

We managed to hold the trash pickup last week. I couldn't believe it. There was heavy rain all morning and I was convinced¹ I would have to cancel it again. Then the rain stopped. It stopped exactly one hour before we had to leave, just at the point where I was deciding whether to cancel or not. And it was beautiful all through the trash pickup. We finished, the last student stepped into the school and gaaaaaaaaaaaaa, the rain started again. Amazing.

20 differences



Something you didn't know about baseball:

1. Baseball evolved² from a sport invented in France in about 1300.
2. Barry Bonds has hit the most homeruns with 762.
3. At 27 years Nolan Ryan had the longest baseball career and Harry Hartman had the shortest baseball career in 1918. He was signed by the Brooklyn Dodgers as a pitcher. The game was so bad that he quit after one game and joined the navy³.
4. The longest ever homerun was 196m by Mickey Mantle in 1960.
5. The average lifespan⁴ of a baseball is 6 pitches.
6. Catchers often develop circulatory problems⁵ in their hands from the fast pitches.

Tsuyoshi Shinjo Next Manager of Nippon Ham

Last week, the Hokkaido Nippon Ham Fighters announced that their new manager would be Tsuyoshi Shinjo, starting from next season. Shinjo is 49 years old. He started his professional baseball career in 1990, when he played for the Hanshin Tigers. He stayed there for 10 years, before he went to America and played with the New York Mets and the San Francisco giants. He was the first Japanese player to play in a world series. He came back to Japan in 2004 and played for Nippon Ham until 2006. He is a very flamboyant⁶ person, and he is extremely⁷ popular with the fans. He made the baseball games he was in very exciting. He was a member of



the Nippon Ham Fighters when they won their first championship since 1962. The current⁸ manager, Hideki Kuriyama, has not had a lot of luck and the Nippon Ham Fighters have not done well in the last three years. There will be a lot of pressure on Shinjo to get results very quickly. He is a very good baseball player, but he has never coached or managed a team. It will be interesting to see how he will do. He will certainly make the game more interesting. Since Shinjo retired, he has been a TV personality and a model. I don't think he has stayed very close to the world of baseball. I'm sure he will do his best. The fans are very excited.

1.convinced 確信して 2.evolve 進化する 3.join the navy 海軍に入隊する 4.lifespan 寿命
5.circulatory problems 循環障害 6.flamboyant 鮮やかな 7.extremely すごく 8.current 現在



World record

This week's record is an amazing one! I definitely want to try this one. And, even if we can't beat it, I will have a lot of fun eating the dip that we made. This week's record is the record for the bean dip with the most layers. This dip has 70 layers!! The dip weighs about 500kg. Amongst others, it has: veggie dip, Cuban dip, Caprese dip, loaded baked potato dip, Buffalo dip, Mediterranean dip, fiesta dip, spicy dip, BBQ dip, and classic dip. I'm not going to translate all of those into Japanese. If you want to know what they are, use google. My mouth is watering¹ just writing the list and looking at the picture. It took 19 people 227 hours to make. After the record attempt had been certified² by the Guinness team, the dip was given away. I'm not sure how much of 500kg of dip I would be able to eat, but Costco has 1kg bags of potato chips, so I would certainly have done my best. What do you think? Do you think we can make a ton of dip?



Last week's answer.



All you can change is yourself, but sometimes that changes everything.

A monument



Let's have a look at the Washington Monument today. It is, of course, in Washington, and it is 169m tall. It is an obelisk³. An obelisk is a tall, four-sided, narrow tapering⁴ monument which has a pyramid-style point on top. They were first built by ancient Egyptians⁵, who called them tekhen. The Greeks called them obeliskos. They were built to commemorate⁶ a person or an event, and usually to honor a god. The Washington Monument is the tallest stone structure in the world. Building was started in 1848, but the project ran out of money⁷, so it was stopped until 1877. The whole project was finally finished in 1888. The monument is to commemorate George Washington, and planning started ten days after Washington died in 1799. The idea went in and out of fashion⁸ until things finally started in 1836 when the government looked for designs. Robert Mills won, but his design would have cost \$20,000,000. He wanted to build a huge building with 30 statues of revolutionary war heroes⁹ in it. On top, would be an obelisk. The price was too high and slowly parts of the design were cut away until only the obelisk was left. Facing the Washington Memorial is the Lincoln Memorial. America's two most influential¹⁰ presidents are looking at each other for eternity¹¹. I wonder what they would have thought of each other if they had actually met.

1.mouth is watering よだれが出ている 2.certify 認証する 3.obelisk 方尖柱 4.taper 次第に細く 5.ancient Egyptian 古代エジプト語 6.commemorate 記念する 7.run out of money お金がなくなる 8.in and out of fashion 流行して廃れる 9.revolutionary war hero 国民戦争の英雄 10.influential 影響力の強い 11.eternity 永遠