

The sixth grade graduate this week. They will all come in on Thursday and Friday, graduate, and find themselves no longer high school students. What will they do? How will they feel? We don't have graduations in the UK, so I don't really know. My school finished on the last day and everybody just went home. That was it. One day there was school and the next there wasn't. We were all very happy. I hope all of them go on to have wonderful futures and fill their potentials¹. Anything is possible for them at the moment. Good luck.

Something You Didn't Know (Computers)

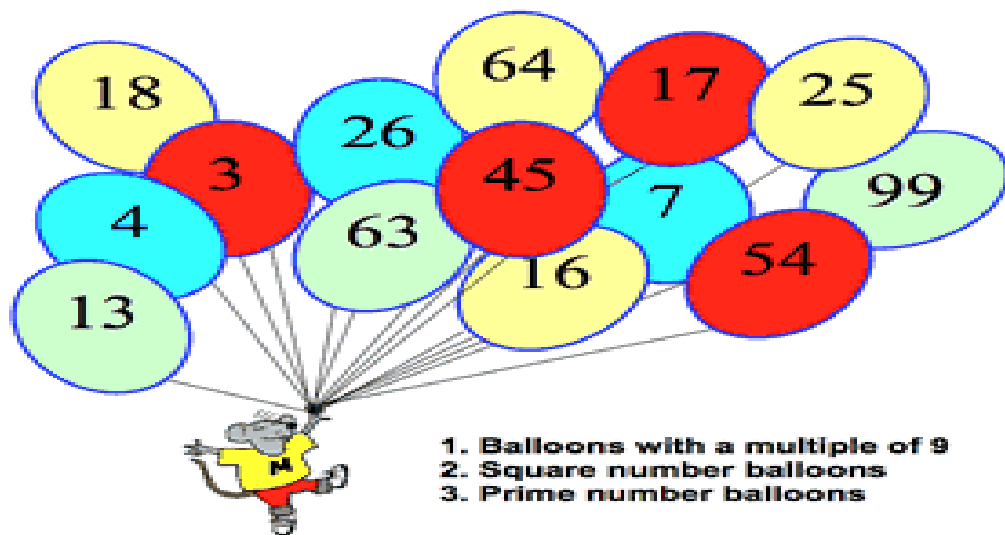
1. The first real computer, ENIAC, built in 1946, weighed 27 tons and took up 550m².
2. The first ever hard disk was built in 1956 and could hold 5MB of data. It cost \$50,000 and was the size of two very large refrigerators². You can now buy a 100TB hard drive for under \$2,000 and it is 6.35cm². What will happen in the next 50 years?
3. The IBM 5120, released in 1980, was the heaviest desktop ever made. The computer weighed 50kg and the external³ disk drive weighed another 60kg. My laptop weighs 2kg.
4. People blink⁴ 20 times a second on average, but only 7 times a second when using a computer.
5. The GeForce 6800 Ultra is the smallest processor⁵ so far. It has 222,000,000 transistors⁶ and is 2.8cm across. They will soon be so small that we cannot see them.



Puzzle time

Balloon bursting

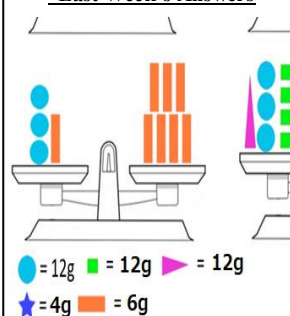
If a number in one of the balloons is included in the answers to the four problems below then that balloon will fly away.



1. Balloons with a multiple of 9
2. Square number balloons
3. Prime number balloons

WHICH BALLOON IS LEFT?

Last Week's Answers



Announcements

Lesson 1 on Thursday is the Graduation Assembly.
Friday is the graduation so all other grades have study time at home. Study lots.

30-Year-Old Apple Computer

A New York university professor found a 30-year-old Apple IIe in his parents' attic. He cleaned it up, switched it on, and it worked! He put in a game disk that he found with the computer and it asked him if he wanted to continue a saved game. He clicked, "yes" and started playing a game he had left off over thirty years before! It was just like he had stepped out to get a drink and come straight back.



