

Did you enjoy your four-day weekend? Where did you go? What did you do? Yesterday, I want to Hokkaido Shrine with my family because my daughter is seven years old and it 7-5-3 time. We rented her a nice kimono and she got dressed up in the morning. Luckily the weather was good, and we were able to take a lot of nice pictures. Then, after we returned the kimono, we went for lunch at the Prince Hotel. I always enjoy a buffet lunch, but I invariably<sup>1</sup> eat too much and fall asleep on the sofa when we get home. It was a good day.

### Something You Didn't Know (Bear)

- 60% of the world's bears live in Canada.
- Black bears can run at up to 56 km/h. That is much faster than Usain Bolt. They can run fast enough to catch a running horse.
- The largest polar bears weigh about 1,000kg and they can swim 150km without resting.
- Grizzly bears<sup>2</sup> have a bite-force<sup>3</sup> of over 214kg per cm, which is strong enough to crush a bowling ball or bite through a frying pan.
- A grizzly bear eats about 20,000 calories a day and sometimes up to 60,000.
- Bears have a better sense of smell than dogs do. They can smell a dead seal under 1m of ice.
- A bear's heartbeat is 40 beats per minute, but that drops to 8 bpm when it is hibernating<sup>4</sup>. Also, when they hibernate, they don't urinate<sup>5</sup> or defecate<sup>6</sup>. Their body turns waste matter into protein.

### Preserved Bear Found

A 39,500-year-old bear has been found in Russia. Well, the bear isn't alive, so it isn't really that old, but it has been frozen in ice for almost 40,000 years. The bear was frozen in the permafrost<sup>7</sup> after it died and was discovered a few weeks ago. It is so well preserved<sup>8</sup> that scientists can see all of its organs. They will even be able to see what it ate. Usually, when an animal is preserved in ice, it is partially rotted<sup>9</sup>, or there are only bones left. This kind of find is rare.



The bear was found in Siberia, about 8,000 km away from Moscow. It was found by reindeer hunters. Recently, a lot of different animals have been discovered because the permafrost is melting. Permafrost is ground in the far north and far south of the world that is so cold that it is permanently frozen. Some areas have been frozen for a few years and some areas for millions of years. If an animal dies at just the right time, its body will be frozen in the permafrost before it has time to rot.

The International Space Station orbits Earth every \_\_\_\_\_ minutes.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Earth} + \text{Earth} &= 40 \\ \text{Rocket} + \text{Earth} &= 30 \\ \text{Rocket} + \text{Astronaut} &= 80 \\ \text{Astronaut} + \text{Earth} &= ? \end{aligned}$$

People from \_\_\_\_\_ countries have visited the space station.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{USA} + \text{USA} &= 6 \\ \text{USA} \times \text{Russia} &= 12 \\ \text{Japan} \times \text{Russia} &= 24 \\ \text{Japan} + \text{USA} &= ? \end{aligned}$$

How many people have visited the International Space Station?

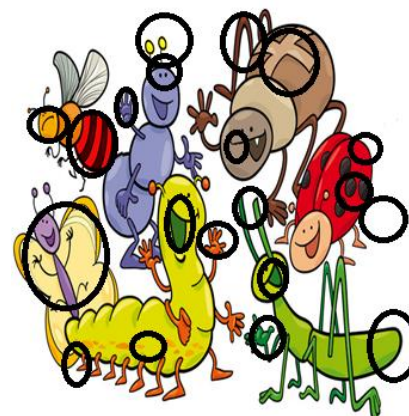
$$\begin{aligned} \text{Smiling Face} + \text{Smiling Face} &= 264 \\ \text{Smiling Face with Sunglasses} - \text{Smiling Face} &= 68 \\ \text{Smiling Face with Sunglasses} + \text{Smiling Face with Heart Eyes} &= 300 \\ \text{Smiling Face with Heart Eyes} + \text{Smiling Face} &= ? \end{aligned}$$

Can you solve this?  
What number does each picture represent?

Last week's answer

The first pieces of the space station launched in 19\_\_\_\_\_.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Scissors} \times \text{Scissors} &= 81 \\ \text{Scissors} + \text{Astronaut} &= 59 \\ \text{Astronaut} - \text{Wrench} &= 20 \\ \text{Wrench} + \text{Scissors} &= ? \end{aligned}$$



Now, global warming is causing huge areas of permafrost to melt. This is terrible for our planet, but it is good for scientists who want to get a good look at now extinct<sup>10</sup> species of animals that have been frozen. In recent years, people in Siberia have discovered bears, mammoths, woolly rhinos, ice age horses and even puppies. Each find is fascinating.



