

Ideas Station: WORDS AND MEANING

The relationship between words and their meaning is a fascinating one, and linguists have spent countless years deconstructing it, taking it apart letter by letter, and trying to figure out why there are so many feelings and ideas that we cannot even put words to, and that our languages cannot identify.

Ella Frances Sanders has created a book called *Lost in Translation*, in which she has picked out some of the most interesting words other languages have, for concepts that English falls short of expressing succinctly.

Match up the words to their meanings, and think about the relationship between language and thought.

Does culture create language? Or is language influenced by culture?

What can these words tell us about the cultures that use them?

Does having words available for concepts such as these affect someone's worldview?

"Words are but symbols for the relations of things to one another and to us; nowhere do they touch upon the absolute truth." - Friedrich Nietzsche

Mangata	The roadlike reflection of the moon on the water
Goya	The transporting suspension of disbelief that can occur in good storytelling
Depaysement	The feeling that comes from not being in one's home country
Pana Po'o	The act of scratching your head in order to help you remember something you have forgotten
Jayus	A joke told so poorly and so unfunny that one cannot help but laugh
Iktsuarpok	The feeling of anticipation that leads you to keep looking outside to see if anyone is coming
Pockemuchka	A person who asks a lot of questions
Sobremesa	The time spent after lunch or dinner talking to the people you shared the meal with
Komorebi	Sunlight that filters through the leaves
Culaccino	The mark left on the table by a cold glass
Waldeinsamkeit	The feeling of being alone in the woods
Karelu	The mark left on the skin by wearing something tight
Glas Wen	The literal means a 'blue smile'; one that is sarcastic or mocking
Wabi-sabi	Finding beauty in the imperfections, an acceptance of the cycle of life and death
Commuovere	To be moved in a heartwarming way, usually relating to a story that moved you to tears
Akihi	Listening to directions and then walking off and promptly forgetting them
Kilig	The feeling of butterflies in your stomach, usually when something romantic or cute takes place
Tsundoku	Leaving a book unread after buying it, typically piled up together with other unread books.
Pisan Zapra	The time needed to eat a banana
Trepverter	A witty riposte or comeback that you think of only when it is too late to use. Literally, "staircase words"

GOYA

(urdu)

the transporting suspension of disbelief that can occur in good storytelling.

THE ROADLIKE REFLECTION OF THE MOON ON THE WATER.

MÅNGATA

(swedish)

DÉPAYSEMENT

(french)

the feeling that comes from not being in one's home country.

JAYUS

(indonesian)

A JOKE TOLD SO POORLY AND SO UNFUNNY THAT ONE CANNOT HELP BUT LAUGH.

IKTSUARPOK

(inuit)

THE FEELING OF ANTICIPATION THAT LEADS YOU TO KEEP LOOKING OUTSIDE TO SEE IF ANYONE IS COMING.

sunlight that filters through the leaves of trees.

KOMOREBI

(japanese)

THE ACT OF SCRATCHING YOUR HEAD
IN ORDER TO HELP YOU REMEMBER
SOMETHING YOU HAVE
FORGOTTEN.

(hawaiian)

PANA PO'



A PERSON WHO ASKS A LOT
OF QUESTIONS.



(russian) почемучка
ПОЧЕМУЧКА

SOBREMESA

(spanish)



the time spent after lunch
or dinner, talking to the
people you shared the meal with.

the mark left on
a table by a cold glass.



(italian)

CULACCINO

WALDEINSAMKEIT

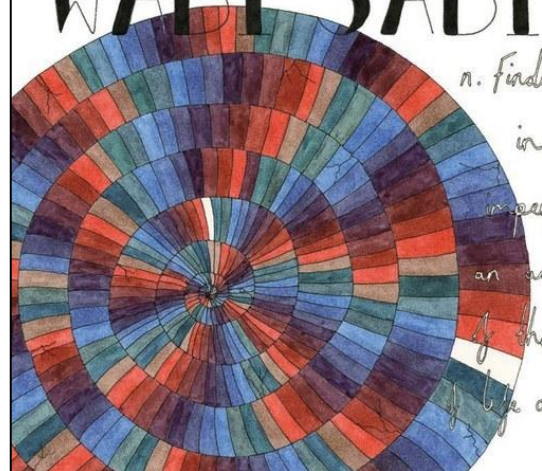
(german)

THE FEELING OF BEING
ALONE IN THE WOODS.




WABI-SABI

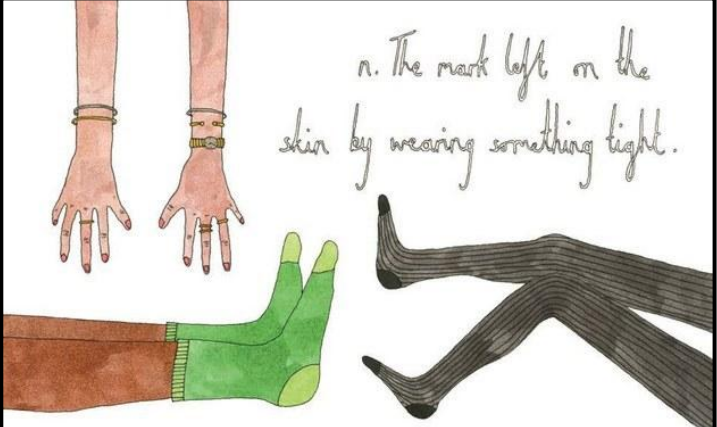
n. Finding beauty
in the
imperfections,
an acceptance
of the cycle
of life and death.



