

# Crossroads @ Talk

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter, October 2010

## John Lennon



According to Yoko Ono, John Lennon (who would have been 70 this month) was insecure about his songwriting abilities. He complained that other musicians "always cover Paul's songs, and never mine". She replied, "You're a good songwriter; it's not 'June' with 'spoon' that you write. You're a good singer, and most musicians are probably a little bit nervous about covering your songs".

Many would agree with her. His songs are usually deeply personal, honest and sometimes unsettling; his voice - with that instantly recognisable combination of acidity, swagger and vulnerability - perfectly suited to their performance. Who would not think twice about covering these songs? McCartney's songs are more oblique, lyrically. They hide and dodge, reluctant to reveal anything about the composer, often taking the form of a narrative (*She's Leaving Home*) or a series of vignettes (*Penny Lane*). When he does use the first person singular McCartney tends towards the universal (*And I Love Her*, *Let It Be*). Although Ono is surely unkind to characterise McCartney as a banal lyricist most would agree that Lennon's lyrics are cleverer, funnier, more imaginative and more moving.



The young John Lennon

Though both brilliant composers, McCartney's melodies are smoother, more melodic in the conventional sense and therefore more singable. Lennon, capable of penning gorgeous melodies on a par with his rival (*This Boy*, *#9 Dream*) is often drawn to the angular and rhythmically asymmetrical (*Happiness is a Warm Gun*), perhaps more common in songwriters who write the words before the music (something McCartney rarely does) or for whom the lyrics are paramount.

The Beatles produced what many would argue is the most influential body of work in the field of popular music from the last half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It is the very brilliance of their recordings which dooms most attempts to cover their songs from the start (in contrast to the exceptional songwriters of the first half of the same century, such as George and Ira Gerswhin, Cole Porter and Jerome Kern who, not being performers, left no 'definitive' versions of their songs to posterity). Their recordings are *too* good, then, *too* familiar to this generation. Only when tastes have moved on and musicians no longer shiver under the giant shadow cast by the Beatles will the group's ultimate worth (and that of the respective members) be established.

*Article by Jonathan*

## Net News

**NET LESSONS:** Try our *lessons on the Internet!*

It's CROSSROADS in your home or office!

Call for details: **089 9217595**

**NET SITE OF THE MONTH:**

Here's an interesting biography on John Lennon:

[www.biography.com/articles/John-Lennon-9379045](http://www.biography.com/articles/John-Lennon-9379045)

**CROSSROADS ON MIXI:** Check it out!

[http://mixi.jp/show\\_profile.pl?id=30381548](http://mixi.jp/show_profile.pl?id=30381548)

# Some Thoughts for the Month



**Joshua Says:** The B-B-Q party last month was a somewhat quiet affair, but, as usual, very relaxing and I enjoyed the good company of those students and teachers who attended. Our next event will be the “performance night” party at the end of November. I’m looking forward to this and I hope many of you will come along and join in the fun.

**Junko Says:** Only a few of you visit our roof-top garden regularly. That’s a pity as the plants and flowers have looked quite beautiful this year. There has been one regular visitor, though. In fact, we think he (or she) has made a home there! It is a little furry critter. We don’t think it is a squirrel, and it is certainly not a mouse! But what is it? Every now and then we catch a glimpse of him, but he scurries away too fast for us to make out what he is. If you would like to play “detective”, perhaps one of you can tell us who our mysterious guest is!



**Jonathan Says:** The one thing I don’t like about working at Crossroads is ironing shirts. This detestable job is something I’ve avoided all my life as I’ve been lucky enough to work in places where scruffy clothes are acceptable (for example, colleges, where the students are generally better dressed than the teachers). I was surprised to hear from a student that she would never consider going to Takashimaya without a nice skirt, top, and make up. So the suave, debonair figure you see at Crossroads is not the real me...

**Greg Says:** We just arrived back from a marathon drive to Fukushima. It was a 2450km round trip and we bypassed Tokyo on the way from Matsuyama. I couldn’t believe they were doing road work (cutting the grass) all the way from Kyoto to the other side of Shizuoka. There was only one lane of traffic open all the way and it seemed to take forever crawling at a snail’s pace. My daughter played great in the national tournament. She missed coming 3<sup>rd</sup> by one shot.



**Kevin Dit:** Saviez-vous que l’obtention d’un visa au Japon est plus ou moins difficile en fonction de la nationalité ? C’est en essayant de renouveler mon visa que j’ai appris qu’il était bien plus simple pour un Américain ou un Canadien d’obtenir un changement de visa que pour un Français ou un Allemand par exemple ! Si un Américain peut changer son visa tout en restant au Japon sans aucun problème, un Français doit apparemment quitter le pays (même si ce n’est que pour une journée par exemple) afin de pouvoir bénéficier d’un nouveau visa ! Ne trouvez vous pas ça très étrange ? Quoi qu’il en soit, je vais apparemment devoir passer un week-end en Corée pour remédier à ce problème !

# NOTICE BOARD

## Some shots from last month's B-B-Q Party



## TALENT QUEST

### Our End-of-Term Party

next month is on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup>. We will have all the usual fun: performances of students' plays, delicious food and wine, and of course, Karaoke! But we would also like to find the "hidden talents" among you. So, if you can sing, play an instrument, dance, juggle, do magic tricks, yodel, etc, and you would like to be in the program, sign up! You'll have a blast! And so will your classmates!! For details on how to join in, ask Junko in the office, or your teacher.



Crossroads is now on Mixi!!!



You probably all know Mixi, the most famous SNS (Social Network Service) in Japan! Well, you can now follow us there too! It will be one more opportunity to use English or French as we will keep posting entries in both languages (about Crossroads or just about some random news from around the world), sometimes spiced up with questions for our readers!

For those of you who are on Mixi, don't forget to check our page out here: [http://mixi.jp/show\\_profile.pl?id=30381548](http://mixi.jp/show_profile.pl?id=30381548)



## 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):

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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



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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

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英語で料理

英語でマジック

ピアノ

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ヨガ

### NET(ネット) レッスン

グループOR プライベート

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

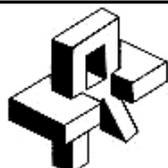
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### MOTHER & CHILD

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# 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