

Did you have a good fall vacation? What did you do? I heard many people saying that one day is not enough and they need a lot more. I know what you mean but remember that one day is better than no days. Ha ha. It's only another few months until the Christmas vacation. You can all start thinking about what presents you are going to get from Santa.



There are 30 differences this week! How many can you find? Last week's answer



### Something you didn't know about Abraham Lincoln:

1. Lincoln was 193 cm tall, but he always wore a very tall hat to make himself even taller.
2. He was a very good wrestler when he was younger. He lost only once in 300 matches.
3. In 1876, graverobbers<sup>1</sup> tried to steal Lincoln's body from his tomb<sup>2</sup>. They wanted to ransom<sup>3</sup> it, but they were caught by the Secret Service<sup>4</sup>.
4. The Secret Service was started by Abraham Lincoln, but its original job was to stop people counterfeiting<sup>5</sup> money.
5. Lincoln is the only president to have received a patent<sup>6</sup>. He invented a way of keeping boats afloat when they sail through shallow water.

### Fumio Kishida Becomes Prime Minister

Last week, Fumio Kishida won the election to become the new leader of Japan's Liberal Democrat Party<sup>7</sup>. This means he will automatically become prime minister when the current prime minister, Yoshihide Suga, steps down next



week. Mr. Kishida will then head the LDP for about a month before calling an election in November. He will hope that a big win in an election will give him the authority to govern<sup>8</sup>.



Mr. Kishida beat three other rivals<sup>9</sup> to become leader of the LDP and many people thought he wouldn't win. However, he is probably the safe choice as he is very much a middle-ground<sup>10</sup> politician. He doesn't hold strong beliefs, he hasn't had any big failures, he hasn't had any big successes, he hasn't tried to change

anything, he is very happy with the status quo<sup>11</sup>. Choosing him as leader shows that the LDP is very happy with not changing. In November, I guess we will see if the people of Japan agree. Does Japan need another leader who is exactly the same as all the ones who have gone before, or is it time for a change? What do you think?

1.graverobber 墓泥棒 2.tomb お墓 3.ransom 受け戻し 4.secret service 大統領警護人  
5.counterfeit 偽造する 6.Patent 特許 7. Liberal Democratic Party 自由民主党 8.authority to govern 統治権 9.rival 敵 10.middle-ground 中位を進む人 11.status quo 現状



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### World record

Last week I wrote about an agricultural<sup>1</sup> world record. I thought I would do another one this week. Have you ever ridden on a tractor? Or have you ever been in a car behind a tractor? Well, they move very very slowly. Most modern tractors have a top speed of about 40km/h. So, what do you think the world record is for the longest distance driven in a tractor? Hubert Berger of Germany drove 25,378km in his tractor. It took him six months and he travelled across thirty-six different countries. I bet he had a wonderful time, but I feel sorry for<sup>2</sup> all of the drivers that were stuck behind him! Now, this is a record I would love to try and beat, but I don't think the school would give me that much holiday and I don't think my daughter would let me go. My wife probably wouldn't mind. Ha ha. Just driving anywhere you want to go must be very relaxing.



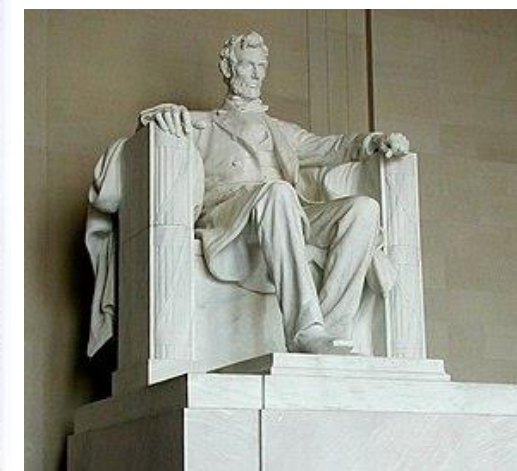
Be like a postage stamp<sup>3</sup>.  
Stick to a thing until you get there.

### A monument

Let's have a look at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C. this week. Abraham Lincoln was the 16<sup>th</sup> president of American and he was assassinated<sup>4</sup> in 1865. After his death, people wanted to a statue of him to be built and one was constructed in 1868. This statue is still standing. You can see it in this picture. However, the government wanted a bigger one and the Lincoln Memorial Committee commissioned<sup>5</sup> Daniel Chester French with building one. Mr. French was able to make the face so lifelike<sup>6</sup> because a death mask<sup>7</sup> of Abraham Lincoln had been made. He also chose to put Abraham Lincoln on a classic Roman chair to show that he was a symbol for all ages. Daniel French designed the statue, but he didn't carve<sup>8</sup> it. The statue is made of marble and the carving was done by the Piccirilli Brothers, who were an Italian family of famous marble carvers. The statue was finished in 1922. It is 9.1m tall, including the pedestal<sup>9</sup>, and weighs 170 tons. Lincoln is looking ahead and slightly down. He is looking directly towards the United States Capitol which is where the government sits. He is watching them to make sure that they are good



and honest people. There is an American flag draped<sup>10</sup> over the back of the chair. The Lincoln Memorial has become a symbol of freedom and many important events have happened here. Martin



Luther King Jr. gave his "I have a dream" speech from in front of the memorial.

1.agricultural 農家的 2.feel sorry for をかわいそうに思う 3.postage stamp 切手 4.assassinated 暗殺された 5.commission 依頼する 6.lifelike 生きているような 7.death mask 死んだばかりで作った石こう型 8.carve 削る 9.pedestal 台 10.drape 優美に覆う