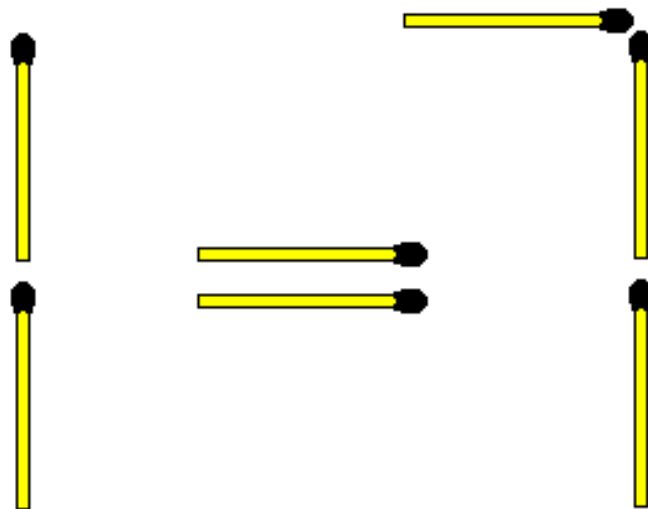


11/24/2015 (#26 this year)

What did you do on your day off? Did you enjoy yourself? I hope you had the opportunity¹ to relax because your tests are coming up very soon. Good luck. We have our first Hallelujah² practice this Friday. I always look forward to that so much. The Christmas assembly³ is obviously⁴ excellent but I enjoy the practices just as much. I like watching Mr. Uchiyama on stage. He is an excellent singer and he is very good at working his audience⁵. I don't know which part I should be; soprano, mezzo or alto, so I usually just end up mixing⁶ them.

Something You Didn't Know (Diamonds⁷)

1. The word diamond comes from ancient Greek⁸, *αδάμας* (*adámas*), which means, "proper"⁹, "unalterable"¹⁰, "unbreakable"¹¹, "untamed"¹².
2. Diamonds were mined¹³ in India about 6,000 years ago and they were used for religious icons¹⁴.
3. Diamonds are made when carbon¹⁵ is compressed¹⁶ under high pressure¹⁷ at relatively¹⁸ low temperatures¹⁹ (1,000°C). This happens in the mantle of the earth²⁰ or in a meteorite strike²¹.
4. Diamonds are the hardest natural material²² on earth. There are some harder manmade materials.
5. About 26,000 kg of diamonds are mined annually²³ and another 115,000kg are manufactured²⁴. These are called synthetic²⁵ diamonds and they are used in tools and some electronics. These have been made for 50 years but the process²⁶ is now so good they are identical²⁷ to natural ones.



I thought I would give you this puzzle because you are all so good at math. How can you move one matchstick to make this equation³⁸ true?

Last Week's Answers



I'm sorry – there were 10 differences, not 15!

Announcements

There is almost nothing happening this week. You have to write questionnaires on Thursday, and there is the first Hallelujah practice on Friday.

News

2 Diamond Stories

The second largest diamond ever found has been unearthed²⁸ in Botswana. The diamond is 1,111 carats²⁹ and was found in the Karowe mine. It is the largest stone to be found in over 100 years. In 1905 the 3,106 carat Cullinan diamond was found in South Africa. This diamond was cut up into nine pieces and put in the British crown jewels³⁰.



A 100 carat diamond recently³¹ sold for \$23 million, so this diamond could be worth³² more than \$200 million! That's a lot of money!

In my second story, a rare blue diamond³³ was sold at auction³⁴ for \$48 million to a Hong Kong businessman. His name was Joseph Lau and he is a billionaire property tycoon³⁵.



He bought the rare gem³⁶ for his daughter who is only seven years old. He is the 114th richest person in the world so I guess he can afford it, but I hope his daughter doesn't lose it. For Christmas this year my daughter is going to get an Anpanman doll and some play doh³⁷. No multi-million dollar diamonds for her. Not yet anyway.



1.Opportunity 機会 2.Hallelujah 神様に感謝 3.Assembly 礼拝 4.Obviously 明らかに 5.Work an audience 聴衆の心をつかむ 6.Mix 混ぜる 7.Diamond ダイヤ 8.Ancient Greek 古ギリシア語 9.Proper 適切な 10.Unalterable 不変の 11.Unbreakable 壊れない 12.Untamed 自然のままの 13.Mine 採掘する 14.Religious icon 聖像 15.Carbon 炭素 16.Compress 圧迫する 17.High pressure 高圧の 18.Relatively 比較的に 19.Low temperature 低温 20.The mantle of the earth マントル 21.Meteorite strike 隕石の衝突 22.Hardest natural material 最も固い自然生地 23.Annually 毎年 24.Manufacture 製作する 25.Synthetic 合成品 26.Process 一連の行為 27.Identical 全く同じ 28.Unearth 掘り出す 29.Carats カラット 30.British crown jewels 連合王国の戴冠宝器 31.Recently 最近 32.Worth~の値段がある 33.Rare blue diamond 珍しい青いダイヤ 34.Auction オークション 35.Property tycoon 資産家 36.Gem 宝石 37.Play doh 粘土 38.Equation 等式