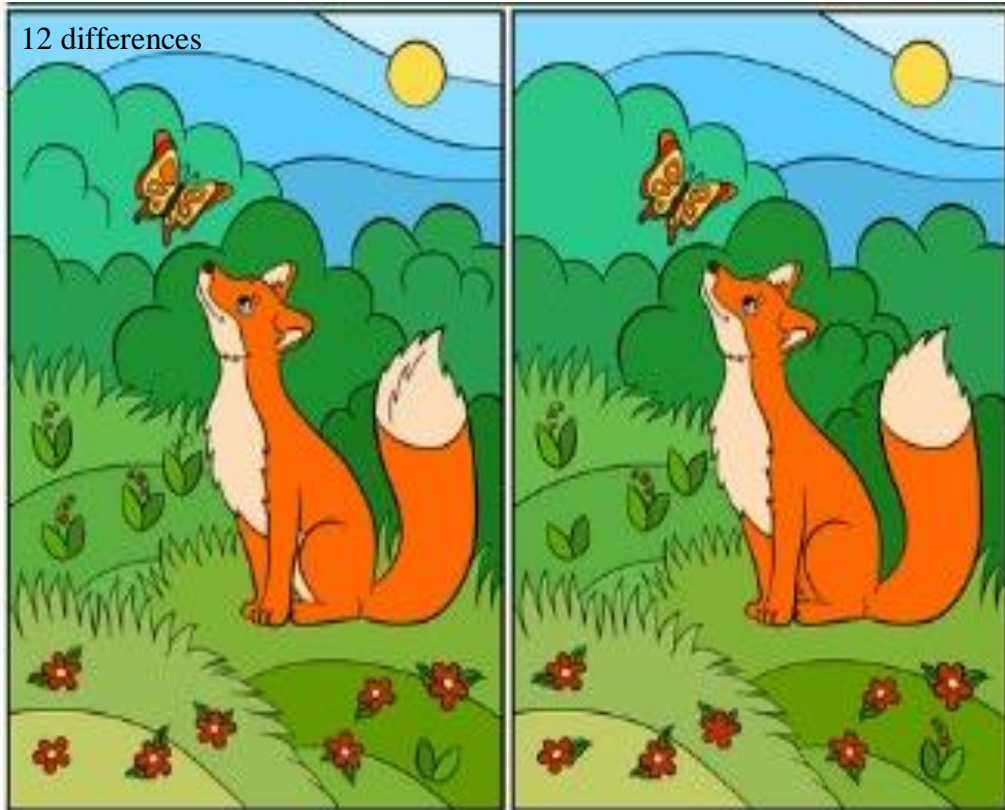


This is going to be a fun week. Friday is a holiday, which is always a good thing, then we have Hokusei Girls' High School's first ever Cambridge English test!! On Saturday, about 200 of you will be taking the Cambridge test here. It is going to be a lot of fun. It is actually a test of your English ability, so you will know if you are becoming a better English speaker or not. I know it means that you have to come to school in the middle of a three-day-weekend, but, look on the bright side¹ ... so do I.

Something You Don't Know (Comic books)

1. The first comic book in America was The Adventures of Mr. Obadiah Oldbuck, in 1842. Comics in Japan predate² this by about 100 years. They were printed on woodblocks.
2. Japan is the biggest comic book market in the world, about ¥600 billion per year.
3. The most expensive comic is Action Comics Number 1. It was published in 1938 and has the first ever Superman story. A pristine³ copy will see for over \$1 million.
4. The Incredible Hulk was gray when he was first created, but he was changed to green because the printers couldn't be consistent⁴ with the shade of gray they used.
5. Michael Jackson almost bought Marvel comics in the 1990s because he wanted to play Spiderman in a movie. That would have been interesting.

12 differences



Last Week's Answers



Announcements

The HS English major students have a chance to get together and talk with each other on Thursday. That's it. Tests are soon!

Stan Lee Dies

I'm sorry that I have done death for two weeks in a row⁵ now, but I thought this might be one that you are all interested in. Maybe you don't know who Stan Lee is, but you definitely know some of the characters he created, or you have seen them in movies. Starting in the 1960s he invented Spiderman, Hulk, Doctor Strange, the Fantastic Four, Daredevil, Black Panther, the X-Men, Ant-Man, Iron Man and Thor.



