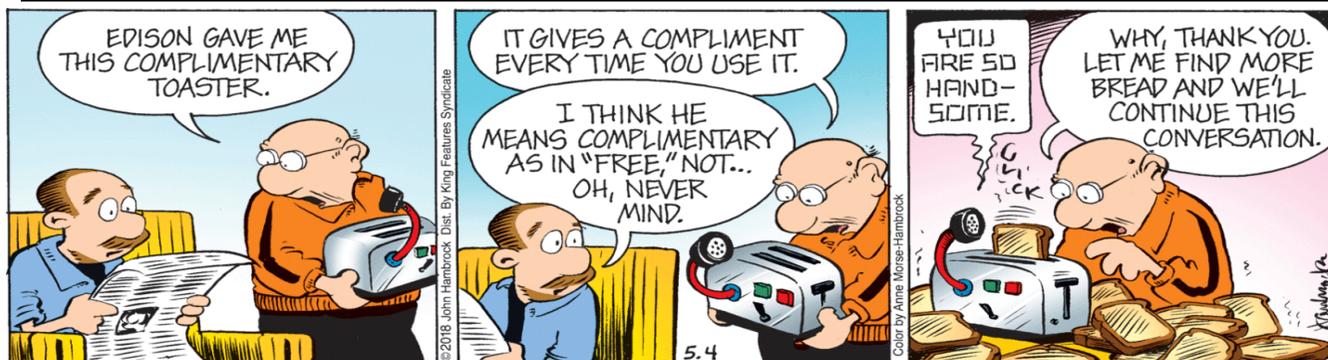


Did you hear the thunder and lightning over the weekend? Very impressive. I thought I would get a lie in¹, but it woke me up. I even saw the lightning hit the ground at the base of Mt. Moiwa. It looked like it hit an apartment block. I don't think anyone was hurt, but it is a reminder of how powerful Mother Nature can be. I hope you were all at home, safe and sound. A local kindergarten was using our gym during the storm because they have no ground to do their sports day. I hope they were ok as well. They must have been scared. My cat was terrified²!

Something You Didn't Know (The Rolling Stones)

1. The Rolling Stones formed in 1962. Lead singer Mick Jagger met guitarist Keith Richards when they were both 5 years old. They went to the same elementary school.
2. The band have sold over 250 million albums.
3. They once performed a free concert in Copacabana and 1.5 million people came.
4. This concert covered more than a mile of beach and the sound engineers had to delay³ the sound by 1 second every 343m to stop the speakers giving feedback.
5. Charlie Watts, the drummer, was a graphic designer and he made many of the album covers.
6. The Rolling Stones were portrayed⁴ as enemies of the Beatles, but this was actually just a marketing ploy⁵ and the two bands were good friends. In fact, John Lennon and Paul McCartney wrote the Rolling Stones' first hit song, "I wanna be your man."



I am in charge of how I feel and today I am choosing happiness.

Last Week's Answer:



Rolling Stones to Begin New Tour

The Rolling Stones' new tour begins tomorrow. The tour will begin in Chicago and then journey around America before ending on August 31st in Miami. The tour was supposed to start in May, but it had to be postponed⁶ because Mick Jagger was hospitalized. He wasn't feeling very well and checked himself into hospital. It turned out he had heart problems and he had a heart operation. To be specific, he had a minimally invasive transcatheter aortic valve replacement⁷. Sounds serious.



Apparently, the doctors chose this procedure⁸ because it meant they wouldn't have to open his whole chest and perform open heart surgery which meant he could recover more quickly. He is now back up on his feet and the band are busy rehearsing for the start of the tour. Many people surprised that the Rolling Stones are still touring because Mick Jagger and Keith Richards (the guitarist) are both 75 years old. Charlie Watts (the drummer) is 78.



Bands that still tour when they are in their 70s have been called "Wheelchair Rock" but Mick Jagger doesn't seem to need a wheelchair. He is energetic and dances around the stage like a man half his age. In fact, he can move and dance much faster than I can. I can't even get up off the floor these days. Many people have happy memories of the Stones and I'm sure their concerts will all be sold out.



