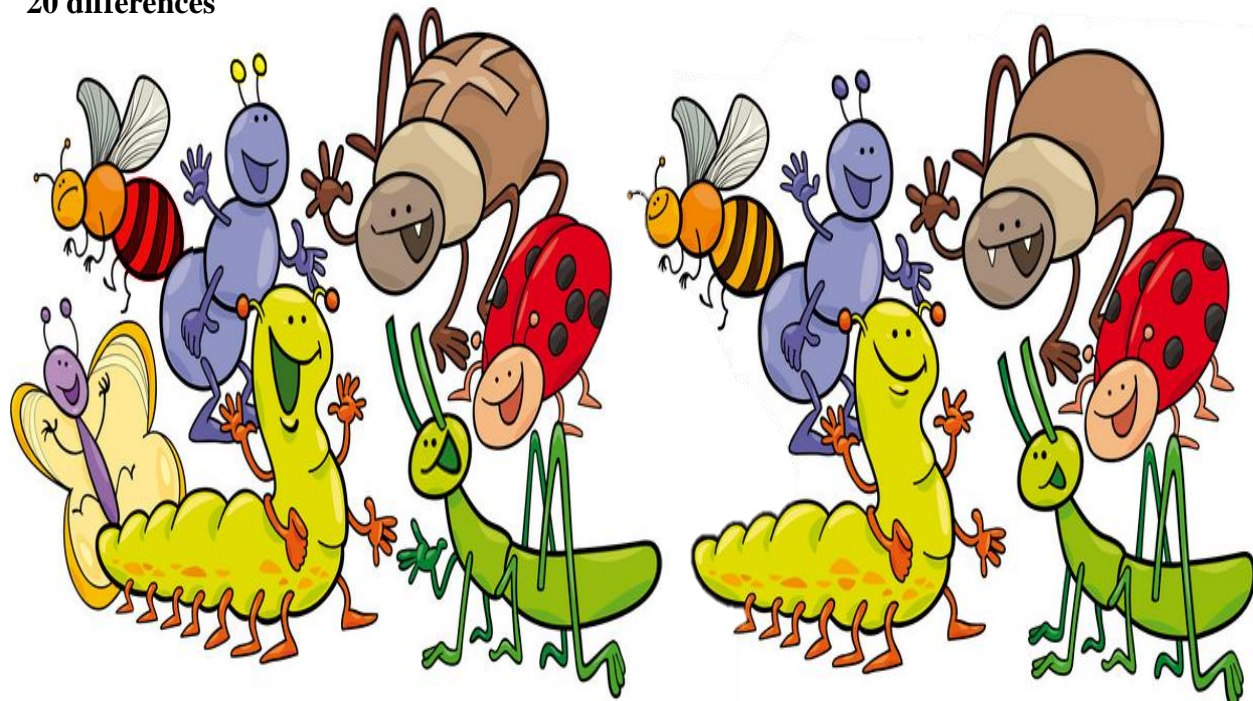


This has been quite a week. 2020 is turning out to be¹ a year that we won't forget. This year is many things, but it certainly isn't boring. When things start to go a little crazy, as they are recently, it is important to try and stay positive. It is easy to think about all the things that are happening and all of the things that we can't do, but we have to try and focus on² the things that we can do. We will get through this year and we will become stronger because of it. Take time to appreciate³ your friends and your family and to be grateful for what you have.

Something You Didn't Know (Potato Chips)

1. The first recipe for potato chips can be found in a UK recipe book in 1817. However, these were sliced 6mm thick. The modern style chip was possibly invented in Saratoga Springs, America and potato chips were called Saratoga Chips for a long time.
2. Potato chips were kept in barrels⁴ until American Laura Scudder invented the waxed⁵ bag.
3. Potato chips were only salted until the 1950s, when Irishman Joe Murphy invented a way to add flavor to the chips. The very first flavored chips were cheese and onion.
4. Potato chips bags are filled with nitrogen⁶ to prevent breaking and to keep the chips fresh.
5. Potato chips were almost cancelled during World War 2. The US government⁷ said they were an unessential⁸ food. Many people protested⁹ and soon they became an essential food.
6. March 14th is potato chip day. I don't know why.

20 differences



Pringles Can is Redesigned

Kellogg, the company that owns Pringles, has said that it will finally redesign its pringle cans. For many years, recycling organizations have called the pringles can, "the number one recycling villain¹⁰". The can is made of a mix of materials that cannot be separated and recycled separately. It has a metal base, a plastic cover, a tear-off metal cover, and a cardboard tube that is lined with aluminium foil. It is completely impossible to separate out these materials and recycle them.

