

# CrossTalk

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter, January 2009

# BULL!



Well, Ox actually. Or, is it steer? Perhaps buffalo, cow, bison? Kouprey? Zebu? Yak? Heifer? These are only some of the names we have for this genus of animal! And, this is their year! **The Year of the OX**,... Bull, Bison...

From the very beginning of civilization, and in all corners of the world, man has relied upon this animal for food



Cave painting at Lascaux in France – perhaps 25,000 years old

and clothing, as well as for labor when the going gets too tough for man alone. Is it any wonder that we have venerated this animal for thousands of years?

Without the cow and her cousins, where would we be? We have even included bulls and cows in our sports. Everyone is aware of Spain's famous "Bull Fights" with its ritual splendor, matadors, toreadors and all; and, of course, the killing of the bulls. But this "sport" is only a relatively new version of a much older – one could say "kinder" (to the bulls, at least) - sport that existed in the ancient world many thousands of years ago.

Perhaps the most famous records of this ancient sport can be found in archeological sites on Crete. The Minoan civilization flourished there about 4,000 years ago and, going by the evidence, they enjoyed sport – especially "bull-leaping". Both young men and women participated in this sport. Unlike modern day bull-fighting, bull-leaping does not harm the bull, although it's pretty dangerous for the "leaper"! The idea is to face a charging bull, grab its horns as it reaches you and, using the bull's instinctive urge to raise its head at the moment of impact, fly into the air, land on the bull's back and summersault onto the ground behind the bull as it charges away! Now, that's a Sport!

Evidence of this kind of bull-leaping has been found in other ancient cultures from about the same time and the practice still exists today in southern France and northern Spain (although cows are used more often than bulls).



**Happy New, Bull, Year Everyone!!!**

## 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:**

Check out "cows from A to Z" here:

<http://www.geocities.com/abecedarius/Cows.html>

**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.



This fresco comes from the palace of Knossos, the centre of the Minoan civilisation on Crete about 1,600-1,800 BC

# Some Thoughts for the Month



**Joshua Says:** A new Greg has joined our teaching staff. Greg (2) is from America and I would like, on behalf of our students and staff, to welcome him to our school. Emilie has also returned from a short stay in Paris (check out her photos on P3). Indeed, we are all back from the New Year break, and ready to go! Never mind about the gloomy economic forecasts for this year, let's make this the best year ever! Happy New Year to all!!

**Junko Says:** January is named for "Janus", the God of gates, doors and doorways in Roman mythology. January is the doorway to the New Year and, as Janus stands on the boundary of the beginning and the ending of the year, some say Janus also stands at the boundary of the past and the future. In Japan, there is a God (in Shinto) who is said to visit every family on the first day of the year to protect the family throughout the year. Placing kadomatsu (pine decorations) at the gate is in gratitude for receiving this God's blessings. I hope that God blesses all of you this year.



**Owen Says:** How was the start to your new year? On New Year's Eve, I met with friends for a few drinks. Shortly after midnight, we made our way to a shrine to pay our respects and ask for good fortune in the year ahead. I took a fortune slip and was told it was the best fortune to have picked! The prayer must have worked! I really do think it's going to be an exciting year. Let's see how much we can progress in our language studies.

**Greg Says:** Happy New Year to everyone at Crossroads and best wishes for a successful 2009. Well, it is resolution time where people make their own personal promises with regards to their daily lives. Have you made any resolutions this year? Mine usually last all but a few weeks before I throw them in the "too hard basket". My resolution this year is to spend more time with my family, but in doing that, not miss any opportunities that come knocking on my door. Stay safe and have a super year.



**Gregory Says:** Hello Crossroads students. My name is Greg and I am so happy to be here. I come from America and have been fortunate enough to have traveled to many places around the world, but my lifelong dream has always been to live and work in Japan and now here I am! Why Matsuyama? This is my wife's hometown. She is even a Crossroads alumni, having worked here 15 years ago. I look forward to meeting many of you in the coming weeks and helping you to improve your English. Please say hello if you happen to see me around the school.

**Emilie Dit:** Je viens de passer un mois entier à Paris et je rentre à Matsuyama des rêves plein la tête. Paris est magnifique en hiver. La blancheur des façades s'accorde très bien avec la ligne noire des arbres déplumés. Le ciel, souvent amer, tire vers le gris, et nimbe Paris de mystère. En pointillés, quelques illuminations de Noël palpitent. Déambuler dans Paris, c'est se perdre dans une douce rêverie mélancolique.



# NOTICE BOARD

## PARIS



Emilie recently visited her home-town, Paris, where she took these pictures from the "The Big Wheel". She was visiting her family and took the chance to reacquaint herself with some of the sites of central Paris. You can catch her comments on page 2. Oh, if you can't read French, you can also ask her about her trip when you see her in the school.

### A THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Mistakes are merely a change in direction. They remain as mistakes from whence we came, but they also act as a guide to where we are going.



"Happy New Year" to all our students

### Don't forget you can Talk It Over in a 1 to 1 counselling session.

That's our new system of counselling. You can arrange a FREE 15 minute session with one of your teachers to discuss your progress, find out your level, get help with your weak points, review class work, catch up if you missed a class, go over any problems you might be having with homework and get tips on how to study out of class.

It's simple to arrange a meeting; just sign up!

For more details, have a chat with Junko in the office.



## 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

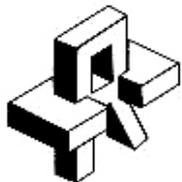
グループOR プライベート



### MOTHER & CHILD

(マザー&チャイルド)

グループOR プライベート



## CROSSROADS

ランゲージスタジオ  
英会話スクール

〒790-0004 松山市大街道  
2丁目1-3 2F, 3F

Phone: 0120-21-7594

Tel: (089) 921-7595

Fax: (089) 921-7319

E-mail: info@crossroadsco.com

Web Site: www.crossroadsco.com

