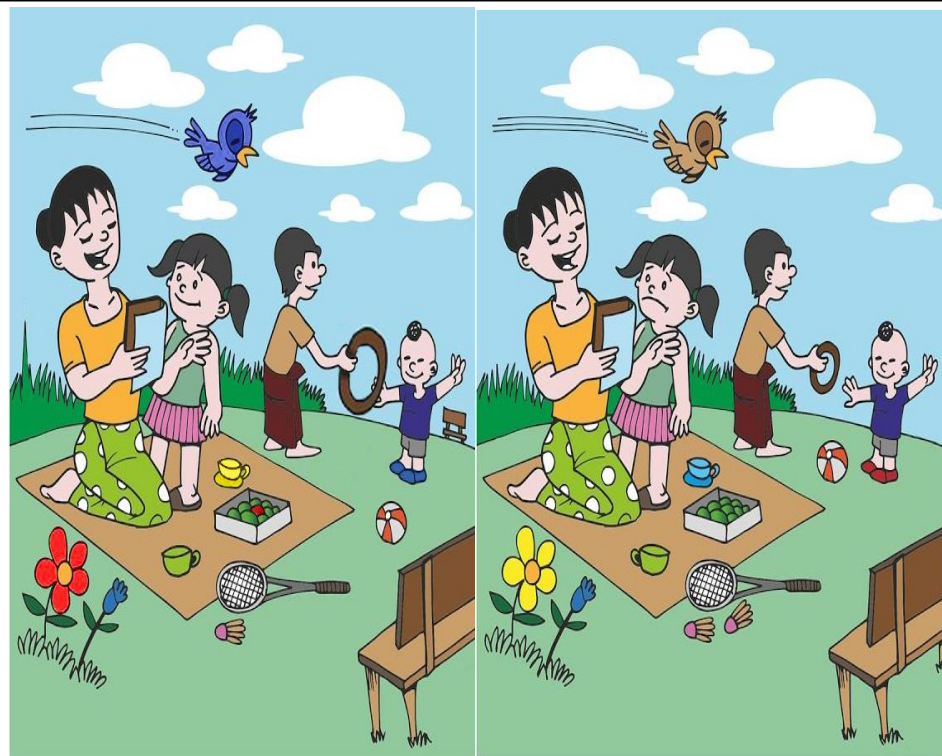


This is a hard week for all of the homeroom teachers. It is guidance week. I know that all of you don't like having guidance, (you never know what your teacher is going to say in front of your mother or father) but imagine your homeroom teacher. They have to do the same guidance 30 or more times. It is great meeting all of your parents and it is great to talk to you, but, honestly, it is exhausting<sup>1</sup>. Spare a thought for<sup>2</sup> your teacher at the end of this week, and maybe ask them how they are doing on Monday. They will appreciate<sup>3</sup> it.

### Something Interesting (Tomatoes)

1. Tomatoes originally came from South America. The word tomato comes from the Nahuatl (Aztec) word "tomatl".
2. Tomatoes came to Europe in the 1500s when Europeans started exploring<sup>4</sup> South America.
3. Many people think tomatoes are vegetables, but they are actually fruit. The confusion<sup>5</sup> started in 1893 when the American Supreme Court<sup>6</sup> ruled that they were vegetables. In America at that time, vegetables had a higher import duty<sup>7</sup> than fruit. A tomato importer tried to argue that tomatoes were fruit so he could pay less tax<sup>8</sup>. He lost. The Supreme Court said that tomatoes were vegetables because they were used in the same ways as vegetable and not fruit.
4. There are over 10,000 different varieties of tomato.
5. People used to think tomatoes were poisonous<sup>9</sup>.



Can you find all 18 differences in these pictures? Good luck. Some of them are pretty small.

Last week's answer



### Tomato Yoghurt

There has been a lot of important news this week. Happy things. Sad things. Serious things. Fun things. I have chosen to write about the most serious news of all: Morinaga has released a tomato yoghurt. This new product appears to have divided Japanese society between people who think it will be awesome and people who think it will be absolutely hideous<sup>10</sup>. I am actually in the third category: people who don't know if it will be good or not until they try it.



When they came up with the idea, Morinaga interviewed many people who hated tomatoes to try and work out why they hated the fruit. They then used the information they had to make this yoghurt. I don't know what their research told them, but I would be very interested to try it. The yoghurt has small pieces of tomato in it. I personally like tomatoes, but I am not fond of the skin. The texture puts me off. I will be ok if the yoghurt has fruit but no skin.