Stan Lee died last Monday, at the age of 95. He had been ill for a while. He possibly became more famous over the last ten years because he always had a cameo⁶ in every Marvel movie that was made. Now you know what he looks like, go back, watch them again and see if you can see him. He is there. He started working for Marvel in 1939, before it was even called Marvel. He worked there, or was connected to them, until his death.

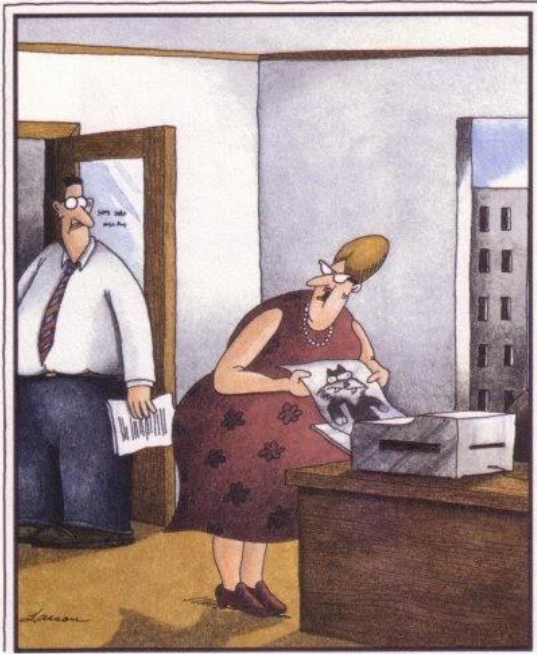
Lee's wife of 69 years died in 2017, and his health, which had been suffering for a while, started to deteriorate⁷.

The characters that he has created have earned over \$100 billion dollars, but that money didn't go to Stan Lee because he was just a company employee at Marvel when he created them. He didn't own the rights⁸ to the characters. He always said that that didn't bother⁹ him and he didn't need billions to be happy.



- 1.Look on the bright side** 物事の明るい面を見る **2.Predate** ~より前から存在ある
3.Pristine 新品同様 **4.Consistent** 一致した **5.Two weeks in a row** 2週間連続 **6.Cameo** 名優の登場 **7.Deteriorate** 悪化する **8.Rights** 権利 **9.Bother** 苦にする

★ English News Page 2 ★



"It's a fax from your dog, Mr. Dansworth. It looks like your cat."

World Records

When my wife and I got married, she wanted to save as much money as possible. She found an online wedding dress maker that was fairly¹ cheap. Much cheaper than the world's most expensive wedding dress, which comes in at an eye watering² \$30 million. It's called the Nightingale of Kuala Lumpur and has 751 diamonds sewn into it. It is designed so that it shimmers³ in the light and makes the bride look ethereal⁴, like a goddess. It has a 6m long train. Maybe my wife's next husband will be able to afford it for her. Her current one can't.



★ Where did it come from? ★

This is something you use far more than you realize. It is called Saccharin and it is an artificial sweetener⁵ than goes into many things that we eat. It is about 400 times sweeter than sugar but has no calories. If something tastes sweet, chances are it has saccharin in it. Anyway, Saccharin was invented by accident. It was invented in 1879 by Constantin Fahlberg, but he wasn't trying to invent it. He was trying to invent an alternative use⁶ for coal tar⁷. When he got home one night he noticed that his wife's cookies tasted sweeter than usual. He realized it was because he hadn't washed his hands and had benzoic sulfimide on them. He did more tests and then patented Saccharine. It wasn't very popular until the sugar shortages in World War 1 and Fahlberg became very



★ An Interesting Sport ★

Bubble Football

Have you ever felt that soccer is too boring? Well, that's what Herik Elvestad thought in Norway in 2011. He decided that he had a way to make it more interesting. He came up with Bubble Football. The rules are exactly the same as regular soccer, with the only difference being that each player must wear a giant bubble. You still have to pass and score goals, but you are wearing a giant bubble. Sounds fun. We should try it.



The most **difficult** thing is the **decision** to **act**, the **rest** is merely **tenacity**.

- Amelia Earhart



1.Fairly かなり 2.Eye watering 目から涙が出てるような～ 3.Shimmer チラチラ光る 4.Ethereal 極めて優美な 5.Artificial sweetener 人工甘味料 6.Alternative use～の使用に代わる方法 7.Coal tar 石炭ター