

12/14/2015 (#29 this year)

I can't believe all of the snow melted¹. The roads are clear². I was able to use my bicycle last week, although, please don't tell Mr. Komoro because I think he worries about me. I wonder if we are going to have a white Christmas. One of the things I love about Hokkaido is that we are pretty much³ guaranteed⁴ a white Christmas. In England, where I come from, we get one, maybe, once every ten to fifteen years. In fact, it is so unlikely⁵ that people bet money on⁶ it every year. In England the song should be, "I'm dreaming of a dark, grey and rainy Christmas."

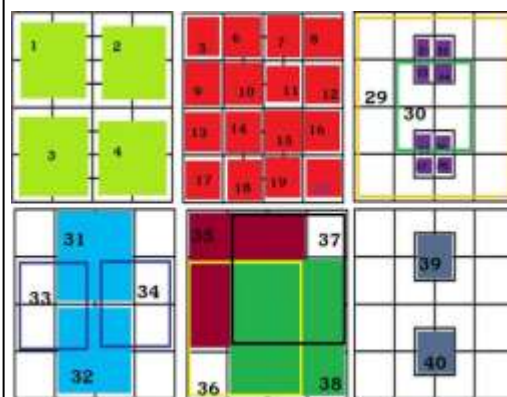
Something You Didn't Know (Beijing)

1. Beijing is the capital city⁷ of China but it is not the largest city. The population is 11 million people but the population of Shanghai is 14 million.
2. Beijing 北京, used to only be the capital of North China. "Bei" is north and "Jing" capital. The capital of southern China was Nanjing, 南京, "Nan" is obviously⁸ south.
3. 11% of people in Beijing have the surname⁹ Wang. It is written as "王" and means king.
4. In English we say Beijing and Peking for the city. Beijing is the Mandarin¹⁰ word for the city. Peking is the name used in the dialects¹¹ spoken in the southern ports¹² of China. This is the older of the names used in English because Europeans¹³ visited the south first.
5. Beijing became the capital city of China on October 1st, 1949.



15 differences

Last Week's Answers



Announcements

Hallelujah on Monday. II and II GTEC on Tuesday, 1 and 2. Christmas preparation in the afternoon Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

News

Pollution Red Alert in Beijing

Last week, a red alert¹⁴ was issued¹⁵ in Beijing. There are many colors of alert but red is the highest. The government¹⁶ closed schools, told people not to go to work and limited¹⁷ the number of cars that could use the roads. Why? Because of pollution¹⁸. The pollution has been getting worse in Beijing for a while now but last week it reached its highest levels in years.



Beijing has had a problem with pollution for a long time but this weekend smog¹⁹ levels in some areas were forty times higher than safe levels. The word smog was invented²⁰ by Dr. Henry Antoine Des Voeux in England, 1905, and it is a combination²¹ of the words **smoke**²² and **fog**²³. The smog in China is mostly caused by coal fired power plants²⁴.



The problem has been getting worse recently²⁵ and pollution in China is said to be causing²⁶ 4,000 deaths every day. At the recent COP 21²⁷ meeting in Paris, China promised to try to do something about the pollution. This is necessary²⁸, not just for the people of China but for the world.



- 1.Melt 溶ける 2.Clear 雪がない 3.Pretty much ほとんど 4. Guaranteed 保証された 5. Unlikely 思いも寄らない 6. Bet money on ~にお金を賭ける 7. Capital city 首都 8. Obviously 明らかに 9. Surname 名字 10. Mandarin 標準中国語 11. Dialect 方言 12. Port 港 13. Europeans ユロoppa人 14. Red alert 非常警告 15. Issue 出す 16. Government 政府 17. Limit 制限する 18. Pollution 汚染 19. Smog スモッグ、煙霧 20. Invent 発明する 21. Combination 組み合わせること 22. Smoke 煙 23. Fog 霧 24. Coal fired power plant 石炭火力発電所 25. Recently 最近 26. Cause ~の原因となる 27. COP 21 (21st Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) 気候変動に関する国際連合枠組条約の第21回締約国会議 28. Necessary 必要