

CrossTalk

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter, August 2008

HAVE YOU EVER FASTED?

In Turkey, the followers of Islam fast once a year for 30 days. This is called Ramazan. They don't eat any food for 30 days!!! I couldn't believe it, so I did some research.

Ramazan is an Islamic custom. People don't eat or drink anything from sunrise to sunset for 30 days. Why do they do this? It's one of the disciplines of this religion. They strengthen their sense of solidarity by sharing the experience of hunger together, realizing the importance of food again, and empathizing with the conditions experienced by the poor.

Before sunrise during Ramazan, people have a meal that is called Sahur, in which they add salad and fruits to the usual breakfast. They also eat eggs, cookies and pies because these foods can maintain a sense of fullness throughout the day. After sunset they have a meal that is called Iftar. They start by eating a light meal then follow this with a bigger meal. Generally, they enjoy lavish dishes during Ramazan. People also invite friends to their houses or sometimes go to restaurants together.

There is a festival for 3 days after the long fast has finished.

Recently, Ramazan has changed a little: These days one can hear the pounding of a big drum in the early morning for Sahur, although this is prohibited in some areas as it is considered a noise nuisance.



Starting a few days before Ramazan, supermarkets have a sales battle which lasts until the end of the fast. Also, the number of people who don't fast has increased, especially in cities.

It's difficult to continue such a custom in a modern society.



Istanbul, Turkey

- Article by Shoko in SCB1

NOTE: Ramazan, or Ramadan, falls in the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, but the Islamic calendar is based on the movements of the moon, not the sun as is the case with most international calendars. The arrival of the ninth crescent moon marks the start of Ramazan. This means that Ramazan, observed with our solar calendar, falls on different dates each year. For example, Ramazan this year starts on September 1st and ends October 1st. But, next year it will begin on August 22nd and will end on September 20th.

Net News

NET LESSONS: Are you too busy to come to CROSSROADS?... Try our *lessons on the Internet!* It's CROSSROADS in your home or office! You get CROSSROADS' great teachers, teaching programs, even classmates, *on-line!* Call for details: **089 9217595**

NET SITE OF THE MONTH:

You can find interesting information about Ramazan and Turkey here: <http://www.allaboutturkey.com/ramadan.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.

Some Thoughts for the Month



Joshua Says: Well, performance night last month had all the fun and enthusiasm we have come to expect on these occasions, even though we had less participation than we usually enjoy. My congratulations to the students who did perform, and to their teachers. You were all wonderful! For those who missed out on the chance to join in, there are some pictures on P3 for you to look at.

Junko Says: We are going to alter our concept of the Cosmopolitan courses a little and I thought you might be interested to hear about this. We are starting up a new course to encourage returnees from overseas (and other students with a high level of English) to study some of the subjects in the regular (and new) “Cosmo” courses at a higher level. We look at this as a “practical English” course – using English with a purpose. It will be fun and instructional for those interested.



Michael Says: One of the oldest documented relatives of English is Hittite, a language that was spoken 4000 years ago in what is now called Turkey. This language divided everything in the world into living (animate; people, animals, plants) and non-living (inanimate; rocks, paper, furniture). This was done because non-living things were rarely used with intransitive verbs. For example, you would have a hard time saying, “the rock sleeps,” in ancient Hittite. Living and non-living words eventually came to be called male and neuter. Later, neuter words came to be called female. And this, my friends, is the best hypothesis on why so many European languages divide words into gender.

Owen Says: Riddles are fun ways to pass the time. There are many well known riddles to solve, but it's also fun to try and make your own. Here's an old one I remember from my childhood; *I have a bed yet never sleep. I always run, and never walk. To the mouth which never talks. What am I?*



Greg Says: Well, here we go again....it's Olympics time. The Olympics have produced many inspiring stories over the years but two of my favorites were not from medal winners but from athletes who came last. A swimmer in the Sydney 2000 games nearly drowned attempting to swim the 50 meters for the first time. He never quit and took well over a minute to reach the end with the crowd moved to tears. The other was in the 1964 marathon.

Emilie Dit: Les corbeaux sont jaloux; les cigales couvrent leurs croassements de leur chant hypnotique. Elles s'égosillent à chanter tout l'été; et l'automne venu, accablées de fatigue, disparaissent aussi vite qu'elles sont apparues.



NOTICE BOARD

Some scenes from the July '08 End-Of-Term Party

Yumeko's last performance at Crossroads before going to England for a year. Good luck in England Yumeko!



The In(a)1 "Players" Setsuko, Miho, Ayumi, Mayumi, Shiori and Yohei in "At the Deli Counter"



The Crossroads "Cosmo Singers", Eri and Akina



And "Performance Night"



Katsumi, the "Magical Cosmo Lady" with some assistance from the audience - Miho, Eri and Yuki



Don't forget this Summer's **B-B-Q Party**, here in the Roof-top Garden on Sunday, August 31.

We start at 5:00pm.

And, don't forget to bring some of your favourite food to "throw" on the fire, and some drinks too! It's open to all students, your family members and your friends... So, come along and join in the fun!!

クロスローズの好きなコースで英語を学ぶ。

"GENERAL" (ジェネラル) コース

英語+実践練習

60分 x 2回 / 週:

1学期-4ヶ月毎にレベルが上がる
クロスローズのメインプログラム

90分 x 1回 / 週:

忙しい方のための週1レッスン

プライベート(個人)

月2回からレッスン回数自由選択

セミプライベート(セミ個人):

月3回からレッスン回数自由選択

クロスローズで学べるその他の外国語

フランス語 - スペイン語 - ドイツ語 - イタリア語 - ロシア語 - 中国語 - 韓国語



COSMOPOLITAN (コスモポリタン) コース

英語+実技を通した実用練習、だから誰でも分かる、自然に上達する。

英語でギターを習う

英語で歌う

英語で料理

英語でマジック

ピアノ

英語劇

ヨガ

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詳細はお問合せ下さい

NET(ネット) レッスン

グループOR プライベート



KIDS' (キッズ) クラス

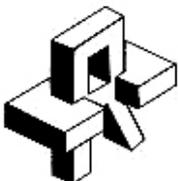
グループOR プライベート



MOTHER & CHILD

(マザー&チャイルド)

グループOR プライベート



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