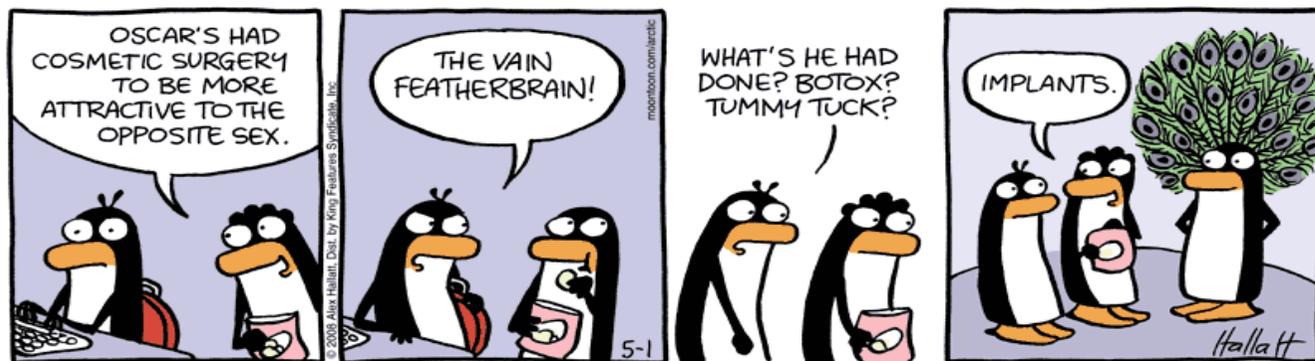


My daughter's birthday was yesterday. She turned seven years old! I can't believe that she is seven already! The time seems to have flown past. Right now, she still likes me and wants to play with me, but I don't know how long that will last. Do you like your fathers? I guess that when she turns 15 or so, she will stop liking me. However, I know that will only last for a couple of years, and then she'll start liking me again. I mean, how could anyone not like me? Me? Ha ha. Every child has to go through a stage of rebellion¹. I did. It is only natural.

Something You Didn't Know (basketball)

1. Canadian James Naismith (1861–1939)—a physical education teacher from Springfield, MA—invented the game of basketball in 1891 when he was looking for ways to keep his gym class busy on a rainy day.
2. The first “hoops” were actually just peach baskets and the first backboards² were made of wire. The peach basket had a bottom and the officials had to get the ball out of the basket each time.
3. The backboard was invented because spectators³ would lean over and block shots.
4. The average height of an NBA player is 2.01m.
5. Basketball has more injuries than any other sport. The most common injury is a sprained ankle⁴.
6. The tallest ever player was Manute Bol, who was 2.31m tall!



Idiom: A little bird told me.

出所が分からない話や、人から漏れ聞こえてきたことに対し、日本では「風の便り」と言っ、風が運んできたという風に表現しますが、英語ではこのフレーズのように「鳥が運んできた」という風に表現します。小鳥が内緒の話を運んでくるというのは、想像しただけでもとても楽しい気分になりますよね。

A: I heard you have a new boyfriend.

B: Who told you?

A: A little bird.

Kobe Bryant Killed in Helicopter Crash

Last week, retired⁵ Los Angeles Lakers player Kobe Bryant was killed in a helicopter crash. He was travelling with his 13-year-old daughter, who also died. He is survived by his wife, Vanessa, and three children. He was travelling through Calabasas, California when the helicopter crashed. Altogether, nine people died in the accident. The helicopter pilot was very experienced⁶ and the cause of the crash is not yet known. The NTSB are still investigating⁷ at the crash scene.



Keith Allison/Flickr



Kobe Bryant was 41 years old. He joined the LA Lakers directly after high school and quickly became one of their star players. During his career, he won five NBA championships. Many people say that he was the greatest basketball player ever. He played for 20 seasons, before retiring in 2016. He said that he wouldn't be involved⁸ in basketball again, but he started to coach his daughter's basketball team.

Kobe Bryant also won two gold medals in the Olympics. However, he was not only a basketball player. He spoke fluent⁹ Italian and Spanish, he won an Oscar for Best Animated Short Film in 2018 for his film *Dear Basketball*, he released a rap album, he wrote his autobiography, and he was working on a children's book when he died. Many people in the basketball world have been shocked by his untimely death¹⁰.



- 1.Rebellion** 反逆 **2.Backboard** バックボード **3.Spectator** 観客 **Sprained ankle** 足首の捻挫
5.Retire 引退する **6.Experienced** 長い経験ある **7.Investigate** 捜査する **8.Be involved in** 関わる **9.Fluent** 堪能な **10.Untimely death** の早死

World records

How strong are your teeth? Do you think that you could hold a rope in your teeth and pull a small weight? What about, let's say, a small child on a tricycle? Could you pull that? Ok. How about a larger weight? Me, sitting on my office chair? Could you pull me? Maybe. Wow! You are strong. Ok, here is the target for you to beat. Guram Ustiasvili of Georgia, managed to pull 4 cars with his teeth for 4m and 37cm. Could you do that? Each car weighs 1,360kg, so a total of 5,540kg! That's five tons! The same as an elephant!! So, do you think we can beat this record? I will line up some teacher's cars in the parking lot. Anybody that wants to try, I'll see you after school. We can do it!



Something Big and Small

Do you like to travel? Do you like to stay in luxury hotels? Big ones? Well, the world's biggest hotel is the First World Hotel in Malaysia. It has 7,351 rooms and a total of 28 floors over two towers. If you are going to Malaysia, there are many hotels, but maybe you might like to pay this one a visit. Or, if you don't like too many people, you can visit the world's smallest hotel. It is the Eh'häusl Hotel in Germany. It translates as "the marriage house". It has one room that is 53m². The building is sandwiched between¹ two other buildings and is only 2.5m wide. Some might consider it small, but it is actually rather cute. It has a double bed and is ideal for a couple, hence² the name "the marriage house". If you get chance, I think you should pay a visit to both of the hotels and send me a present from each city. (It's the red one)

Last week's answer:



Why do we...



... have fingerprints? Have you ever tried to commit a crime³ and had to wear gloves so the police couldn't find your fingerprints? No, me neither, of course. Ahem. Anyway, why do we have fingerprints? There are two different ideas that might both be true. The first is that the tiny ridges⁴ on our fingers help us to grip⁵ things in wet conditions. A lot of animals that need their hands to climb or grip things also have fingerprints. The second idea is that our fingerprints help us to touch. Our fingers have nerves that can detect the frequency⁶, or vibrations, of objects, allowing us to work out their texture. The valleys between the ridges on our fingers amplify⁷ these vibrations and channel them towards the receptors, giving us more sensitivity⁸. So, next time you are thinking about having your fingerprints removed so that you can get away with crimes, remember how important they are.



1.Sandwiched between～の間に挟まっている 2.Hence この理由で 3.Commit a crime 罪を犯す 4.Ridge 山の背 5.Grip～をしっかりつかむ 6.Frequency 周波数 7.Amplify 大きくする 8.Sensitivity 感受性