

# Crossroads

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter February, 2017

## Crazy Laws



With 2017 bringing in a new US president and people worrying about what laws he may or may not introduce to the country, its interesting to look at some of the crazy legislation that America has hidden in its legal system already.

The most famous English song in the world is probably Happy Birthday but did you know this song is copyrighted and it is illegal to perform it outside of a "normal social setting". The first version of this song was made in 1868 but it was copyrighted in 1935 with the lyrics we use today. This copyright is now owned by Time Warner meaning any movie, restaurant or public gathering that wants to use it must pay the company royalties. While Time Warner make \$2 million a year from this it has led to a lot of places making up special versions of the song to get around the law.

## Net News

**NET LESSONS:** Too busy to come to CROSSROADS?

.... Try our *lessons on the net!*

Here are some examples of "crazy" laws in America:  
<http://ijr.com/2014/12/222618-50-state-laws/>

As we all know Japan has strict gambling laws compared to many countries in the world. Because of this some Japanese travel to places like Las Vegas to try their hand in the Casinos. Betting on the outcomes of sports in America is a big deal and friends watching NFL or NBA together sometimes put friendly wagers on who they think will win. However this common occurrence is actually completely illegal if it involves five or more people with revenue of over \$2000. This scenario actually happened when a police officer overheard a man betting with friends on College football at a bar. He befriended the man and convinced him to raise the stakes over a few months. Once the total reached \$2000 a Police team was dispatched who ended up shooting the man dead.

The US has a long history of legally owning certain guns which is a tricky subject in the country. However in some states it is illegal to be in possession of a permanent marker if you are under 18. This is because of problems in those states with graffiti but it's crazy to think you can technically spend a year in prison for holding something you would use in art class.

The legal system of any country is usually a confusing thing to understand but the US with its web of state and federal laws throws up some real puzzles. I wonder if any more confusing ideas will be made Law in the next few years.



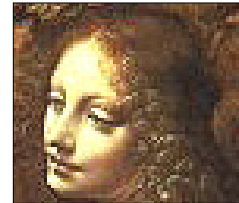
*Article by Matt*

# Some Thoughts for the Month



**Joshua Says:** Human cultures, we can logically assume, are created by humans; a result of our brains and our genetics, with each generation passing on its “culture” to the next. But the latest developments in psychology suggest that the cultures we have developed, in turn, develop us - individuals within the culture. Well, this got me thinking. One of the most fundamental characteristics of any culture is its language. Start using a second language, and.....

**Junko Says:** Leonardo da Vinci’s said, “Painting is Poetry that is seen rather than felt, and poetry is painting that is felt rather than seen” Please try to remember this when you visit an art museum next time. This picture is the face of an angel in “Virgin of the Rock” by Leonardo kept in the National Gallery in London.



**Matt Says:** There have been big changes at Crossroads this month with Mark leaving. It almost felt like I was starting a new job with all the changes in classes. I am much busier nowadays but it’s refreshing to have lots of new challenges. We have all sorts of different students at Crossroads so every work day feels unique to me.

**Nigel Says:** Hello everybody, I’m Nigel – the new guy! And I’ll be teaching a handful of lessons at Crossroads. I used to live and work in Nagoya back in 2013 and spent the subsequent couple of years travelling to Australia, then New Zealand. Now I’m back in Japan and want to teach you how we communicate in English! Cheers.



**Danielle dit** Quand on s’attaque à un problème, il est bon de se rappeler que tout est lié. Les exemples sont nombreux et variés, de la diminution des emballages plastiques à l’augmentation du pourcentage de femmes dans le milieu du travail. Ceux qui n’acceptent pas que « améliorer » quelque chose a bien souvent des répercussions négatives, au mieux, utilisent leur cœur plus que leur cerveau, au pire, sont malhonnêtes.

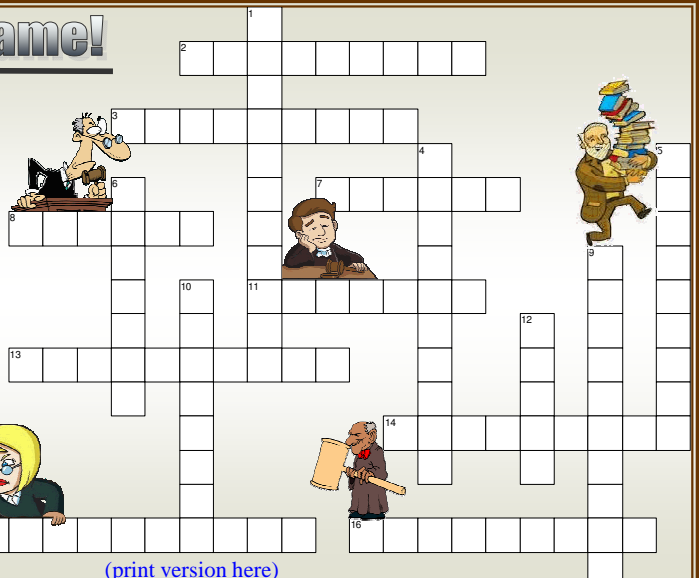
## ACROSS

- 2 hearing without the speaker's knowing
- 3 persuaded
- 7 severe, harsh
- 8 money used in gambling
- 11 not legal
- 13 happening
- 14 unchanging
- 15 ownership
- 16 payment to the holder of a copyright

## DOWN

- 1 make or enact the law
- 4 sent towards a designated goal
- 5 exclusive rights
- 6 income (money) before deductions
- 9 became friends with
- 10 slightly different from the original
- 12 related to the law

## Play A Game!



(print version [here](#))

