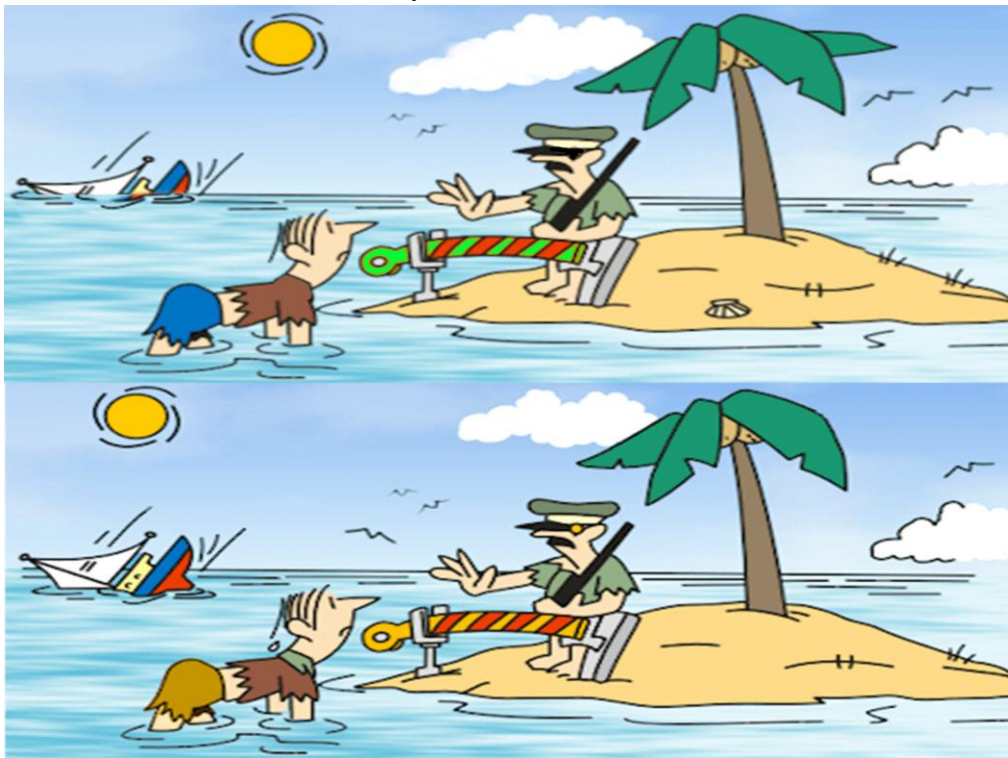


That was a very nice three-day vacation. Did you get up to anything good¹? I had a lot of fun. My wife went to stay at her parents' house, so my daughter and I were home alone². We ate junk, ate snacks, watched movies, played games, and then woke up early in the morning to clean up and hide any evidence³ of the fun we had had. I think we were successful because my wife didn't appear to suspect⁴ anything. It is fun to go a bit crazy⁵ sometimes, but I don't think either of us would like that all the time. I am very grateful for my wife.

Something You Didn't Know (The Olympics)

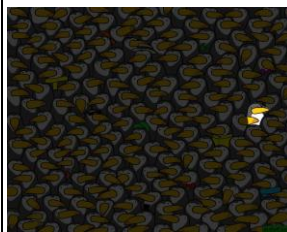
1. The Olympics began as a religious festival in ancient Greece in 776BC. In 393AD, when Christianity took hold, it was banned for being a pagan⁶ festival. It started again in 1896.
2. The first Olympic games of modern times was held in Greece.
3. When countries enter the Olympic stadium for the opening ceremony, Greece is always the first country and the host nation (in this case, Japan) always goes last.
4. 10,500 athletes from 206 countries will take part in this year's games.
5. London is the only city to host the Olympic Games three times: 1908, 1948 and 2012.
6. "Gold" medals are not really made of gold. They are made of silver and coated with gold. The last solid gold medals were given out at the 1912 Olympics.

There are 15 differences. Can you find them all?