Morinaga is using the love / hate relationship in the commercial. They are building up<sup>11</sup> the fact that if you don't like tomatoes you will hate this yoghurt in the hope that more people who like tomatoes will want to eat it. It is an interesting advertising strategy<sup>12</sup>. Usually companies aim for all of the market, but they are only targeting half of it. If you have tried the yoghurt, let me know what it's like.



- 1.Exhausting 疲れさせる 2.Spare a thought for ~について考える 3.Appreciate 感激する  
4.Explore 調査する 5.Confusion 混乱 6.Supreme Court 最高裁判所 7.Import duty 輸入税 8.Tax 税金  
9.Poisonous 毒の 10.Hideous 非常に醜い 11.Build up 積み上げる 12.Strategy 作戦



### World Records

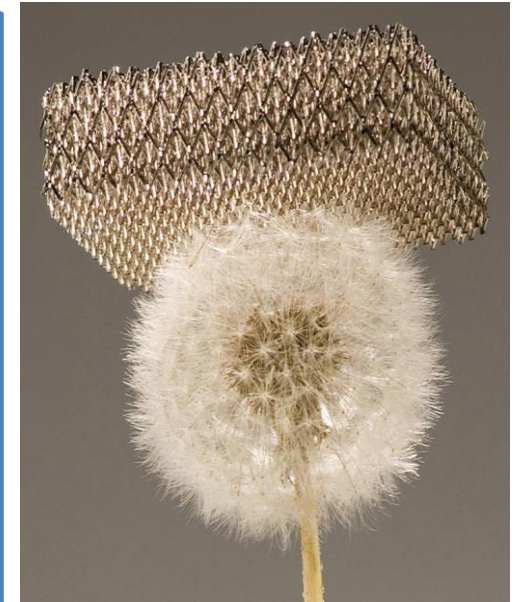
My daughter has been making loom bands recently. She gets packets of these small colored elastic bands and uses a tool to wind<sup>1</sup> them together. She has been making necklaces and bracelets. She will probably get bored of it soon. A team of students in Australia didn't get bored of theirs, and they have spent about a year making the longest loom band in the world. It is 26,695m long. That is amazing, but I can't stop thinking about how much it must have cost. On Amazon Japan, you can buy 12,000 loom band links for 10,000 yen. According to my research, you need 300 loom bands for every meter. That means, a 26,695m long band would need 8,008,500 bands. Which, at 10,000 yen per 12,000 bands, would be 6,673,750 yen. Wow.



**Try to talk about your blessings<sup>2</sup> more than you talk about your problems.**

## The ~est in the world

I wrote about the heaviest metal a while ago. Well, the lightest metal in the world is an alloy<sup>3</sup> called microlattice. It is made from hollow<sup>4</sup> nickel<sup>5</sup> phosphorous<sup>6</sup> tubes and it is 99.99% air. It is so light that it can balance on the top of a dandelion. They are only a little bit heavier than air and are many times lighter than Styrofoam<sup>7</sup>. Despite<sup>8</sup> being so light, they are strong, and they recover their shape after being compressed<sup>9</sup>. They will probably be used in cars and airplanes in the near future. Airplanes obviously need to be as light as possible to carry more cargo.



## Something You Probably Didn't Know

Plane travel is extremely safe. Many people are scared of flying and when there is a big crash on the news, they use it to prove<sup>10</sup> their fear. However, statistically<sup>11</sup>, flying is incredibly safe. How many people do you think die in air crashes every year? I bet you think it is about 10,000 people or more. In 2018, 556 people died in plane crashes! Many people say, "well, not many people fly, so of course the number is low." That 556 people is out of 4.4 billion people who flew in 2018! That means you have a 1 in 8 million chance of<sup>11</sup> being killed in a plane crash. Still scared? In the same year, volcanoes killed 762 people. Falling out of bed killed 450 people. 600 people were killed by elephants. And some people say, "well, more people use beds than airplanes." Ok. In 2018, 28.5 million people went on a cruise and 200 of them died. That means you have a 1 in 142,500 chance of dying on a cruise ship. So, cruise ships are 56 times more dangerous than planes! Have a great flight.



1.Wind 卷く 2.Blessing 幸なこと 3.Alloy 合金 4.Hollow 中は空洞 5.Nickel ニッケル 6.Phosphorous リン 7.Styrofoam 発泡スチロール 8.Despite ~なのに 9.Compressed つぶされた 10.Prove 証拠にする 10.1 in a X chance of X 文の 1 の確率