

I have been thinking. I know that is dangerous and I should try not to think too much, but I have. There is a lot of trash around our school. Not just around our school, there is a lot of trash in general¹ around the city. I think we should do something about it. I am going to try to make a volunteer² trash collection³ group in school. Me and a few students, one Saturday every month, two hours in the morning, litter pickers⁴ and trash bags, clean up around school. What do you think? A good idea? I wonder if anyone will join me. I'm going to start the ball rolling⁵.

Something You Didn't Know (Rakugo)

1. Rakugo (fallen words) is a type of comedy where a single storyteller⁶ sits on stage with only a paper fan⁷ and a small cloth⁸. He tells a long, comedic story, doing all of the voices and gestures without standing up from a kneeling position⁹.
2. Rakugo was invented¹⁰ by Buddhist monks¹¹ in the 9th century to make their sermons¹² more interesting. They wanted a way to make people listen to them and pass on their stories.
3. The stories are usually long and they always end with a funny punchline¹³.
4. There are 12 recognized¹⁴ ways of delivering¹⁵ the final punchline.
5. Over 2,500 episodes of Shōten have been broadcast¹⁶.
6. The host, Katsura Utamura started on the show in 1969. He has been there for 47 years!
7. It is free to go and watch Shōten but it may be crowded.

Riddle¹⁷

There are four bottles of tablets¹⁸. Each bottle has 100 tablets. In one bottle all of the tablets are poisoned¹⁹. The good tablets weigh²⁰ 1g each. The poisoned tablets weigh 1.1g each. You have a set of scales²¹ but you can only use them once. How do you find out which bottle of tablets are poisoned?



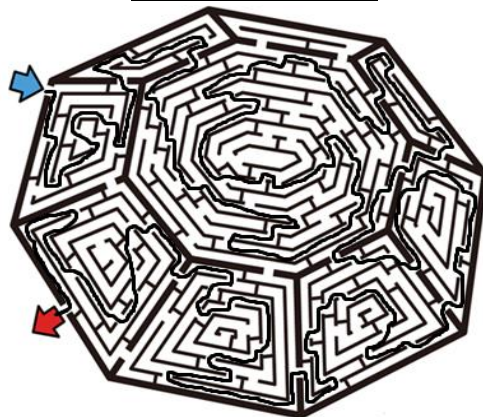
 1.1g

 1g

Only once



Last Week's Answers



Announcements

JHS I have demo classes on Wednesday.
There is an Elmira explanation on Friday.
A lot of students are away playing sports and a lot of teachers have gone with them.
Good luck everyone!

Shōten reaches 50th anniversary

The Japanese TV show shōten reached its 50th year last week. It has been broadcast continuously²² on NHK since 15th May 1966 and is a regular feature²³ of Sunday evening television. The show features six rakugo storytellers, a host and someone to carry cushions²⁴. The host introduces an idea or a topic and the storytellers think of something witty²⁵ to say in response²⁶ to it.



They raise their hands to speak and the host calls on them. If their answer is funny they are rewarded²⁷ with a cushion. If their answer is not funny they have a cushion taken away. The funniness of each answer is decided by the audience's reaction or by the host. If a comedian manages to get ten cushions they can win a prize. This is very rare²⁸.

The host, Katsura Utamaru, is 79 years old and he will retire²⁹ at the end of this season. There is a lot of speculation³⁰ about who will replace³¹ him. The host has the ultimate³² power and he can confiscate³³ all of someone's cushions if he thinks that they are being rude³⁴ to him. This happens quite often and in one show he took away everyone's cushions. He has been a major feature of the show so I wonder who can replace him.



- 1.In general 一般に 2.Volunteer ボランティア 3.Trash collection ごみ収集 4.Litter picker ゴミをつかみ取る 道具 5.Start the ball rolling うまく始める 6.Storyteller 落語家 7.Paper fan 扇子 8.Cloth 手拭 9.Kneeling position 正座 10.Invent 発明する 11.Buddhist monk 仏教の僧侶 12.Sermon 説教 13.Punchline ジョークの落ち 14.Recognized 広く認められている 15.Deliver 言う 16.Broadcast 放送される 17.Riddle 謎 18.Tablet 錠剤 19.Poisoned 毒されてる 20.Weigh 重さ 21.Set of scales 図り 22.Continuously 連続 23.Regular feature 連載記事 24.Cushion 座布団 25.Witty 連載記事 26.In response それに応じて 27.Reward 報酬を与える 28.Rare 珍しい 29.Retire 引退 30.Speculation 臆測 31.Replace 代われる 32.Ultimate 最終的に 33.Confiscate 没収