

# CrossTalk

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter, January 2008

## Some Thoughts to Start the New Year With

### Car Pools – from Kenji in AI

Record-high crude oil prices greatly influence Japanese society. Domestic car sales have been declining and people are trying to choose a method of public transportation.

“Car Sharing” is one of the solutions to save living costs. The sales media says, “If you live in a city, you don’t need to own a car”.

Car sharing is a system in which a group of people use shared cars instead of having their own cars. This system allows members to use a car at low cost when they need it. And it can help to improve the urban environment and to reduce traffic problems such as traffic jams, air pollution caused by car exhaust, lack of parking spaces and of course, global warming.

It has become very popular, particularly in European, American and these days, Japanese cities.

When you want to reserve a car, you just access a company by phone or Internet, 24-hours-a-day to best meet your needs, and use the vehicle for a few hours, or a week. You pay per trip, and don’t have to worry about repairs, insurance or monthly parking costs. Customers in Japan include not only men, but also housewives. Actually, housewives use the cars mainly for driving their husbands between home and the train station, taking kids to kindergarten, or shopping at the supermarket. In some areas where getting a parking space is really difficult, using these rental cars instead of owning a car has become extremely popular.



### My Dream – from Ayuko in SCB

On October 11<sup>th</sup>, I read an article saying that Yoko Ono’s peace monument, the “Imagine Peace Tower”, had been erected in Iceland. The newspaper said “Imagine Peace” is written in 24 languages on the pedestal. Yoko intends to send peace light from the northernmost country in the world and cover the world with it. Yoko Ono and John Lennon hoped to build the peace monument as their life work from the 1960s. It lights up from October 9<sup>th</sup> (John Lennon’s birthday) to December 8<sup>th</sup> (the day of John Lennon’s death), and on New Year’s Eve every year.

At night, when I was watching TV, I heard that over 20,000 people have been killed in the Iraq war and that over 30,000 people have killed themselves in Japan. I was shocked at that. We have a peace constitution and we don’t go to war, but many people have killed themselves.

My dream is to have a happy and peaceful world. When I retired, I decided to do something for a peaceful and happy world as my life’s work. It is difficult for me to build a peace monument like Yoko, but perhaps I can do something to help curb global warming, create a peaceful world (as we have a peace constitution), and increase happiness for the young and old. The old are worried about little pension, high tax, and high medical expenses, while the young have few good jobs. Some even live in Internet cafes.

At the least, I can vote for a person who works for these things, and I can pray for a peaceful world.

## 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:**

For information on the Imagine Peace Tower go here:  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Imagine\\_Peace\\_Tower](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Imagine_Peace_Tower)

**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:** Many of you have already noticed that we have a new teacher coming to join us in March. Owen is British and has had lots of experience in general performance as well as in theater. He is also a qualified teacher and should be able to bring his experiences to bear in our classrooms. I am looking forward to some interesting performance nights from his future students!

**Junko Says:** December this year will mark the 25<sup>th</sup> year since we established Crossroads in Matsuyama. 25 years! Can you believe it?! We want to build up our school to be even better and, so, we are going to have campaigns during the year to mark this occasion. This will be the best time for your friends to start English, so check with me in the office and keep your eyes on the school notice board for details!



**Michael Says:** I went for a walk at Dogo during the Coming of Age festival on the 14<sup>th</sup>. It was wonderful to see all the beautiful kimonos and visit the shrines. I also got to hear a group of women play songs on drums, which was fantastic. Before I left, the mayor of Matsuyama and other politicians came out and gave a brief speech. During this, the people crowded around and listened, still and silent. However, when the speech was finished, the speakers began throwing mochi cakes to the audience – and everyone went crazy!! What a change of personality!!

**Iain Says:** The future is NOW! Every day I go online I notice that we are slowly moving into an age of amazing technology. Just this past week Macintosh unveiled the thinnest notebook computer ever. It can fit comfortably in an envelope! I also saw that for about 20,000 yen you can buy a laser keyboard. It is a small box about the size of an mp3 player and it projects an image of a keyboard onto the table. You can type on that image and it can actually be used as the keyboard for your computer!



**Sheri Says:** When is the weather going to warm up? In my apartment, it often feels like Japan is colder than Canada. It's true! Heaters and hot carpets are fine, but nothing beats the heat from a good old fashioned wood stove!

**Greg Says:** Hello everyone!! I hope you all had an enjoyable new year and are back into the swing of daily life. I spent the last month over in Australia and the weather was great during the day however it rained nearly every night. It always surprises me when I return back to Australia for Christmas because I feel like a tourist. But it is always good to catch up with family and friends and drink the local beer and eat the not to be missed Aussie B-B-Q. Good luck in 2008 and stick with your resolutions.



# Notice Board

# Happy New Year!

## WANTED

### Lead Articles for our Newsletter!

The new format for our newsletter relies on you, our students, to come forth with articles for the front page. We will edit them and the best ones will appear on the cover page every month. Short articles, long articles, any subject, all are welcome. So, come on! Ask your teachers for details, and let's see how interesting our newsletter can really get!

## 25th Anniversary!

This year we are going to be 25!!!  
Watch out for special Campaigns all year long  
Invite your friends to join and let's make Crossroads bigger and better than we have ever been!

Welcome to Canada, the land of snow. Winter is here! My partner and I have bought a house in the woods. The best thing about it is the peacefulness. We cannot hear cars, or planes, or sirens. What do we hear? Simply the cracking sound of the ice melting in the morning sun. The sound of the river running its course. At night, we hear a beaver chewing on a tree. It's not a big house, but it's just perfect for us. We have a woodstove and use a minimum of electricity. The heat is warm and soothing. I hope you all had a merry Xmas and a happy new year!



Pic's: view from the right door...view from the left door!  
Natacha



# 2008

## 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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