

CrossTalk

January CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter 2007

IT'S THE YEAR OF THE BOAR, PIG, SOW, SWINE, HOG, PORK, BACON, HAM...

2007 is the Year of the Boar. People born in this year are **reputed** to be pure of heart, generous and kind with tremendous "inner strength"; and, then there is my friend Claude...

Claude is the most *pig-headed* person you could ever meet! And dangerous too! When he's in his car, he's a regular *road-hog*; won't let anyone pass him on the highway.

One day, while *pigging out* at lunch and embarrassing a group of friends he was dining with, he got into an argument with one of the women in the group who told him he was a *male chauvinist pig!* He was very upset about this and, thinking it was unfair to say so, told the lady that she was talking *hogwash*. Tempers **flared** and the situation became very tense until one of the more level-headed members of the group started to *ham it up* while doing an **impersonation** of Claude losing his temper. This had the desired effect of turning the mood into one of fun and all the members started to laugh... all, that is, except Claude! He became even more **agitated** and **stomped** out of the restaurant telling the lady as he went that what she had to say was total *pig's arse!*

"Well", commented one of the guests as he left, "*you can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear.*"

"Yes", agreed one of the others, "and, when Claude gets going, he *goes the whole Hog*, doesn't he?!"

Claude, still upset, jumped into his car and **sped** off. He hit the highway



This is Claude on one of his better days.

On the highway, Claude wouldn't let any other driver get near him! If there was a car in front, he would speed up and overtake it. If one tried to do the same to him, he would speed up again, **swerve**, or do anything he could to **discourage** the other motorist from getting past him! Behind the wheel on that day, Claude went *hog wild!*

This behaviour finally caught the attention of the *pigs* who were on patrol along that particular stretch of highway and soon Claude could hear the sound of their siren closing in on him. Claude was forced to pull-over. The officer got out and walked over to Claude. Claude started to *sweat like a pig* as, in spite of his rough and ready character, he had never been in trouble with the law before. It looked like Claude's *bacon was well and truly cooked*.

Now, Claude is *ham fisted* at the best of times, and when, in his agitated mood, he turned to face the officer, he somehow caught his sleeve on part of the dashboard. This startled him and in his confusion, he began to *squeal like a stuck pig uncontrollably*.

"I have my rights", shouted Claude, along with many other **incomprehensible** expressions of his **frustration**.

The officer picking this up said **sarcastically**, "Yes, and *pigs might fly* too, but for now I'm going to write you a ticket. And if you want to *save your bacon* next time, I suggest you keep within the speed limit!"

HAPPY NEW YEAR Claude, and to all our students at **Crossroads too! And, drive carefully this year, please!!**

Glossary

(These words are in colour in the story)

reputed ~といわれている

flared めらめらと燃え上がる

impersonation 物まね

agitated 気持ちをかき乱される

stomped ドタドタと足を踏み鳴らして

sped 急いで

swerve 急に車線をはずれる

discourage あきらめさせる

uncontrollably 自制できずに

frustration 鬱憤

sarcastically 皮肉っぽく

A Word From Us



Joshua Says: It's the New Year and I want to start out this year wishing all our students, teachers and staff all the best of good fortune in the coming months, throughout this year and on into the far future. We are planning more great events, parties (see P3 for shots of last month's Xmas party), performance nights and more this year and I am looking forward to enjoying all of this with you. "Happy New Year" to everyone at Crossroads!

Junko Says: I heard that NHK's new English Lessons program is using songs to teach English. I feel we finally have an ally! As you know, we have English Lesson programs using various interesting subjects in our Cosmopolitan courses, one of which is English through songs. These Cosmopolitan courses have developed from our long experience in teaching English to achieve two purposes; one, of course, is to develop English naturally, and the other is to develop a natural feeling for the need to learn English in order to study the subject.