1.Invariably 必ず 2.Grizzly bear ハイイログマ 3.Bite-force 咬合力  
4.Hibernate 冬眠する 5.Urinate 排尿する 6.Defecate 排便する 7.Permafrost 永久凍土層 8.Preserve 保存する 9.Rot 腐る 10.Extinct 絶滅した



**World Records**

Can you fit a tennis ball in your mouth? Really? You don't want to try doing that too often. Well, an American golden retriever called Finley has broken the world record for the most tennis balls held in a single dog's mouth. He managed to hold six tennis balls! That's quite impressive. I can only get one in my mouth. This is not an official world record because Guinness is not going to recognize<sup>1</sup> it. They didn't say why, but I think that world records with animals can be problematic<sup>2</sup>. The animals have no say over what they are doing and if an owner wanted to beat this record, they could stuff<sup>3</sup> seven or eight balls in a dog's mouth, causing severe pain<sup>4</sup> and damage<sup>5</sup>. I expect they have to be very careful with records like this.



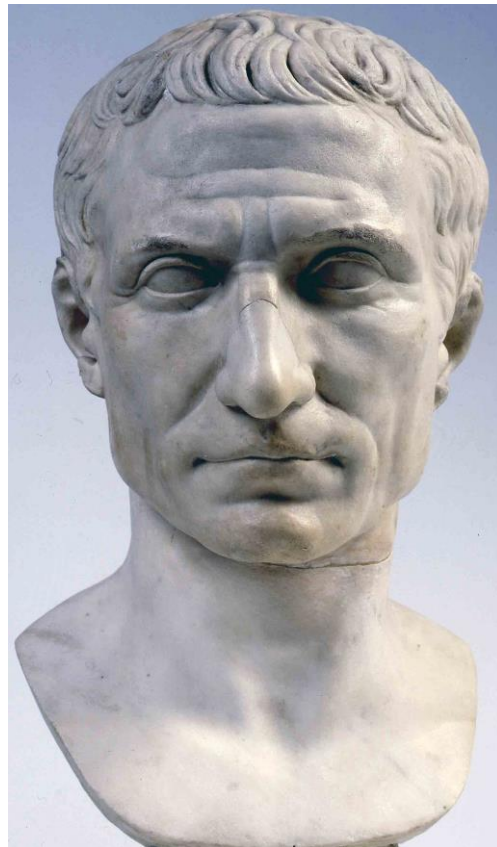
The only difference  
between a good day and  
a bad day is your attitude.

## The ~est in the world

How many languages are spoken in Japan? There is Japanese and 5 indigenous languages (Ryukuan, Ainu, Bonin English, Nivkh, and Orok), plus some immigrant<sup>6</sup> languages like English. The country with the most spoken languages is Papua New Guinea. They have five official languages and 851 indigenous languages. These are not dialects<sup>7</sup> in the way that Hokkaido Japanese and Tokyo Japanese are, but actually distinct<sup>8</sup> languages. Unfortunately, many of these languages are dying out because the number of speakers decreases every year. Across the world, there are 6,500 different languages, but this number is steadily decreasing.



## Something You Probably Didn't Know



This is the month of September. "September" comes from Latin and "Septem" means "7". In the Roman calendar, there were only ten months and the last four were given numbers. Octem = 8, Novem = 9, Decem = 10. So, September was the 7<sup>th</sup> month. However, the calendar they were using and the solar calendar moved out of sync<sup>9</sup>. Julius Caesar realized that the calendar needed to be reformed<sup>10</sup> and he came up with the Julian calendar which had an extra 2 months. He called them January and February. Then, after his death, "Quintilis" (the fifth month) and "Sextilis" (the sixth month) were renamed Julius and Augustus after Julius Caesar and his son Augustus Caesar. (July and August). These names were then taken up in old English, and September replaced "Hærfestmōnað", which meant "harvest<sup>11</sup> month".

**New words:** 1. **Recognize** 認定する 2. **Problematic** 問題のある 3. **Stuff** 詰める 4. **Severe pain** 強い痛み 5. **Damage** 被害 6. **Immigrant** 移民者 7. **Dialect** 方言 8. **Distinct** 特有 9. **Sync** 同期する 10. **Reform** 修正する 11. **Harvest** 収穫期