

Wow! I haven't made an English news since July. We had the summer vacation, then we had remote classes, then we had sixth grade tests, then we had the rest of the school's tests! What a long time. Have you had a good two months? Did you have a good summer vacation? Did you have a good early September? You have two holidays today. This is silver week, although the days are higgledy-piggledy¹ so you can't really go anywhere. What will you do? It will be nice just to relax after the tests. You deserve it.

10 differences



Are these puzzles too easy? If you want, I can try to find some really difficult ones. Just tell me.

Last week's answer



Something you didn't know about calculators:

1. The first mechanical² calculator was invented in 1642 by Blaise Pascal, a French mathematician. He was 19 and he invented it to help his father.
2. The keypad on a calculator has 123 on the bottom row, while your phone has 123, on the top row. I don't know why.
3. You can say "hello", if you type 0.7734 and turn your calculator upside-down³.
4. Early calculators in Japan weren't trusted⁴, so Sharp created a calculator that had an abacus⁵ attached to it.
5. The first calculator watch was sold at Tiffany's.

Clive Sinclair Dies

Last week, Clive Sinclair died at the age of 81. Now, I'm sure nearly all of you have no idea who Clive Sinclair is. However, I can guarantee that⁶ every single one of you has used something that he invented. The pocket calculator. He didn't invent the calculator, but he made it small enough for people to carry it around. Now, you just use your phone. "Hey, Siri. What's 2+3?" The first



pocket calculators came out in 1967, but they weighed 721g and they cost about 280,000 yen. Companies bought them, but nobody would carry them around. Clive Sinclair managed to make a 71g version. It still cost about 200,000 yen,

but it was small enough to carry in a pocket. It was hugely popular and sold hundreds of thousands. As with any technology, once a big step had been taken, the price got cheaper, and the device got smaller. However, without Clive Sinclair's innovation⁷, we might not have been able to use calculators at school. And it would have taken me even



longer to add up the scores on your tests. Clive Sinclair also popularized⁸ home computers. He did have some failures as well, though. He invented a watch, an electric vehicle, and a hand-held television which flopped⁹. However, he never let his failures define¹⁰ him. He was an amazing inventor because he was always interested in everything and always trying to come up with a new idea. He will be sorely lost¹¹.

- 1.higgledy-piggledy 秩序のないさま 2.mechanical 機械の 3.upside-down 逆さま 4.trust 信頼
5.abacus そろばん 6.guarantee that きっと。。。 だろう 7.innovation 革新 8.popularize 世に広める
9.flop 大失敗 10.never let his failures define him 失敗しても自分を見失わない 11.he will be sorely missed 亡くなってみんなに惜しまれている



World record

Do you like singing? Can you hold a tune¹? I can't. I think I am probably one of the worst singers in our school. Perhaps even the worst singer in Sapporo. But, if I try hard, I can sustain² a singing note for about 20 seconds. That means singing the same note and not wavering³ or stopping. How about you? Do you know what the world record is? Can you guess? 2 minutes and 1 second! Richard Fink IV (I don't know why his family always use the same name) sang a single note for over 2 minutes in Las Vegas on November 17, 2019. What do you think? Do you think we could beat that? I know that some of you are pretty noisy, but I'm not sure that is enough. Maybe this could be a challenge for the music department. Mr. Uchiyama, what do you think?



The best way to make yourself happier is to try to make someone else happier.

A monument

This week's monument is Mt. Rushmore in America. It has the faces of four presidents carved into it. The presidents are Washington, Jefferson, Roosevelt, and Lincoln. Have you seen it before? You might have seen it in a movie. So, why is it there and why those four presidents? It was created by Gutzon Borglum, and he built it between 1927 and 1941. Each one of the heads is 18m high and the mountain is 1,745m high, so they can be seen from a long way away. Borglum chose the presidents that reflected⁴ America's birth⁵, growth⁶, development⁷, and preservation⁸. George Washington was the first president of America, and he represents⁹ birth. He is often called the father of America. Thomas Jefferson was the third president of America, and he doubled the size of the country, so he represents growth. Roosevelt was the 26th president of America and he was in charge during America's rapid economic growth¹⁰ in the early 20th century, so he represents development. And, lastly, Abraham Lincoln was the 16th president of America, and he kept the union together during and after the Civil War, so he represents preservation. Some people argued for other presidents and people have argued since that more presidents should be added, but these four have remained. There was some controversy¹¹ because the United States stole the mountain and the land from the Sioux Nation of Indians¹². A court in 2011 found that the United States government was guilty and should pay the Sioux people \$2 billion in compensation. The Sioux have turned it down, saying the only action that could make matters right, would be the return of their lands.



Before

During construction

After

1.hold a tune 歌を上手に歌える 2.sustain 持続 3.waver 振れる 4.reflect 反響する 5.birth 創生
6.growth 成長 7.development 発達 8.preservation 保存 9.represent 表す 10.rapid economic growth
高度経済成長 11.controversy 論争 12.Sioux Nation スー族◆米国インディアンの主要種族の一つ