Alice Says: Have you heard of a web site called "pandra.com"? It's a radio website. It was created by something called the Music Genome Project, which can analyze the kind of music you like and find other songs with the same style, tone and feeling. All you need to do is type in the name of a song, an artist or group that you like, and the website will do the rest! I've found lots of new and interesting songs there. I think it's fantastic.

Iain Says: I Don't believe in superstition, but on New Year's day an interesting thing happened. On New Year's I always go with my wife to the temple, but I don't like to waste my money on those fortune papers. This year my wife was so excited to see that she received the Super Lucky fortune. I rolled my eyes. Then the paper said that we would find something lost. I said I didn't lose anything, but then I remembered I did lose my magic linking rings. The next day I went to a party and my friend told me that he found my rings! Hmmmm...



Greg Says: How many resolutions have you broken already???? While I was in Australia I read an interesting book and part of it was a verse that could be used as a resolution. It goes as follows: Do more than exist – live; Do more than touch – feel; Do more than look – observe; Do more than read – absorb; Do more than hear – listen; Do more than listen – understand; Do more than think – ponder; Do more than plan – act; Do more than talk – say something. I hope you all stick with some of the resolutions you have made.

Adrienne Says: In one of my classes it was my turn to tell about an embarrassing experience I once had. I couldn't think of anything. But, now I can remember an experience. Just two weeks ago, I went to my son's school to talk to his teacher. I got lost and walked past my son's classroom and the children looked at me and giggled. All the children in the hallway looked at me and giggled. I felt embarrassed. My son was embarrassed too!



Dean Says: So, another year is upon us. It's interesting that as we get older, each year seems to go by faster. I spent my New Year holiday on Kyushu, visiting Fukuoka, a very beautiful city with its little canals and bridges. This year I would like to visit many new places in Japan and do some trekking, possibly in Kagoshima. What would you like to accomplish or achieve in the Year of the Boar?

William Says: My friend went to Nagano to enjoy the mountain slopes over the New Year's holiday. Unfortunately, there was no snow, only ice on the ski runs. It was a dangerous few days trying to negotiate the slippery slopes. The bar at night for the après-ski drink was the only surefire part of the trip!



Yuka Says: During the New Year holiday I went to Kyoto with my family to visit some of the famous temples and shrines and we saw a lot of people swarming around. Every shrine and temple was interesting, but "Fushimi-Inari" shrine (its guardian deity is a fox) was unforgettable. We climbed the mountain passing through hundreds of red "Torii" (gate) wishing for good luck. It took almost an hour to finish the tour. We had *kitsune-udon* which contains *abura-age*, the fox's favorite. All in all, we had a great time, but our muscles ached the next day.

A Word From You

Sachiko Says: The New Year is here. My husband and I have been busy with business and I still haven't finished my New Year's preparations! Last year was very warm. When we were children, we had a heavy snow-fall every year and we had a happy time then. We used to have snow ball fights with our friends every day. When it snows, it brings back memories, but nowadays we seldom get any snow in Matsuyama. Oh dear! I had so many things to do for New Year's, arrange flowers, buy food... Oh, my God!! (Photo: Sachiko, on the right, and her classmate Kazumi)



Notice Board

Here are just a few shots



A "captivated" audience



A special event, "two-man" skit from the Cosmopolitan Acting Class students, Matsumi and Eiko - "Yoga for Beginners"



from our Christmas Party last month



A little background music from Adrienne



Iain "tricking" us with a little help from Katsumi



And we had REAL Christmas Pudding, thanks to Alice and the Cosmo Cooking students



The Crossroads Cosmo Singing students - Ryoko, Kyoko, Katsumi and Naoko entertain us with a Christmas carol

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:

If you have an interest in boar (not "boring") people check out: <http://www.holymtn.com/astrology/pig.htm>

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

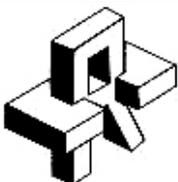
MOTHER & CHILD, group or private
KIDS, group or private

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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