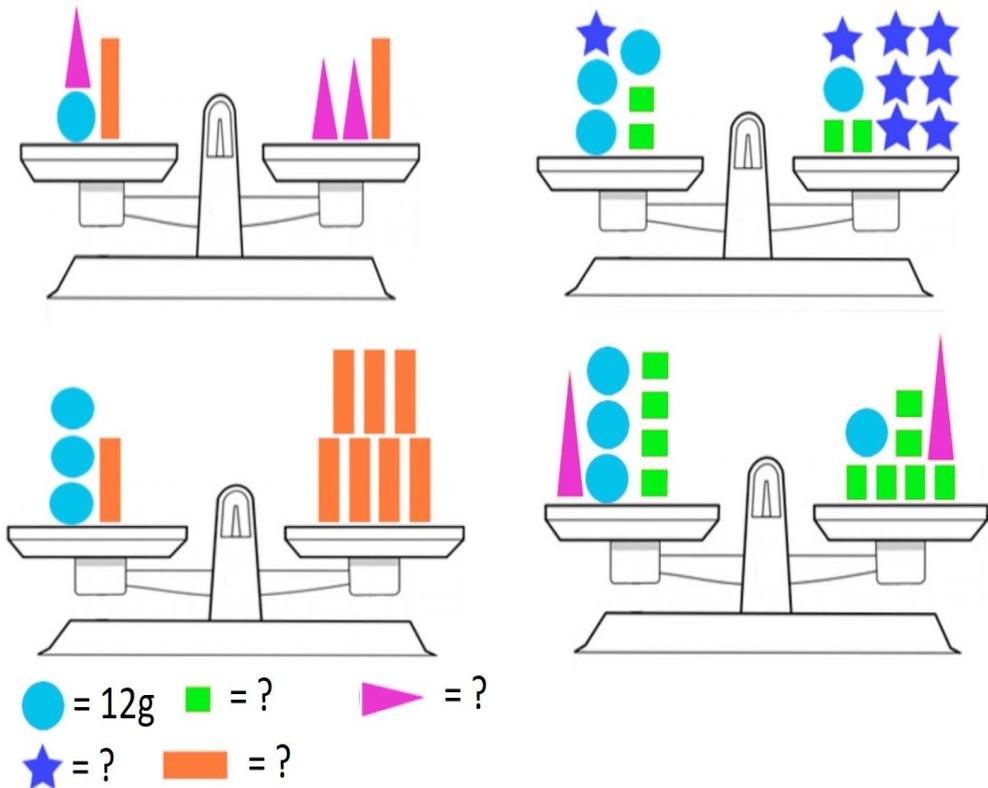


It was my daughter's birthday last Saturday. She is certainly growing up quickly. She was six years old. It seems like only yesterday that she was born. I can't believe how fast the time has flown by. I wonder if she will be as tall as me when she finishes growing. She wanted something called an "LOL Surprise" for her birthday. It's some kind of stupid doll in a ball. I wanted to buy her a chemistry set, or maybe more LEGO, but no, she wanted that LOL Surprise thing. I guess I'll have to wait until my birthday for more LEGO. Ha ha.

### Something You Didn't Know (Cardboard<sup>1</sup>)

1. Corrugated<sup>2</sup> cardboard was invented in the UK in 1856 and was used as a liner for top hats<sup>3</sup>.
2. In 1871, in New York, cardboard was first used for shipping.
3. The prefabricated<sup>4</sup> cardboard box was invented by accident in 1890. A man in Scotland was making paper bags. Something in his machine slipped and started folding and cutting the bags. He realized he could use it to manufacture easy to assemble cardboard boxes.
4. In the 1950s, the box became popular because it could be used to ship fruit without bruising<sup>5</sup>. This helped producers make more money and export internationally.
5. Amazon in America uses about 35 million tons of cardboard per year.
6. 90% of cardboard is recycled, compared with only about 22% of paper.



**Last Week's Answers**  
What is the area of the yellow rectangle?

	20	14	
12			27
8		15	
	25		21

**Announcements**  
The JHS have a singing competition on Thursday.  
The 3<sup>rd</sup> grade high have an overnight studying holiday (?) on Friday.  
I have one of my elementary school classes on Monday.

### Price Of Drinks To Go Up 20 Yen

Most of the major bottling companies in Japan announced last week that they are going to raise the price of their drink bottles by 20 yen over the next few months. Suntory and Coca Cola probably own the most types of drinks in Japan, so the price hike<sup>6</sup> will affect all of us. The reason for the price change is the rising price of cardboard. Apparently, the price of cardboard has risen from 55 yen per 1m<sup>2</sup> to 62 yen, causing a fall in their profits<sup>7</sup>.



I'm not the best mathematician in the world, but I'm pretty sure a price rise of 55 yen to 62 yen is only 7 yen. This doesn't explain, to me, why they are raising the price of their drinks by 20 yen. I'm sure they have their reasons. They have to look out for their bottom line<sup>8</sup>. Coca cola and the other drink companies use a staggering<sup>9</sup> amount of cardboard to package and ship their drinks. Thanks to recycling programs, a lot is reused.