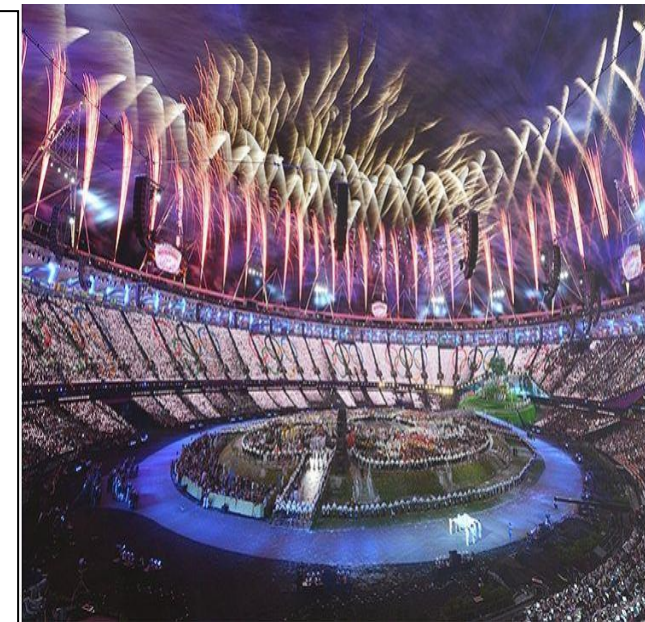


travel. They may not be able to afford to¹³ travel. They may not be able to keep training. They may have lost sponsorship; they may be too old. There are numerous¹⁴ problems athletes will have to face. Mr. Abe, our prime minister, insists¹⁵ that the games will go ahead¹⁶, but the chance gets lower with each passing month. "Will the games be held?" is a good question but, "Will Japan be able to afford it when the games are cancelled?" might be a better question. Perhaps a much smaller and less impressive games will be held. That might not be a bad thing.

Last week's answer



The Tokyo Olympics were supposed⁷ to start last week. The opening ceremony would have been last Saturday, and it would have been watched by billions of people around the world. Then, there would have been two weeks of events. The marathon would have been held up here in Sapporo. I remember writing about that in my English news a few months ago. At the time, we thought it would be a problem because of timing and distance, and many other reasons. Not one of us could have imagined that the entire⁸ Olympics would be postponed⁹. Half



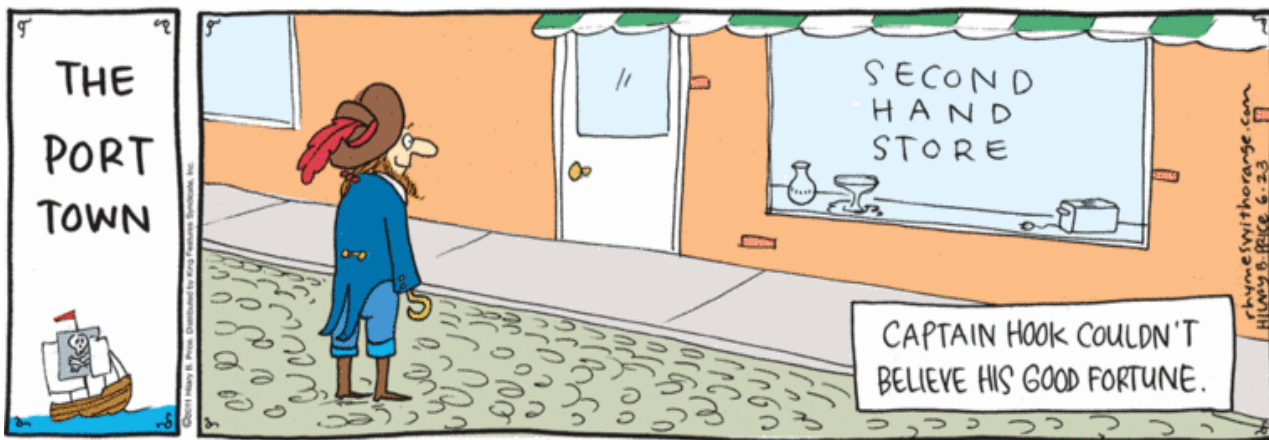
One Year Until the Tokyo Olympics

a year ago seems like a different world.

