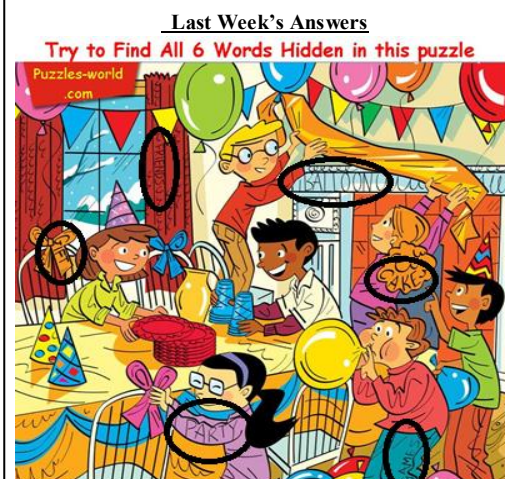


So how did your tests go? Did you get scores you were proud of¹? Or did you hide them under your bed so your mother couldn't see them? I understand. And it was hot! The worst kind of weather to take tests in. You can't study when all you want to do is go outside and lie on some grass somewhere. Well done. And they're over for another few months. So, what's coming up this week? A lot of meetings for the teachers, and I guess all of you are going to have to start getting ready for the school festival. Not long now. I'm very excited.

Something Interesting (Superman)

1. Joe Shuster and Jerry Siegel sold the rights to² Superman for \$130. They had no idea how popular it would become. Now, the Superman franchise³ is worth⁴ billions⁵ of dollars.
2. Superman's ability to⁶ fly was invented⁷ in 1940 because it was too difficult to animate⁸ his legs jumping in a Superman cartoon. When he flies his legs are straight.
3. Kryptonite is Superman's weakness⁹. It was invented in 1943 because the actor for the radio show wanted a holiday. Kryptonite was invented as the reason why Superman wasn't there.
4. Canada has a series of coins with Superman on them. I don't know why.
5. People wonder why Superman can hide as Clark Kent. His only disguise¹⁰ is a pair of glasses. The reason is that you don't see what you don't expect to see.



Announcements

There is a kanji test on Friday. The 5th grade English majors have some meetings on Thursday and Friday. The teachers have lots of meetings. But, that's not new. We have lots of meetings every week.

Superman Turns 80

This month Superman will celebrate his 80th birthday. Well, not really his 80th birthday. The 80th year since he first appeared in a comic book. It was called Action Comics #1 and it was released in June 1938. Incidentally¹¹, if you can get your hands on a pristine¹² copy of that comic, it will probably sell for upwards of¹³ \$1 million. And, when you sell it, don't forget that I was the one who told you to look out for it! Buy me a coffee!



Superman was created by writer Jerry Siegel and artist Joe Shuster. They actually created him in 1933, but they couldn't sell him until Detective Comics (DC) bought him in 1938. In the first comic, Superman had 13 pages that explained where he came from and how he got his power. He was such a success that within a few months he had his own comic book. He was the first real superhero that all other superheroes have been based on¹⁴.

In the beginning he wasn't as powerful. He could jump far but not fly. He gradually became more powerful until he was pretty much invincible¹⁵. Audiences get bored with a hero who cannot be harmed¹⁶. To avoid¹⁷ this, kryptonite, a rock from his home planet that can remove his powers, was invented. Superman is supposed to represent¹⁸ the American dream. He is an immigrant¹⁹ who comes to America and becomes extremely successful.



- 1.Be proud of 誇りを持つ 2.Rights to 化権を得る 3.Franchise フランチャイズ 4.Worth 値打ち 5.Billions 数十億 6.Ability to する能力 7.Invent 発明する 8.Animate アニメされる 9.Weakness 弱点 10.Disguise 変装させる 11.Incidentally ちなみに 12.Pristine 新品同様の 13.Upwards of 上回る額 14.Based on 基づいている 15.Invincible 無敵の 16.Be harmed 危害を加えられる 17.Avoid ~を避ける 18.Represent 妃殿下 19.Immigrant 移民者

★ English News Page 2 ★



Strange World Records

Do you think the weather is getting hot? Summer will be here soon. Hot and humid¹. Do you wish you could find somewhere cool? Maybe find some snow and lie in it? Just for a little bit? Well, Oleksiy Gutsulyak did that. He found some snow and lay in it. He has the world record for the longest time spent in direct, full body contact with snow. His record is 60 minutes and 8 seconds. He is from Ukraine. And, yes, in case you are wondering, "direct, full body contact" does mean naked. He lay in snow. Naked. In a park. For one hour. That's a record I don't think I'm going to try to break.



Today I will live in the moment,
unless it is unpleasant²,
in which case³ I will eat a cookie



★ Places you should visit ★

If you have the time and the money, you should visit Bora Bora. It is a group of islands in the western part of French Polynesia. The main island, has two volcanic peaks⁴ sticking out⁵ of a lagoon⁶, surrounded by⁷ a barrier reef. If you were asked to draw a tropical island on a piece of paper, this is what you would draw. It is perfect in every way. The island economy⁸ is dependent on tourism and there are many different styles of resort. Most of them are next to the water or sticking out into the water. The climate is hot all year round and the winter months have more rain. If your goal for a vacation is to lie around next to a lagoon, eat island food, swim, lie around some more, then maybe climb a volcano, this is the place for you.



★ A Strange World Food ★

Black pudding

Every week, I write about strange foods, but this is one I actually eat myself. It comes from the UK. Black pudding is a type of sausage made from the congealed blood⁹ of a pig mixed with breadcrumbs and spices. It is usually served fried. The taste is rich and salty. It is actually pretty yummy.



- 1.humid 蒸し暑い 2.unpleasant 不愉快な 3.case 場合 4.volcanic peak 火山の頂上 5.stick out 出す 6.lagoon 小さな沼 7.surrounded by ~で取り囲まれる 8.economy 経済 9.congealed blood 凝固血