However, this figure is not 100%. A lot of cardboard is still wasted. The bottling industry could try to transition to reusable<sup>10</sup> containers to ship their drinks in, but then you have the added costs of collecting and cleaning the containers. Plus, cardboard is very easy to store in a warehouse. Maybe one of you will be the one to solve this problem. I think, some kind of light, collapsible<sup>11</sup> plastic or metal case is the obvious way to go. Which one of you is going to invent it?



- 1.Cardboard** 段ボール **2.Corrugated** 波形の **3.Top hat** シルクハット **4.Prefabricated** 作成済みの **5.Bruise** 傷める **6.Price hike** 価格上昇 **7.Profit** 利益 **8.Bottom line** 最終的な収益  
◆【語源】 計算書の最下行 (bottom line) に集計結果が記入されることから  
**9.Staggering** 驚くほど **10.Reusable** 再利用 **11.Collapsible** 折り畳める

# ★ English News Page 2 ★



**World Records**

My daughter was shouting the other day and I wondered how loud she was. She is loud, but probably not as loud as Charlie, a Golden Retriever from Australia. He has the loudest bark<sup>1</sup> in the world. He barks at 113 decibels<sup>2</sup>. For comparison, a vacuum cleaner is 80 decibels, a blender is 88 decibels, a freight train<sup>3</sup> is 90 decibels, a rock concert is about 110 decibels, a chainsaw is 120 decibels, a jet taking off is 150 decibels. Our ears will rupture<sup>4</sup> with sounds over 150 decibels. So, Charlie is loud and not a dog I would like in my house.



“If you are going to get anywhere in life you have to read a lot of books.”

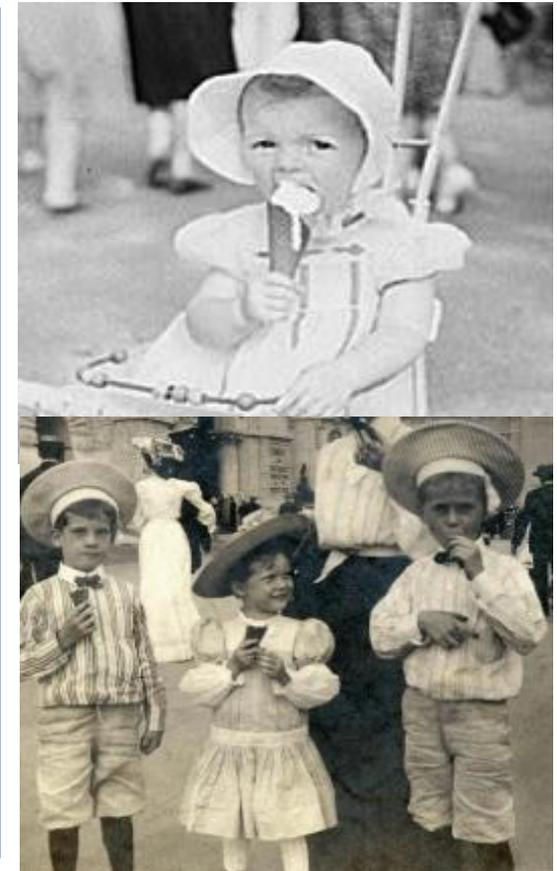
– Roald Dahl



Roald Dahl

# ★ Where did it come from? ★

The weather is getting warming and the summer is nearly upon us. Well ... almost nearly. So, it is time to start eating ice cream. Giant ice creams. And, how do you eat your ice cream? In a cone, of course! Well, the story goes that Arnold Fornachou was selling ice cream at the World's Fair in 1904. He was selling the ice cream in paper cups, but he ran out! Conveniently<sup>5</sup>, right next to his ice cream stall was a waffle store. The ingenious<sup>6</sup> businessman bought waffles, rolled them into cones and filled them with a scoop of ice cream. Voila! The ice cream cone was born. This is a nice story, but the patent was filed in 1902 in Italy. However, while not really inventing the cone, Mr. Fornachou was instrumental<sup>7</sup> in popularizing it.



# ★ An Interesting Sport ★

## Catfish Noodling

Catfish<sup>8</sup> noodling is a sport that exists in the southern states of the USA. Basically, a person dives into a river and puts their arm in a catfish hole. The catfish tries to escape, swallows the person's arm up to the elbow and is caught. Catfish have no teeth, so there is no danger from them. There is danger from the other animals that might live in an old catfish hole. Crocodiles, snakes and turtles. Those can be very dangerous.



- 1.Bark 吠える 2.Decibel デシベル 3.Freight train 貨物列車 4.Rupture the eardrum 鼓膜を破る  
5.Conveniently 便利に 6.Ingenious 独創性のある 7.Instrumental 役立つ 8.Catfish ナマズ