

Golden Week is over. Back to the daily grind<sup>1</sup>. Did you have a good time? I did. The weather wasn't very good, but that didn't stop me having fun. I went to Iwamizawa Greenland with my wife and daughter. I guess I am getting old, but I hardly<sup>2</sup> went on any of the rides. I did enjoy the slow bicycle one and the putting golf. My daughter talked me onto the Pirate Ship. I used to love them, but this time I felt sick for about 24 hours. I think my roller coaster days are behind me. What did you get up to? Any good stories?

### Something Interesting (Johnny Kitagawa)

1. Johnny Hiromu Kitagawa was born in Los Angeles, America in 1931.
2. His father was the head of<sup>3</sup> a Buddhist Temple in Little Tokyo<sup>4</sup>.
3. Johnny Kitagawa hired<sup>5</sup> his first group in the early 1950s. He hired a group of young men he saw in a park. He was the first person to make a singing and dancing group in Japan.
4. He doesn't make singers, he makes all round entertainers<sup>6</sup>. His groups appear on TV and in commercials. If you switch the TV on, chances are high<sup>7</sup> you will see a Johnny's performer.
5. He is one of the richest people in Japan.
6. He has been accused of<sup>8</sup> sexual abuse on several occasions. This is rarely reported in the national press because he restricts<sup>9</sup> access to his groups for any newspaper that prints bad things about him.

4	4	2	2	2	5
5	1	2	3	1	2
3	3	3	2	3	4
2	1	2	2	3	5
3	3	3	3	4	1
4	3	5	2	5	FINISH

A jumping maze. You start at 4. That means you can jump four spaces vertically or horizontally. E.g. From 4 can go four steps and get to 3 or 2. Then you can move 3 or 2 steps. How do you get to the finish?

### Last Week's Answers



### Announcements

This is a normal week, except for Friday. On Friday we have the long walk to Shikotsuko. I love it. I hope the weather is nice. I usually walk fast, but this year I think I'm going to walk slowly.

### Tatsuya Yamaguchi Quits Tokio

I don't know how many of you have been following this news, but you can't have missed it because it has been all over the newspapers and the TV news for the last week. Tatsuya Yamaguchi was a member of the group Tokio. They formed<sup>10</sup> in 1990 and they are managed by the Kitagawa Johnny Entertainment Group. The five members are very popular and appear in TV programs as well as singing.



In April 2018, Tatsuya Yamaguchi was arrested<sup>11</sup> for kissing a high school girl at his home against her will<sup>12</sup>. He had appeared in a TV program with the girl and invited her to a party. How the situation arose<sup>13</sup> has not been released. Mr. Yamaguchi held a press conference to apologize<sup>14</sup> and said that he was a recovering alcoholic<sup>15</sup> who had just come out of hospital. The alcohol at the party proved too much for him.

At first, Mr. Yamaguchi said he wanted to rejoin the band, but after the public outcry<sup>16</sup>, he decided to quit. He has checked himself back into rehab<sup>17</sup>. There are also rumors that he paid the girl 20 million yen to drop the charges<sup>18</sup>. There is no proof of that. He blames the alcohol, but many people are disappointed that he could do something so stupid. As for what will happen to him now, it is anyone's guess. Will he come back, or will he disappear from the public eye?



1. Daily grind 毎日の仕事 2. Hardly ほとんど～ない 3. Head of～の長 4. Little Tokyo チャイナタウンみたいなジャパントウン 5. Hire 仕事を得る 6. All round entertainer 多才エンターティナー 7. Chances are high である可能性が高い 8. Accused of～を非難される 9. Restrict 制限する 10. Form 組織する 11. Arrested 対抗される 12. Against -- will 誰々の意思に反して 13. Arise 行う 14. Apologize 謝罪する 15. Recovering alcoholic 元アルコール依存症患者 16. Public outcry 一般からの激しい抗議 17. Rehab 厚生施設 18. Drop the charges 起訴を取り下げる

# ★ English News Page 2 ★



## Strange World Records

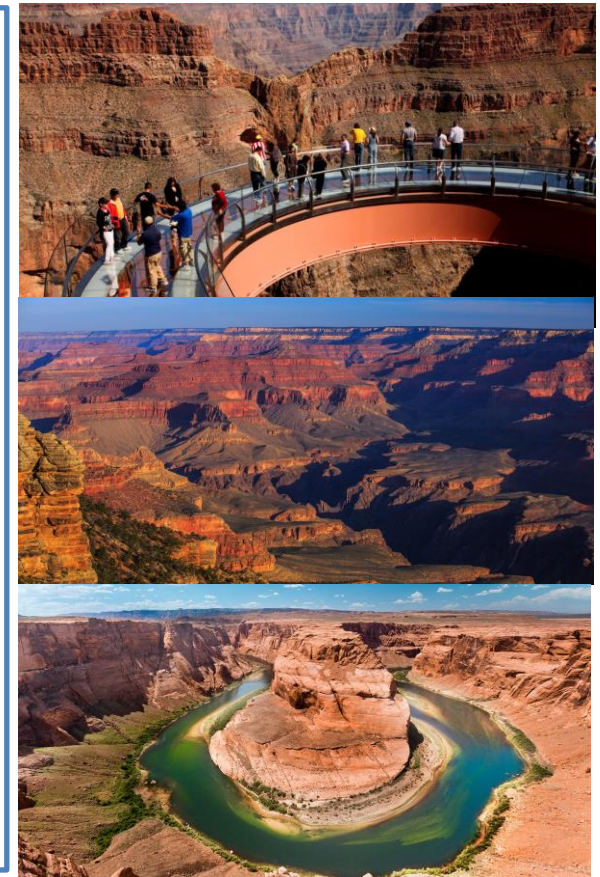
I often hear many of you say that Hokusei's rules are too strict. I hear that you would like to pierce your ears. Well, how would you feel about piercing your ears and the rest of your body 9,800 times? That is what Elaine Davidson Brazil has done. She had her first piercing in 1997 and now, over twenty years later, all of the metal on her body weighs over 6kg. She is always adding to the number she has, so this record will be difficult to beat. She also has a large number of tattoos. I wonder how she manages to talk with all of those studs in her tongue.



DON'T WORRY ABOUT FAILURES, WORRY ABOUT THE CHANCES YOU MISS WHEN YOU DON'T EVEN TRY.

# ★ Places you should visit ★

If you have the time and the money, you should definitely visit the Grand Canyon. This is one of those places that is on everybody's bucket list. It is also so filmed and photographed that you must have seen pictures of it. It is in America and is 446km long, 29km wide and up to 1,897m deep. The Grand Canyon was formed by a combination of things, but one of those things was the Colorado River. Over millions of years, this huge river has cut its way down through the soft bedrock, widening and deepening the canyon. The area was home to many Native American tribes, and they considered the area to be sacred. If you do go, be careful because the canyon can be very hot in summer and very cold in winter.



# ★ A Strange World Food ★

## Surstromming

Surstromming comes from Sweden. It is a fish called a herring. But, this is not just ordinary herring. It is left to ferment for six months, with just enough salt to stop it from rotting. The finished product has an acidic taste and a very strong smell. It smells so bad that it is illegal to eat it in many places.



**New words:** 1.strict 厳しい 2.pierce 穴をあける 3.bucket list 死ぬ前にやりたいこと 4.bedrock 岩盤 5.sacred 神聖な 6.herring ニシン 7.ferment 岩盤 8.rot 腐る 9.illegal 違法