

CrossTalk

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter, November 2009

CRY baby

A recent study carried out in Germany suggests that newborn babies display rudimentary language skills from the day they are born. The general belief has been that we humans can only start to imitate the sounds of our parent's voices from around the age of 12 weeks. But this study shows that, from birth, babies mimic the intonations of their native tongue when they cry.

There are those in the scientific community who disagree with this finding, but the idea of abstract sounds - rhythms, melodies and tones - being at the root of language development does make some sense. And, the notion that babies would start developing language skills by first mimicking these basic elements of speech also seems like a reasonable hypothesis.

Researchers believe the reason babies can do this is because they have already been listening to the outside world - mother's voice, etc - while still in the womb. This suggests that you are not crazy, Mom, for playing Mozart to them, or speaking to them, before they are born. They are listening!



The "baby crying" research was carried out by Professor Kathleen Wermke at the University of Wurzburg. The study



recorded and analysed the cries of 30 newborn babies in Germany and compared these with 30 newborn babies in France. The results showed clear differences between the two groups' "cry melodies". The French babies tended towards a rising "melody", starting in a low pitch and finishing on a high note. The German babies did the opposite. While the volume for both groups was generally about the same, the researchers found that French babies tended to start more quietly and build up to a grand crescendo. The German babies did, again, the opposite. These patterns are consistent with general characteristic differences between the two languages, they say.

This study does not, of course, analyse *why* babies cry, but it does suggest that Baby is trying to express his/her needs, to "speak", in his/her mother tongue to get the message across. So, listen up Mom (and Dad), next time Baby cries, Baby could be trying to give you the answer to global warming, or a cure for the common cold! You never know...

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:

Here's a site for cry-babies:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/8346058.stm>

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, I'm looking forward to the party on the 28th and I hope to see many of our students and your friends there. The karaoke is especially enjoyed by everyone and is a lot of fun to watch. If anyone has a favorite English, French, Italian, Spanish, Chinese,..... song you would like to sing, just let me know and I will try to prepare the music for you. See you all at the party!

Junko Says: First impressions seem to be the strongest. And as our first-time experiences have no previous examples to compare with or reflect upon, we very easily believed them to be true. Take for example, studying English. Often people are convinced that without a Japanese translation, or a review of the rules of grammar, one cannot understand or speak English. Most people's first experience studying English involves either or both of these approaches. But, this is one time we need to revalue our first experience.



Alessio Says: Hi everyone, winter is here, it's pretty cold but fortunately you will soon feel the warmth of our performance party!!! How lucky...! There will be drama, music performances, food (mine) and beverages, karaoke and more. So, please invite your friends because it is going to be funny :) I love parties, don't you? It is always a good chance to meet new people and at Crossroads, you will have an international party! See you there...

Greg Says: December is fast approaching and this will be the first time I have not been in Australia during this month. This year I will be experiencing the winter - and Christmas - in Japan for the first time. I plan to drive around a bit. We are going to Hiroshima, Kobe and Wakayama during the Christmas Season. If you have any recommendations as to what to do in these places, please let me know. But, to tell you the truth, I really hate cold weather!!



Emilie Dit: Novembre en orange. Halloween a inauguré la saison du orange. Orange dans les arbres. Fruits de plaquemeniers et colorations des feuilles. Orange dans les assiette. Potimarons et clémentines. Orange de ma taie d'oreiller. Savon au parfum d'orange. Orange des maillots de l'équipe de football Ehime FC. "Voir la vie en orange" pourrait bien devenir la nouvelle expression du bonheur.

NOTICE BOARD

Drinks, Food,
Karaoke and Performances!

DATE: Saturday, 28-11-'09
TIME: 7:30pm
PLACE: here at Crossroads

END OF TERM PARTY

Invite your friends and family
to join us.

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

NET(ネット) レッスン

グループOR プライベート

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

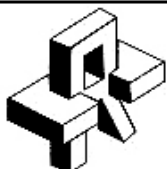
グループOR プライベート



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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