- 1.Lie in 朝寝 2.Terrified 恐怖に襲われた 3.Delay 遅らせる 4.Portray 表現する 5.Marketing ploy 商売の策略 6.Postpone 延期する 7. minimally invasive transcatheter aortic valve replacement 経カテーテル的大動脈弁植え込み術/置換術 8.Procedure 手術

★ English News Page 2 ★

World Records

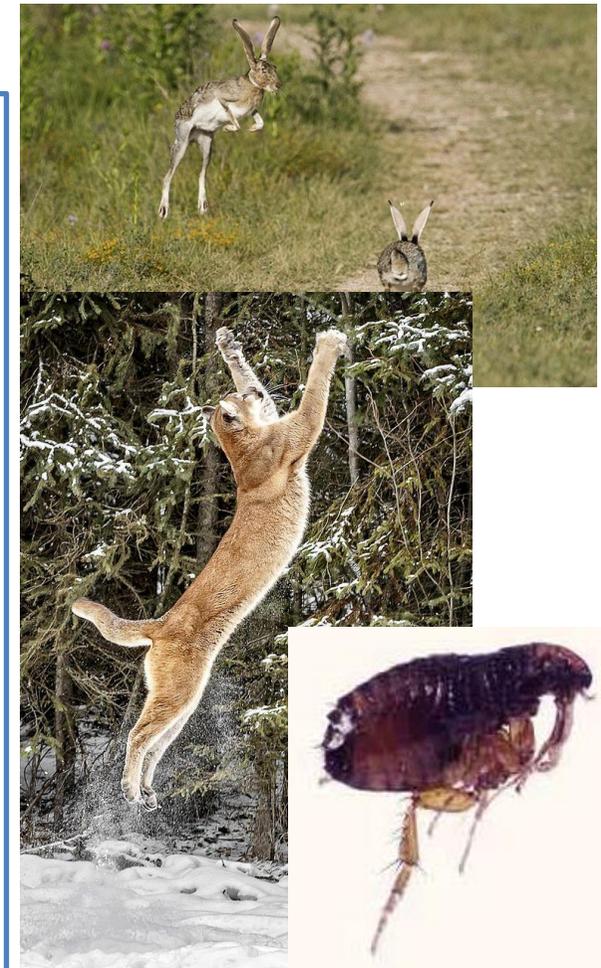
I have written about so many world records that I am beginning to forget what I have done. This week we're going to look at the Rubik's Cube record. I managed to do mine in 5 minutes and 33 seconds the other day. I was using a tutorial on my phone. I felt a great sense of achievement¹. The world record is 3.47 seconds. Yes, you did read that correctly. 3.47 seconds. It would take you 3.47 seconds to read this sentence! Yusheng Du made this amazing record in 2018 in China! Right! I'm going home to practice!



10 differences

★ Something Big ★

This week we are going to look at something "high" rather than "big". How high can you jump? With my knee right now, I think I can jump about 10cm, then I start crying. The highest ever human jump was 2.45m, by a high jumper. The highest jump by an animal is 6m by a white-tailed jackrabbit. Cougars, which are much larger and heavier, can jump up to 5.5m! However, the highest jump in proportion to² body size is the dog flea. It is able to launch itself 25cm from the ground. That might not seem very high, but it is 200 times their body size. That would be like me jumping 364m straight up! They do it by crouching³ down and storing energy in a special protein⁴. When this energy is released, their multi-jointed⁵ legs act like a spring and launch them high into the air.



Carrots are good for your eyes

I don't know about Japan, but in England we say that carrots are good for our eyesight. We tell children to eat their carrots so that they can see in the dark. I never really thought about this. My mother said it, so I just assumed⁶ it was true. It turns out that this was a rumor⁷ started by the British government in World War 2. British pilots were shooting down German planes at night and the Nazi government didn't know how they were doing it. The reason⁸ was that they had invented radar⁸, allowing them to find the planes. The British government didn't want that secret to get out, so they spread the rumor that British pilots were eating lots of carrots which allowed them to see in the dark.



1. Sense of achievement 達成感 2. In proportion to ~に比例して 3. Crouch しゃがむ 4. Protein タンパク質 5. Multi-jointed 多関節 6. Assume ~を当然と思う 7. Rumor 噂 8. Radar 電波探知法
◆ radio detection and ranging の略