

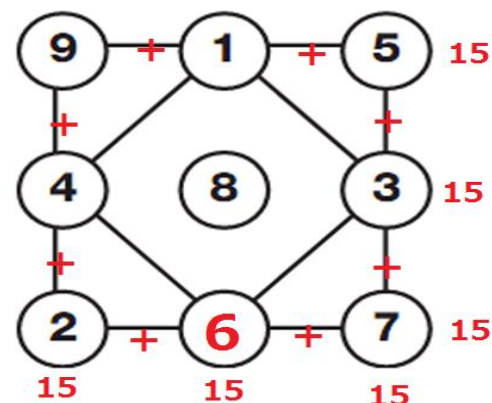
Wow! I have it made it to issue number¹ 300! I can't believe that. I started making this in 2009, and I just continued. I wonder if I will still be at Hokusei long enough to get to number 1,000. I hope so. When I began, I just thought it was a one off², but somehow, I never stopped. And, today is my brother's birthday, if anyone is interested. He will be 37 today. I hope that he has a happy day. I hope that he has a very very big cake. I would like to send him one, but I don't think it would survive the journey³. I'll buy him one when I see him.

Something You Didn't Know (IoT⁴)

1. The IoT stands for "Internet of Things" and it is when everything you own is connected together by the Internet. For example, you can fill your bath⁵ from your phone or your fridge can email amazon to order more milk or your car can see where you are and come to get you.
2. The phrase⁶ "Internet of Things" was invented by a man called Kevin Ashton in 1999.
3. The first things that were connected to the IoT were ATMs in the 1970s, but they only communicated with the bank.
4. In 1982, a coke vending machine at Carnegie Mellon University became the first really Internet connected appliance⁷. It could report how many cans it had left and their temperature⁸.
5. By 2020, 30 billion devices⁹ around the world will be connected.
6. With so many devices we may not have much privacy¹⁰ anymore.



Last Week's Answers



Announcements

Tuesday is one week before the tests so you won't be able to go into the teacher's room or any of the department offices. A peaceful time of year for us. Ha ha.

IoT Based Bicycle Sharing System

Last week, Softbank, the mobile phone company, introduced a new cycling scheme¹¹ called "Hello Cycling". These are regular¹² bikes with a lock on the back wheel. The lock also contains a GPS¹³ tracker¹⁴. At first the bikes will be in Tokyo but, in time¹⁵, the goal is to have them in various locations all across Japan. The bikes will be very easy to see.



The lock on the bike will be connected to the Internet. Using an app on your smartphone you will be able to find where the bikes are and you can reserve¹⁶ one or rent¹⁷ one using your phone. By touching your phone to the lock, it will open and you will be able to use it. The payment system¹⁸ will be by the hour and it will stop when you lock the bike.

This is a great idea. Japan has more people that cycle than any other country. If the government¹⁹ would get on board²⁰ and make dedicated²¹ cycling lanes it would make things better. At the moment, people cycle on the sidewalk, which is very dangerous. Cyclists are supposed to²² cycle on the road but that can be very dangerous, too. Cars stop on the side of the road or turn without looking. A cycling road and an education policy²³ for drivers would be wonderful.



- 1.Issue number 版 2.One off 単発 3.Survive the journey 送りながら壊れる 4.IoT コンピューターや通信端末機器に限らず、多種多様な物 (エアコン、テレビ、冷蔵庫、換気扇、洗濯機、自動車、自動販売機、医療機器など) を無線通信でインターネットに接続して、データのやりとりや制御を可能にする技術。 5.Fill a bath お風呂入れる 6.Phrase 成句 7.Appliance 機械 8.Temperature 温度 9.Device 機械 10.Privacy プライバシー 11.Scheme プログラム 12.Regular 普通 13.GPS グローバル・ポジショニング・システム 14.GPS tracker GPS 追跡装置 15.In time いつか 16.Reserve 予約 17.Rent 借りる 18.Payment system 支払方法 19.Government 政府 20.Get on board ~を参画させる 21.Dedicated 専用 22.Supposed to ~のはず 23.Policy 方針