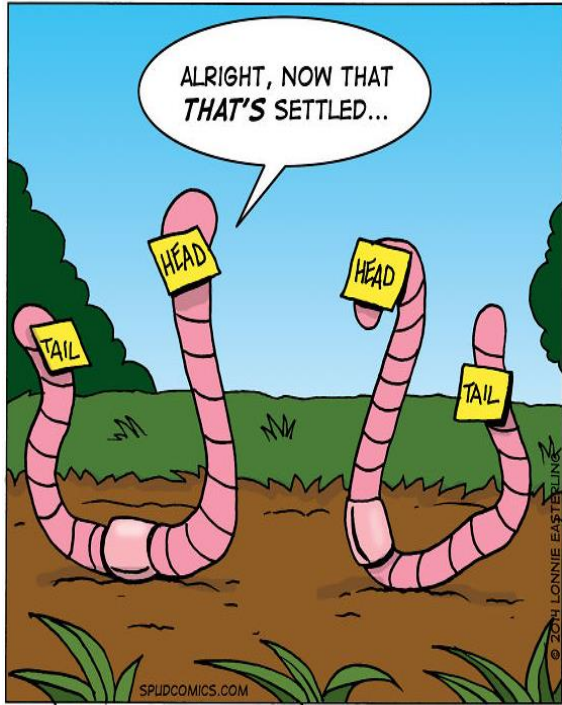
The Apple IIe was released in 1983 and was the first computer that could write in upper and lower case⁷ characters. About 6 million of these computers were sold, so it is not quite as rare as the Apple I. A fully working version of an Apple I (only about 500 were sold) went for \$385,000 at an auction in 2013. If you happen to find one of those lying around your house, be sure to bring it to me before you sell it. Ha ha.

Pfaff, the professor, also found a letter that his dad had typed to him on the computer. His dad died before he found this computer, so that was very emotional for him. How many of the computers that we use today do you think will still work in 30 years time? I would be very surprised if many of them do. These days, we don't build technology to last and we are always looking for the next advancement⁸. But, you never know. I'm going to keep this laptop.



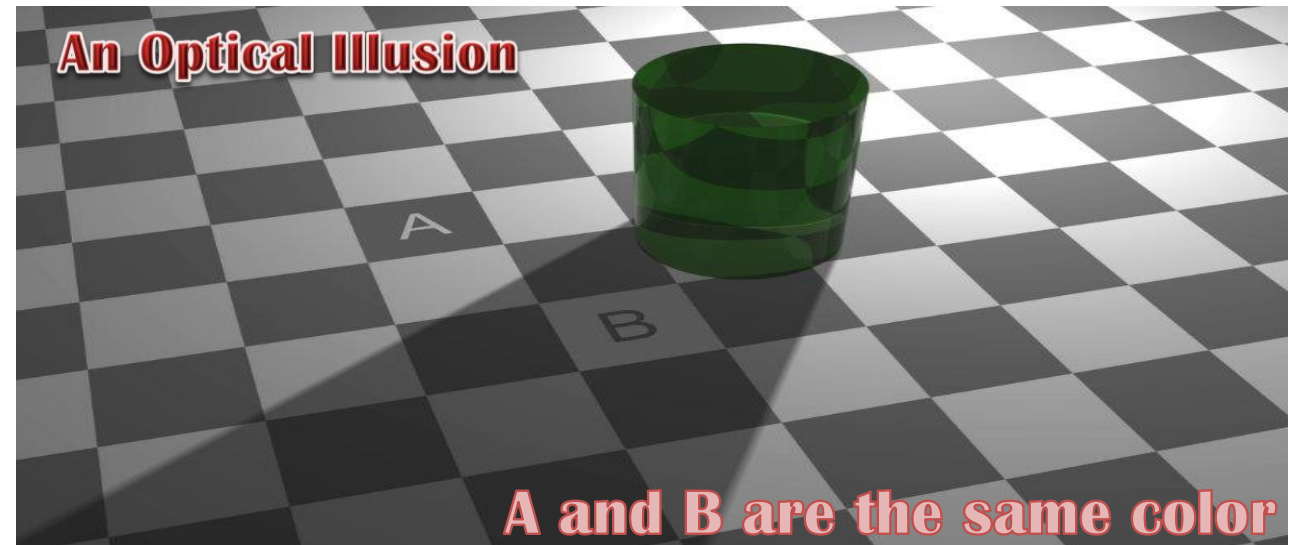
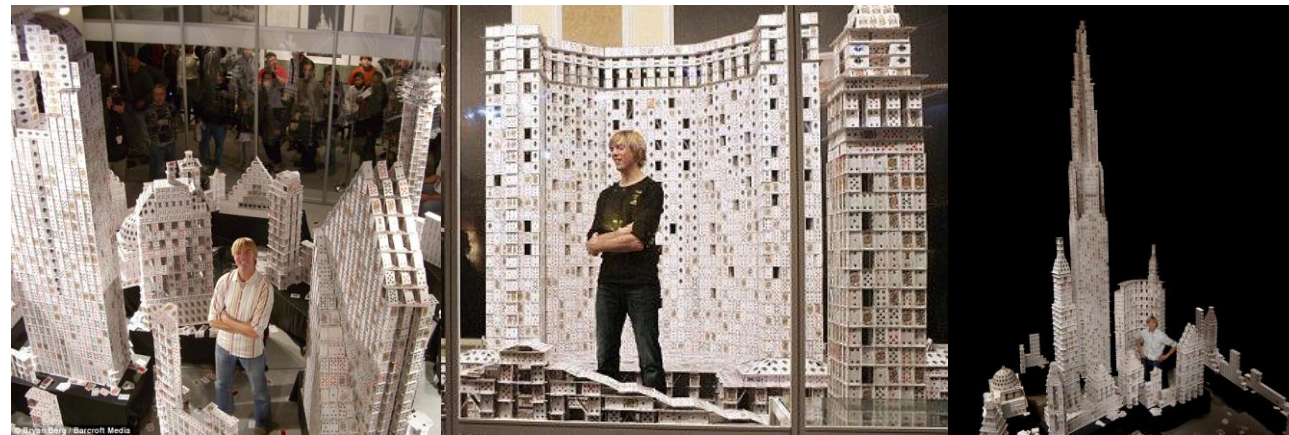
- 1.Fill ones potential ~の可能性を十分に達成する 2.Refrigerator 冷蔵庫 3.External 外の
4.Blink まばたき 5.Processor 中央演算処理装置 6.Transistor トランジスタ 7.Upper case and lower case 大文字活字ケース小文字 8.Advancement 進歩