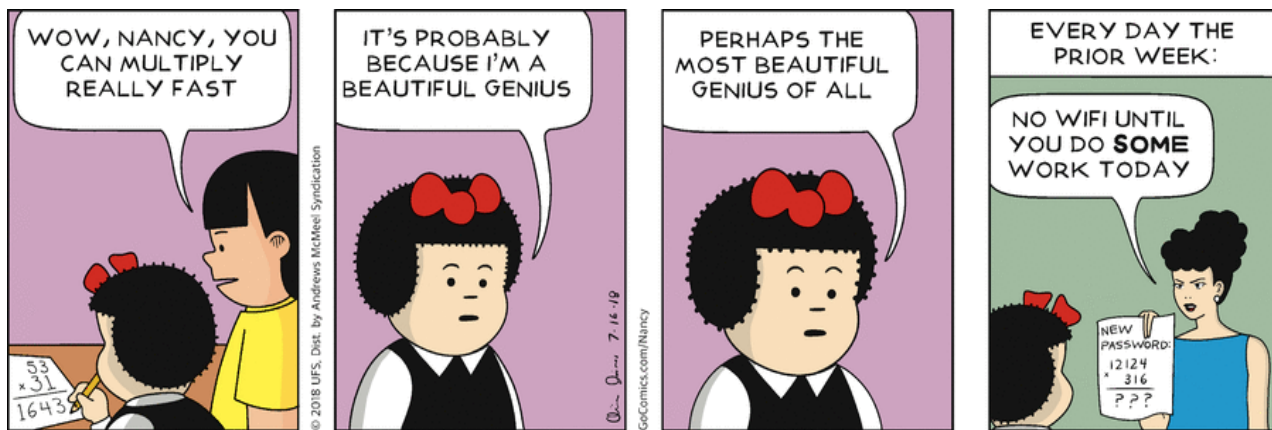


Recycling groups have urged¹¹ Kellogg for years to remake the tube, and they have finally agreed. It has taken them 12 months to prepare a new design, but it is 90% paper. There is a recyclable plastic wrap that covers the tube. The tube needs to be airtight¹² to keep oxygen¹³ away from the chips because it would make them lose flavor and go stale¹⁴. Then, the top of the can is either going to be paper or plastic. Hopefully, it will be paper because a lot of people who eat pringles at picnics throw away the tops.

Many companies are trying to make their products more easily recyclable. However, they are not doing it out of the goodness of their hearts¹⁵, but because of consumer pressure¹⁶. Companies do whatever they think will make them the most profit¹⁷. We need to make companies more environmentally friendly by using the power of our money.

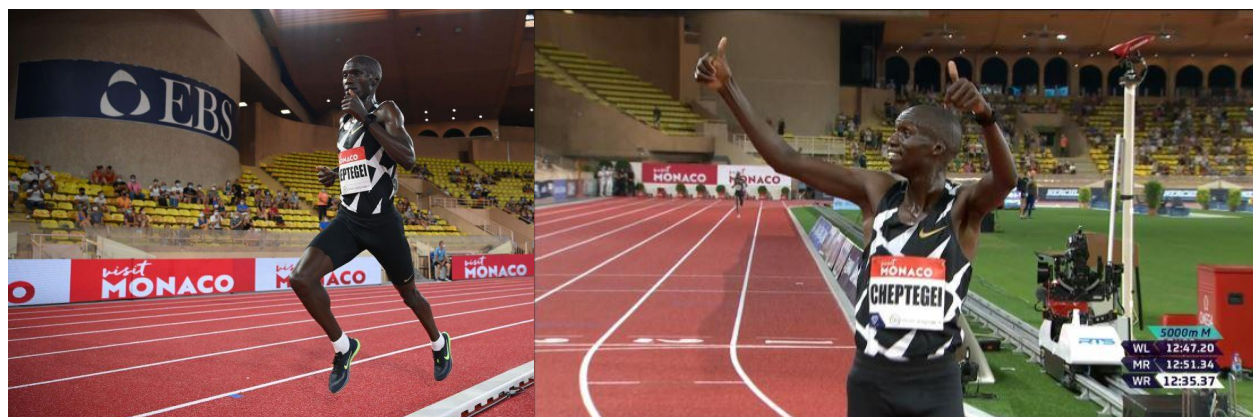


1. Turn out to be になる 2. Focus on に集中する 3. Appreciate 感謝する 4. Barrel 樽
5. Waxed ろう付き 6. Nitrogen 窒素 7. Government 政府 8. Unessential 本質的ではない
9. Protest 反対する 10. Villain 悪役 11. Urge 強く勧める 12. Airtight 気密の 13. Oxygen 酸素
14. Stale 新鮮でない 15. The goodness of their hearts 親切心から 16. Consumer pressure 消費者の圧力 17. Profit 利益



World Records

How many of you cycle to school? Do you go fast? How far away do you live? If you live 5km away and you cycle at 23.2 km/h, then you are going as fast as Joshua Cheptegei, who broke the 5km world record this year. He ran the 5km in 12 minutes and 35 seconds. I think I would have trouble¹ cycling that far in that short a time. What about you? He broke the previous world record that had been standing for 16 years. The world record progression² is interesting. The first record was 14 minutes 36 seconds in 1912. Since 1985, it has only been beaten by people from African countries. Advances³ in shoe technology and training methods might mean that we will see a world record under 12 minutes in the next decade.



Don't make excuses⁴,
make improvements⁵.

The ~est in the world

Do you like coffee? I do. But I drink cheap coffee. The most expensive coffee in the world is called Kopi luwak. It is made from coffee berries that have been eaten by an Asian palm civet and then pooped out. The people who like the coffee say that the civets only choose the best coffee berries and the digestion⁶ process improves the taste of the beans and a kg can sell for 70,000 yen. However, the people who farm the coffee know this and they have started to keep the civets in cages and force-feed⁷ them berries. Also, coffee professionals generally rate the coffee as bad. It sells for its novelty value⁸ but isn't actually good coffee.



Something You Probably Didn't Know



Many people wear jeans, but not many people know what that little pocket inside the front pocket is for. If you put your thumb in your right front pocket, you should be able to feel the smaller pocket. For years I thought it was for holding coins, but I found out a while ago that it is actually for holding a pocket watch. Up until pretty much the first world war, only women wore wristwatches, which they called "bracelet watches" and men used pocket watches. In the war, it became important for all soldiers to know the correct time and to be able to see their watches easily, so wristwatches became popular among soldiers and then the custom spread to general people. Now, very few people use a pocket watch, and yet jeans are still made with that little pocket. I don't know why.

New words: 1. **Have trouble ..ing** ~のがやりづらい 2. **Progression** 進化 3. **Advances** 進歩
4. **Excuses** 言い訳 5. **Improvements** 改善 6. **Digestion** 消化 7. **Force-feed** に飲食物を無理やり摂取させる 8. **Novelty value** 面白さの価値