

Crosstalk

December **CROSSROADS** Language Studio's Newsletter 2003

WHO IS SANTA CLAUS?



Santa Claus – He's cute, he's round and he smiles a lot. He lives at the **North Pole**, where he and his **elf** friends make toys for all the children who have been good during the year. Then, on Christmas Eve he jumps into his magical flying **sleigh** (pulled by the lovely Rudolph and other deer), **sneaks** into people's houses via the **chimney**, and delivers lots of presents for the children.



Where on earth did this cheerful little **chap** come from?

The name Santa Claus actually comes from the **Dutch** word 'Sinter Klass', which means Father Christmas, and in Britain people still call him Father Christmas, rather than Santa.

Santa has a rather **muddled** past, with his appearance and nature being influenced by old English nature gods, Roman gods, **Nordic** gods and Coca Cola!

However, he is mainly based upon a 4th century **bishop** from Turkey called

St Nicholas, who was famous for his charity and kindness to children. He liked to throw bags of gold through people's windows, and one time when he threw some gold into a house the bag landed in a young lady's **stocking**, which had been hung out to dry. This story led to the tradition of children hanging out their stockings on Christmas Eve.



The idea of Santa Claus became popular across most of Europe and North America, and in the 19th century many drawings were made of him, showing him as a fat little elf in red.

Then Coca Cola decided to make Santa human-sized (rather than elf-sized) for a series of **advertisements** in 1931.

No one is really sure why he is so round and has such a big beard, although beards are often associated with **wisdom** in traditional stories, and roundness with **contentment**.

What do you think



Glossary

(These words are in **color** in the story)

North Pole 北極	elf いたずら好きの小妖精	sleigh そり	
sneaks こっそりと (入る)	chimney 煙突	chap 男	Dutch オランダの
muddled ごっちゃついた	Nordic 北欧の	bishop 司教	stocking 靴下
advertisements 広告	wisdom 智慧	contentment 満足	

A Word From Us



Joshua Says: Last month the World Cup Ruby competition was contested in Australia. Japan entered a team. Now, I am not a great Ruby fan, but what interested me most about this competition was the enthusiastic support the Australian fans gave to the under-dogs from Japan; as time goes by, it seems, our two countries are becoming closer as friends and neighbors!

Junko Says: I'd like to welcome Grace to the staff, and I hope she enjoys her time with Crossroads. It's a chilly time to arrive in Matsuyama, but I think this season is one of the best in Japan, and as Grace is from Canada perhaps she's used to cold weather. I'm sure all the staff and students will try to make Grace feel like Matsuyama is her new home now!



Joanna Says: Welcome, Grace! I hope you bought your scarves and gloves! Actually, it's not too cold and so I'm not yet dreading the shower in the morning. However, it is cold enough to really be able to enjoy curling up in bed with a hot water bottle, while listening to the cold wind and rain howling outside. Of course, winter is a great time for knitting so I'll have plenty to do in my free time over the next few months!

Grace Says: Hello everyone! I am the new Canadian English teacher from Montreal. Montreal is the bilingual city of Canada where English and French are spoken daily. Hopefully, my multi-linguistic skills will be a contributing factor in the teaching process. I am indeed looking forward to my start at Crossroads. Meeting my fellow co-workers, staff and students will be a pleasure, as will finding some time to explore Matsuyama and its surroundings. See you all soon!



Greg Says: It's been a bit of a strange month for me, because I had chicken pox! At first I thought I was just stressed! But then the doctor told me it was actually 'the pox', and I had to stay at home for a week trying not to scratch the spots. At one point they were so itchy that I had to wear gloves to stop myself from scratching too much. I'm much better now though – thank goodness!

Tamara Says: Well, my students made it very difficult for me to leave Japan, but I'm finally back in Canada! Thank you to everyone for the wonderful surprise party, and all the kind words and gifts. I was a bit nervous about seeing my family and friends again after so long, but everything has been wonderful! The weather is *not* so wonderful though! The other day it was -25degrees celcius! I have to wear lots of clothes to keep warm! Happy Christmas to all!



Yuka Says: 2003 is coming to a close and now is the busiest time of year. There are a lot of things to be done, and everywhere is crowded. I like this time of year because it seems that people become more gentle and kind during the Christmas season. I'm having a hard time finding presents though, so this year I will tell my family that Christmas is about giving love and joy, and not about getting gifts.

A Word From You

Shouta (in China) says: I am having a good time in Shanghai, and recently I took part in the Shanghai marathon with many friends. I enjoy going to parties at night, with my new friends, who are from many different countries, like Korea and America.



Michiko says: Recently Saori and I appeared on NHK, doing a cookery lesson (in English!) with Joanna. I was quite nervous but we succeeded in making a chicken curry together. I was too embarrassed to tell my friends and family about it, but they all saw it, and I got lots of phone calls the next day! I couldn't watch myself on TV, but I did succeed in making chicken curry again at home the week after!

Notice Board

Congratulations to:

...Naoko on becoming a new mum!
...Saori and Michiko on their TV debut!

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: Check out international, sport, and movie news in English at this site;

<http://www.guardian.co.uk>

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

Easy English Lesson

Many verbs are made from the word '**break**'. Here are a few of them for you to practice.

To break up – When couples stop dating each other:

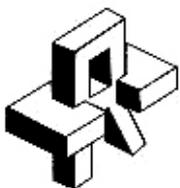
“Bob and Tina broke up yesterday”

To break down – When something stops working:

“My car broke down yesterday”

To break into – When someone goes into somewhere or something illegally.

“Someone broke into my car last night”



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