

Another holiday. Did you have fun? What did you do? And it seems the autumn is upon us¹. The leaves are changing on the trees, the air is cooler, the mornings are getting darker, and my hands are purple in the morning when I get off my bicycle. I love this time of year because we are heading toward² winter, but I know many of you hate winter. Try to think of all the positives³: Christmas, presents, cake, chocolate, chocolate cake, sledding⁴, Christmas carols, snow, Christmas trees... And watching Joe fall over on the ice. I love this season!

Something You Didn't Know (EpiPen⁵)

1. EpiPen is a brand name⁶ for an epinephrine⁷ auto injector⁸. It is a spring-loaded⁹ needle¹⁰ and a dose¹¹ of epinephrine (adrenaline) in a pen shaped device¹².
2. Epinephrine causes the throat muscles¹³ to relax. It is an emergency response¹⁴ to anaphylaxis¹⁵.
3. Adrenaline was first isolated¹⁶ in 1901 by Japanese scientist Jokichi Takamine.
4. Epinephrine costs between \$0.10 and \$0.95 to produce¹⁷. The main company that manufactures¹⁸ it sells it for \$600. That's quite a markup¹⁹.
5. The EpiPen was made in the 1970s. The auto injector was invented years before. It was for soldiers²⁰ to inject themselves with an antidote²¹ to a chemical or biological attack²² in a war.
6. Mylan, the main company that produces EpiPens makes about \$1.5 billion a year from them. They have raised the price year on year²³ since 2009.

\$50 EpiPen Could be Available Soon

A doctor with the Allergy²⁴ and Asthma²⁵ Center of Minnesota has created an alternative²⁶ EpiPen that could only cost \$50. Currently²⁷ the price for one pen is \$600. The doctor took the pen to pieces and he discovered that all of the components²⁸ were actually quite cheap. Even the medicine, epinephrine is not very expensive. So why does an official pen cost \$600?



The answer to that is “Big Pharma²⁹”. This is the top three of four pharmaceutical³⁰ companies that make and sell nearly almost all of the drugs in the world. Because there is no competition³¹ these companies can basically³² set any price that they want. They also pay doctors to prescribe³³ their drugs. They claim³⁴ the money goes into R&D³⁵ but who knows.

A few months ago, Martin Shkreli, the head of a pharmaceutical company, raised the price of an AIDS drug from \$13.50 to \$750! People cannot afford³⁶ it. This is why the price of an epipen has risen from \$100 to \$600 over the last ten years. If this doctor produces the very cheap epipen, people will be very happy but the “Big Pharma” will be angry. And they have a lot of power in government circles³⁷.



10 differences



Last Week's Answers



Announcements

3rd grade have tests Wed AM. They have no classes Wed PM, Thurs PM and Fri AM. 2nd grade have farmstay Thurs and Fri.

1. Upon us 来ました
2. Heading toward 向かってる
3. Positive いいところ
4. Sledge そりに乗る
5. EpiPen エピペン
6. Brand name ブランド名
7. Epinephrine エピネフリン
8. Auto injector 自動注入
9. Spring-loaded はねでる留め具
10. Needle 針
11. Dose 薬の一回分
12. Device 装置
13. Throat muscles 喉の筋肉
14. Emergency response 緊急応答
15. Anaphylaxis アナフィラキシー
16. Isolate ~を分離する
17. Produce 造る
18. Manufacture 製造する
19. Markup 値上げ
20. Soldier 軍人
21. Antidote 解毒剤
22. Chemical / biological attack 科学・生物攻撃
23. Year on year 対前年比
24. Allergy アレルギー
25. Asthma ぜんそく
26. Alternative 別のオプション
27. Currently 現在
28. Component 部品
29. Big Pharma 大きい製薬会社
30. Pharmaceutical 薬
31. Competition 競争
32. Basically 基本的に
33. Prescribe 処方する
34. Claim 言い張る
35. R&D (Research and Development) 研究開発
36. Afford 買うことができ