★ English News Page 2 ★



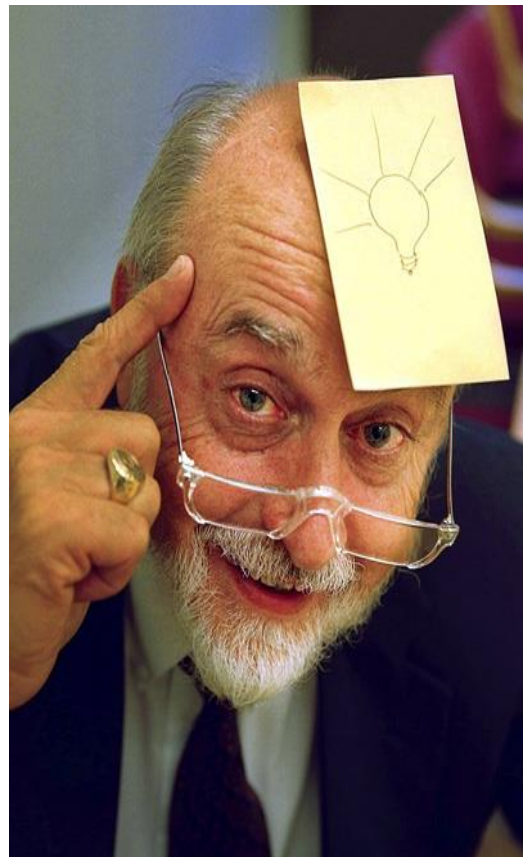
World Records

Have you ever tried to build a house with playing cards¹? I once managed to build one as tall as my cat. Then my cat knocked it down. Well, Bryan Berg used 218,792 playing cards and took 44 days to build a model of three casinos in Macau. That gave him the record for the largest card structure. Two years before that, he built a 7.9m high model of a skyscraper² in Texas. I have been watching his videos on YouTube and I think I have worked out his secret. I think I know why he can do it and I can't. He doesn't have a cat.



★ Where did it come from? ★

When you are reading a textbook and you want to make a note, what do you do? Well, you can write in the margin³, or you can use a post-it note. Have you ever wondered how the post-it was invented? A man called Art Fry came up with the idea in 1978. He worked for a company called M3. He was talking to another scientist who worked for M3. That scientist, Spencer Silver, had invented a glue⁴ that was strong enough to stick to things, but not strong enough that it would stay stuck. He thought it was a useless⁵ invention and didn't know what to do with it. Art Fry sang in a choir⁶ and he never knew how to mark the pages of his hymnbook⁷. Listening to Spencer Silver, he had an idea, and the post-it was born. The post-it is now one of 3M's best-selling products.



★ An Interesting Sport ★

Caber Toss

This is probably not a sport we will be able to do here at school. A caber is the 6m long trunk of a larch⁸ tree. Basically, the athletes pick up this tree and throw it as far as they can. Points are awarded for distance, but also for style. A perfect caber toss will make the caber flip⁹ end over end and land pointing away from the athlete. Right, I know I said we couldn't do it, but I've changed my mind. I think, once the snow melts, we should have a go. Who's with me?



1. Playing card トランプ 2. Skyscraper 超高層ビル 3. Margin 余白 4. Glue ボンド 5. Useless 使えないもの 6. Choir 聖歌隊 7. Hymnbook 讃美歌 8. Larch カラマツ 9. Flip 回転させる