So, the Olympic clock has been reset and it says 365 days. The opening ceremony will be on July 23rd, 2021. And yet, many people don't hold out much hope¹⁰ for that. There may be a vaccine¹¹ for the corona virus by then, but any virus will only lower the number of people who catch the virus, it won't cure¹² it. Which means, the virus will still be with us by 2021. And, for many athletes, there are other problems as well. They may not be allowed to



1. Get up to 何かをする 2. Home alone 留守番 3. Evidence 証拠 4. Suspect 疑う 5. Go crazy すごく自由にする 6. Pagan 異教徒 ◆ 通例、キリスト教、ユダヤ教、イスラム教徒以外の、多少なりともいかがわしいと考えられる宗教の信徒を指す 7. Supposed to ~ のはず 8. Entire 全て 9. Postpone 延期する 10. Hold out much hope for ~ に大いに期待する 11. Vaccine ワクチン 12. Cure 治す 13. Afford to ~ するのお金がある 14. Numerous たくさんの 15. Insist 主張する 16. Go ahead やります



World Records

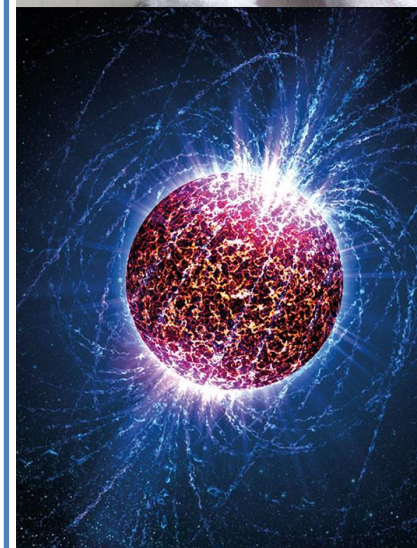
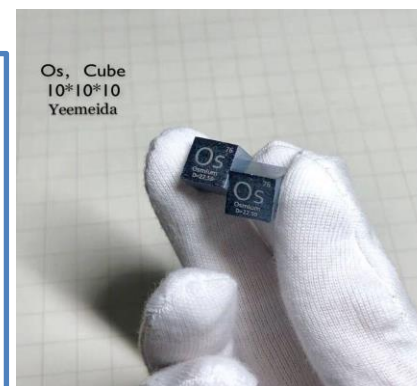
I was watching Joe ride his motorbike the other day and I thought of the next record we can try to beat. "The most people mounted¹ on a motorbike". The record is currently held by a motorcycle display team from the Indian Army. They managed to get 58 people on a motorbike, and they drove it for 1.2km. I think we can beat this one. All we need are about 3 classes of students, some planks² of wood, and Joe's keys. What do you think? I'm sure Joe wouldn't mind. Balancing will be a little tricky³, so I think we should use first grade students. The record doesn't say they have to be adults and I bet we could balance about 200 first and second grade students on Joe's bike if we tried really hard. Ok. Volunteers?



Your mind is a garden,
Your thoughts are the seeds,
You can grow flowers,
Or you can grow weeds⁴.

The ~est in the world

Do you sometimes feel that you are too heavy and that you should lose weight? I do too. We are lucky that our bones and muscles are not made of a very dense⁵ material. If they were, we would be far far heavier. The densest (dense and heavy are different – heavy is simply⁶ weight, while dense means a lot of weight in a small space) material in the world is osmium. Osmium is so dense that a teaspoon of it would weigh 100g. For comparison⁷, a teaspoon of water weighs about 5g. That means, a tissue box full of osmium would weigh 69.12kg. That's pretty heavy. That would surprise you when you went to pick it up. However, there is a denser material, but it is just hypothetical⁸. Neutrino, which is thought to be found at the center of Neutron stars⁹, is much denser. Our tissue box which weighed 69.12kg when full of osmium, would weigh 3,448,275,900,000,000kg when full of neutrino. That would be the same weight as 9.6 Mt. Everests. There is no floor that would hold that.



Something You Probably Didn't Know



Many coins have a pattern on the side of them. This is called "reeding". In Japan, the one hundred and the five hundred yen coins have a reeded edge. There are several reasons for this but the most important reason was to stop people cutting pieces off the coins. When coins were first introduced, they were a set¹⁰ weight of silver or gold. To make more money, people would use a knife to cut off some of the metal. If they cut a little bit off many coins, they could make a new coin. It was impossible to know if someone had done this. Reeding was introduced to stop this. If someone cut off the edge of a reeded coin, it was very easy to see.

New words: 1.Mount 乗る 2.Plank 厚板 3.Tricky 難しい 4.Weed 雑草 5.Dense 高密度の 6.Simply ただ 7.For comparison 比較のために 8.Hypothetical 仮説 9.Neutron star 中性子星 ◆主に中性子から成る非常に高い密度で小さな星 10.Set 定められた