

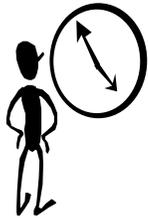
CrossTalk

April The Newsletter of CROSSROADS Language Studio 2003

Time, Tricks & Taxes!

For westerners, there are three important things to think about in April!

1. TIME. In America, the first Sunday in April begins *Daylight Savings Time*. People set their clocks ahead one hour so they have longer summer days! (In Europe, it's the last Sunday in March).



2. TRICKS. April Fool's Day is celebrated in many places. On this day, people play practical jokes on each other. Putting salt in the sugar bowl is a popular trick. Be careful, anything can happen!



3. TAXES. In some countries, people are calculating their taxes now. In the U.S.A., taxes are due April 15th. In Canada, taxes are due the 30th. Because of tax day, many people don't like April!



Over the years, a lot of interesting things have happened in April. For example:

☞ **April 19, 1775** - The Revolutionary war began and led to American independence from England

☞ **April 9, 1865** - The American Civil War ended.

☞ **April 6, 1896** - The first modern Olympic Games began in Athens, Greece.

☞ **April 14, 1912** - The Titanic sank.

☞ **April 9, 1947** - Jackie Robinson became the first black major league baseball player.

The Jewish holiday Passover begins April 16th.

The Christian holiday Easter falls on April 20th. On Easter Sunday, children everywhere paint eggs and have Easter egg hunts while they watch for the *Easter Bunny*!



GLOSSARY (These words are in green in the story)

Westerners = 西欧米人

celebrate = 祝う

sugar bowl = 砂糖入れ

sank = 沈んだ

set = 設定する

due = 支払期日に来ている

taxes = 税金

hunt = 探す

ahead = 進めて

calculate = 計算する

modern = 現代の

practical joke = いたづら

A Word From Us



Joshua Says: April begins a new term for CROSSROADS. It's extra special because it's the first new term of the year. There is also exciting energy now because it's spring. People and nature all become more active. You'll even feel the energy of spring among students and staff at CROSSROADS!

Junko Says: I have good news and bad news. The *bad* news is: the Japanese government will no longer pay 80% of your cost for English lessons. They will soon pay only 40%. The *good* news is: you can still get 80% from the government if you enroll at CROSSROADS this month! Ask me for details.



Joanna Says: It's here! Finally spring has come, yet I'm still finding it difficult to get out of bed in the morning! I can't wait for Golden Week when I'm hoping to go to Kyushu with a friend to see small monkeys. I'm also looking forward to taking a dip in some of Kyushu's famous hot springs!

Drew Says: Last month I experienced Japan's health care system. I had a small injury to my left knee, so I went to a clinic near Dogo. The people were very friendly and because of Japan's national health insurance, treatment was inexpensive, only about 4,000 yen. In America, it would be equal to 40,000 yen!



Tamara Says: I'm hoping to travel to Tokyo at the end of the month for Golden Week. I've been doing lots of research, but if you have some suggestions of where I should visit and what I should do while I'm in Tokyo, please make sure to tell me.

Greg Says: April begins with April Fool's Day. This is when people play jokes on each other. For example, in 1978 a famous businessman towed an entire iceberg by boat from Antarctica into Sydney Harbor. People were amazed, until it rained and they saw the iceberg was only shaving cream!



Yuka Says: Spring used to be my favorite season, but not anymore. Although we can enjoy beautiful flowers, wonderful weather, and a good night's sleep, there is one problem...hay-fever! For several weeks I have been suffering from eye irritation and a stuffy nose. Does anyone know a good remedy for this?

A Word From You

Tomomi Ninomiya Says: Goodbye! I passed my university entrance exams and I am moving to Fukuoka in April to study biology at Kyushu University. I will miss everyone at CROSSROADS and in my class! Bye-bye!



Naoko Ono and Kayo Otani Say: We went to Okinawa and our picture was taken in traditional costume. Naoko says: "The sea is a beautiful shade of blue." Kayo says: "The people are warm and friendly, and everyone is treated equally!"



Kazumi Toshida Says: I am going to live with my daughter in Florida for four months beginning in April! She just had a baby boy (named Hideki) so I am going to help her out.

Student News

Congratulations To:

Tohru Shimizu - his research about space is printed in the American Institute of Physics Journal this month.

Easy English Lesson

a, an, or the?

Use **a** or **an** when you talk about something for the first time. Use **the** when you talk about it again. For example:

"I had **an** apple for lunch. **The** apple was good."

"I saw **a** man talking to **a** woman. **The** man was tall. **The** woman was short."

With special words, we use **the**. For example: **the** bank / **the** post office / **the** army / **the** police

Do you have a question? Please, ask us!

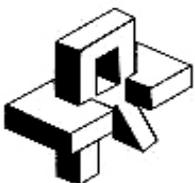
Net News

NET LESSONS: Are you too busy to come to CROSSROADS for English lessons? Try our lessons *on the internet!* It's CROSSROADS in **your home!** You get CROSSROADS' great teachers, materials, even classmates, *on-line!* Call for details.

NET SITE OF THE MONTH: Do you like to travel? See where you're going, anywhere in the world at:

www.maps.com.

NET NOTEBOOK: Check out the internet activity notebook in our open-house. You'll find games, news and English learning sites.



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