GLAS WEN



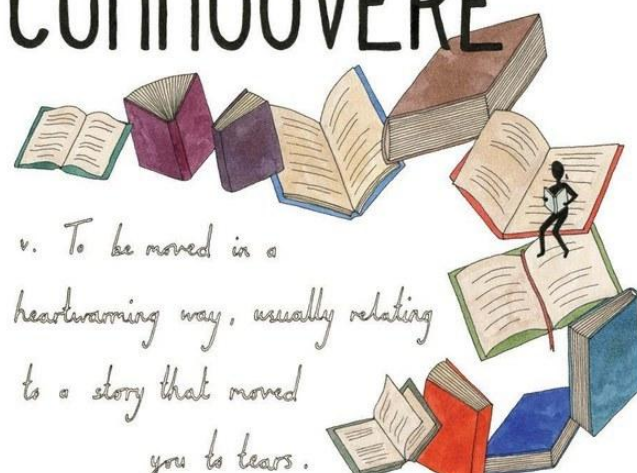
n. This literally means a "blue smile"; one that is sarcastic or mocking.



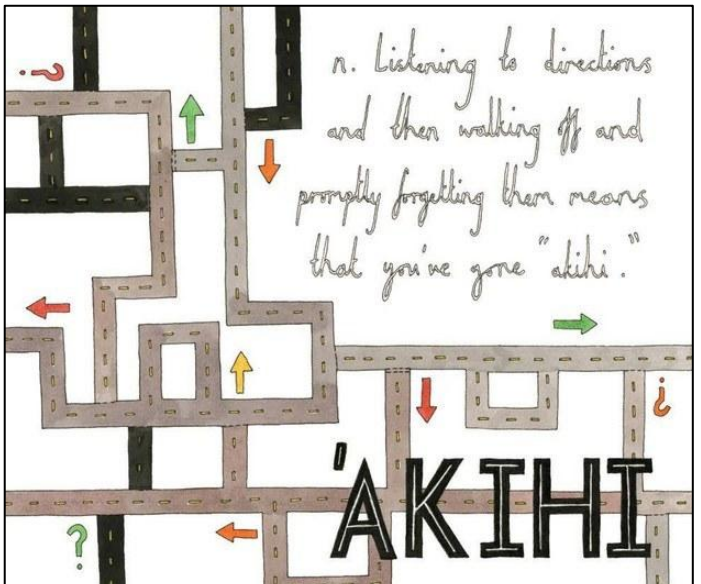
n. The mark left on the skin by wearing something tight.

KARELU

COMMUOVERE



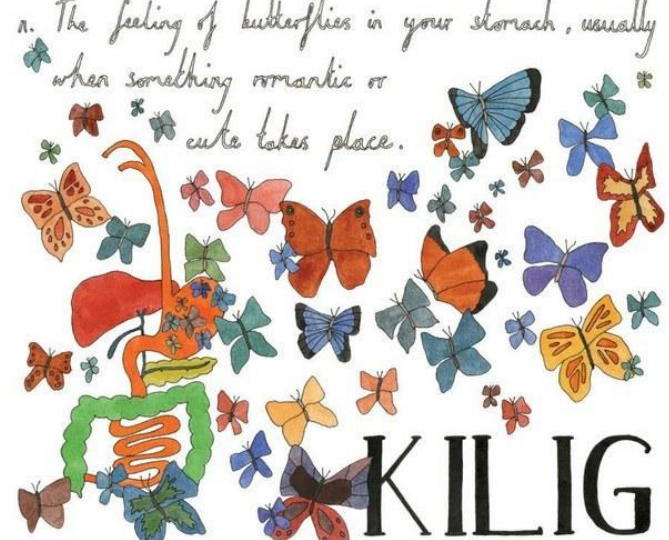
v. To be moved in a heartwarming way, usually relating to a story that moved you to tears.



n. Listening to directions and then walking off and promptly forgetting them means that you've gone "akihi."

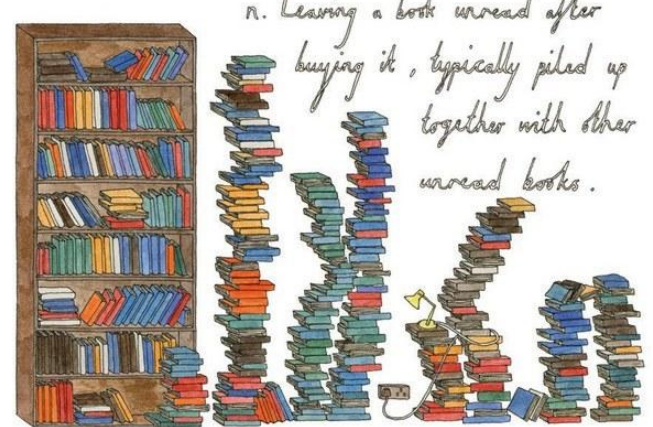
'AKIHI

n. The feeling of butterflies in your stomach, usually when something romantic or cute takes place.



KILIG

TSUNDOKU



n. Leaving a book unread after buying it, typically piled up together with other unread books.

