育の  
**flip** ひっくり返る  
**contracting** 縮んでいく

# A Word From Us



**Joshua Says:** There is another great development coming for Crossroads next month. Although not new for us, it is really exciting to think that we are going to get back into our old term rhythm of having a “Performance Night” at the end of each term. I think the effort of all the students and teachers involved is fabulous and I am very much looking forward to this event. Check out the details on P3.

**Junko Says:** Last month I spoke about our new “library Cards”. They are now ready to hand out, so please collect yours from me in the office. Many of you have already requested these and I am please to see so much interest in the library. Reading English books, magazines, etc, at home can only help you to become better speakers of English; so, keep up the good work!



**Alice Says:** I’ve been in Matsuyama for almost 2 months now and I’m really enjoying it! I visited Matsuyama Castle and the beach on Hojo. I also got up at 5 o’clock in the morning to see the amazing autumn festival in Dogo! I took lots of photos to send to my friends and family in the UK. They were very interested to see them! My favourite thing about Matsutama so far is the clear blue sky – it’s beautiful!

**Iain Says:** Over the last month I have had a great time exploring the mountains of Matsuyama on my bicycle. I have been here for over a year and I can’t believe I missed the beautiful countryside just a short ride outside of town. I like to go up route 317 past the dam to Mt. Takanawa. If you want to see the route on your computer you can see it really well with “Google Earth.” Google Earth is a fantastic program that lets you see aerial pictures of many places all over the world. It’s free, so download it and check it out!



**Greg Says:** Did anyone get out and about during Halloween? I know it isn’t celebrated in Japan but there were a few costume parties throughout Matsuyama. Have you ever been to a fancy dress party? If you have why don’t you put your picture in next months Crossroads newsletter. Several years ago I went to a friend’s fancy dress party at his school dressed really scary with blood and skin hanging off me.....but he forget to tell me it was a kids party. The kids were crying and I had to take off the costume.

**Adrienne Says:** At the end of last night’s dinner, my youngest son (age 14) said “delicious” in Japanese. I was very pleased because my son rarely complements my cooking. But, my pleasure turned to disappointment when he said, “the *natto* was delicious”...



**Dean Says:** As the cooler weather draws closer, I find myself spending more and more time indoors. I had my last swim for the year in middle of this month in the Shimanto River; quite cold, but very refreshing! So, more time indoors and less activity means it’s time to watch our figures. Thank goodness for yoga!!

**William Says:** The autumn colors are slow to arrive in Ehime this year. The weather continues to be very warm and quite beautiful. Recently, I have been up to Takanawa Mountain and the leaves are yet to change. This Sunday I will gather with some friends and hike up Saraganmine Mountain. Perhaps there I will see the splendid oranges and reds of the Japanese autumn.



**Yuka Says:** In last month’s Cross Talk, I told you that one of my hobbies was reading. I came across an interesting book recently that suggested reading English books can help improve your ability to speak English. The author says, “Read as many books as possible. Choose books that are easy to read, don’t use a dictionary and you will gradually acquire a sense of English. You’ll find yourself speaking English more fluently and naturally”. Do you think this is true? I do. Now I’m reading Ronald Dahl’s *The Twits*. It’s so funny!

# A Word From You

**Megumi Says:** Hello! I have been a student here for one year. I am studying to be a nurse in Shigenobu. I have many interests but I especially enjoy festivals. Every year in October I participate in the Autumn Festival. I really love the energy. We enjoy chanting and carrying the "Mikoshi" through the streets. We also enjoy lots of drinking. I even like to ride up on top of the Mikoshi. People think that girls who ride up there will never marry! But, I think it's OK..., maybe...



## Notice Board

# end-of-term performance night!

The end-of-term "performance Night" will be held at 8:00pm on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November at the school. Everyone is welcome to come along and bring your family and friends – even if you're not performing! There will be plays, music and magic by students *and* teachers. After, we will celebrate with party!

## Net News

### NET LESSONS:

Are you too busy to come to CROSSROADS to study? Try our *lessons on the internet* -- It's CROSSROADS in your home or office! You get CROSSROADS' great teachers, teaching programs, even classmates, *all on-line!* Call for details.

### NET SITE OF THE MONTH:

For the story of "Mike" the wonder-chicken, go to:  
<http://www.miketheheadlesschicken.org>

**NET NOTEBOOK:** Don't forget to take a look at the Internet activity notebook in our open-house. You'll find games, news and English learning sites.

### Courses you can take at CROSSROADS

#### GENERAL COURSES:

2 x's 60mins / week  
 1 x's 90mins / week  
 Private 1 x / week  
 Semi-Private 1 x /week

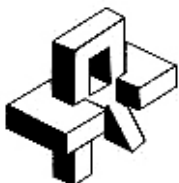
MOTHER & CHILD, group or private  
 KIDS, group or private

#### COSMOPOLITAN COURSES:

"Singing in English" with Alice  
 Yoga with Dean  
 Guitar with William  
 "Cooking in English" with Alice  
 "Magic English" with Iain  
 Piano with Adrienne  
 Acting with Alice

FRENCH with Natacha  
 SPANISH with Patricio  
 RUSSIAN with Natasha  
 GERMAN with Marita & Matthias  
 CHINESE with Noriko  
 KOREAN with Kim

**NETLESSONS:**  
 group or private



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