

Crossroads

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter, February 2009

Spin-offs

Have you ever heard the term “spin-off”? The original meaning of “spin-off” is an unexpected but useful result from, or of, an activity. You may have experienced a spin-off as a by-product of something. I'd like to introduce a couple of spin-off products that come specifically from space technology. Researchers who work for space related institutions have made efforts to increase the number of patents for spin-off products and, thus, promote the transfer of space-born technology to our daily lives, changing society, and our life-style, in the process.

Many Japanese space-related spin-off products have been effective in various fields such as improvements in the environment, medical welfare, communal infrastructure, and so on.

I'm sure you have seen the uniquely designed can pictured here. This is one example of a spin-off product. It is commonly referred to as the “diamond-cut” can. It has a couple of design features that come directly from space related technology. The streamlined appearance gives the can a “cool” image and puts one in mind of the crisp, clear sound of ice cracking. Also, the diamond-cut design is 30% lighter, resulting in big savings for the manufacturer.



The “diamond-cut” can.

Let me tell you about another spin-off product straight out of space research. It's the capsule gastro camera. Usually a gastro camera is guided by a fiberscope, but this causes a lot of pain to the patient. However, this small capsule with its built-in camera does not cause any pain at all. It can take photos as well as carry medicine to the affected parts of the body. All a patient has to do is just drink it. The capsule passes through the body in about 8 hours.



The marvellous “gastro Camera”.

Article by Kenji in A1

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:

NASA has a web page devoted to “spin-off” products here: <http://www.sti.nasa.gov/tto/>

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: Doesn't a year go by quickly?! Already, it's time to wish Owen a fond farewell, yet it seems as though he only just arrived here at Crossroads. Time doesn't march on, it rushes on! Nevertheless, we all wish Owen the best of good fortune in the coming years starting with his new job in Tokushima. Good luck, Owen and thanks for a great job. You will be missed around here by all.

Junko Says: I too wish to thank Owen for his great support and commitment to our students while with us. We will all miss you Owen - staff and students alike. Owen's replacement on our teaching staff will be, in some ways, special. His name is Alessio and he originally comes from Italy. He has been teaching English in a number of countries and, in addition to teaching English here at Crossroads, we are going to try to start up some Italian lessons for him too! Check out a profile we put together for him on P3.



Owen Says: One year: It's incredible just how quickly it seems to have passed. It's been a wonderful experience - living and teaching in Matsuyama - and I feel very lucky to have worked at Crossroads. I can honestly say it's been a pleasure teaching the students here: talking with them in, and out of, the classroom. I'm happy that Tokushima city is so close, and I hope to pop in and see how much you've progressed once in a while. Thank you all, for making my time here so special. Keep studying hard!

Greg Says: Isn't it amazing how quickly the first month of the year seems to zip by!! We seem to have just finished packing away the Christmas tree and Valentine's Day comes knocking at the door. The custom in Japan is very different to the custom we have back home where people only sometimes give each other chocolates. Instead of sweets we almost always send Valentine's Day cards, without actually signing our name at the bottom. It's more of a mystery as to who the secret admirer really is!!!!



Gregory Says: Despite all of the doom and gloom inherent in the global economy I have been feeling very hopeful since January 20th. That is the day Barack Obama was inaugurated as the 44th president of the United States. Certainly, Obama isn't perfect and the global situation has become so dire that any real change will be very gradual and slow in coming, but for the first time in the past 8 or more years I feel that America is on the right track.

Emilie Dit: Se dire bonjour au Japon, s'accompagne toujours d'un commentaire sur le temps qu'il fait, et ce, en n'importe quelle saison. À présent le leitmotiv est de demander à son interlocuteur s'il a froid ou s'il ne fait pas trop froid. Cette question n'aurait peut-être pas de raison d'être si le chauffage central était la norme. Avoir bien chaud chez soi, c'est pouvoir affronter le froid extérieur sans problème. Mais ici, la norme est l'air conditionné, et outre son efficacité modérée, ce dispositif engendre des difficultés respiratoires... À quand une réforme du chauffage au Japon?



NOTICE BOARD



News from Vietnam... Akemi, from In(b)1 (that's her, second from the left in the top picture), has just returned from a trip to Vietnam and here is her report:

"I visited Vietnam where I travelled around Hanoi City, Haron Bay and Hoian. In 2005 I visited Southern Vietnam, but I didn't notice that many people were speaking English then. This time I noticed that it was different. I found that people spoke English at a shop, the hotel and the Tourist Information centre. I also heard that children in N.V. study English in elementary school. People need English to get a job. This time I could speak English a little better than I did on my last trip, too".

I met these 3 Japanese women working in Hanoi. They were editors of a handbook on Vietnam. They have been living there for some years and they say life is easy because it is a peaceful place, prices are low and the food is delicious. They seemed to be very powerful women!

The woman in the centre was a clerk at a silk museum. She is 28, and could speak Japanese very well. She spoke about studying languages and bringing up her child.



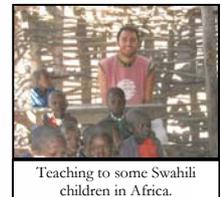
Meet our new teacher
Alessio Fanelli



Alessio is from Rome, Italy. Rome, as everyone knows, was the seat of one of the great civilizations of Europe and the city displays a legacy of historic buildings and fine art even to this day.

He loves to cook and has offered to treat us to some "real" Italian food – can you imagine?!!

Alessio has been a military pilot in the Italian Air Force Academy, a tour guide, even a juggler, and of course, an English teacher in various countries.



Teaching to some Swahili children in Africa.

He also worked as an interpreter at the Rome Film Festival in 2006, 2007 and last year

Alessio has a Masters' Degree in Sociology from the University of Rome, and he is also TEFL certified as an English teacher, and can speak fluent English, Italian and Spanish.

...And from Hawaii! Mariko, in B1, recently visited Hawaii and brought back these photos to share with us.

"This is North Shore. The waves get very high there, and it's a place where surfers gather".



"This is Diamond Head. You can see Honolulu town below. It's a splendid place where the wind blows. It takes the shuttle about one hour to get there. Even small children and elderly people like to climb there".



"I took a train to look at a pineapple plantation. I even ate pineapple flavoured ice-cream there!"

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

レッスン料 ¥4,725/月~
詳細はお問合せ下さい



KIDS' (キッズ) クラス

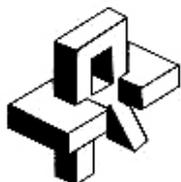
グループOR プライベート



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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