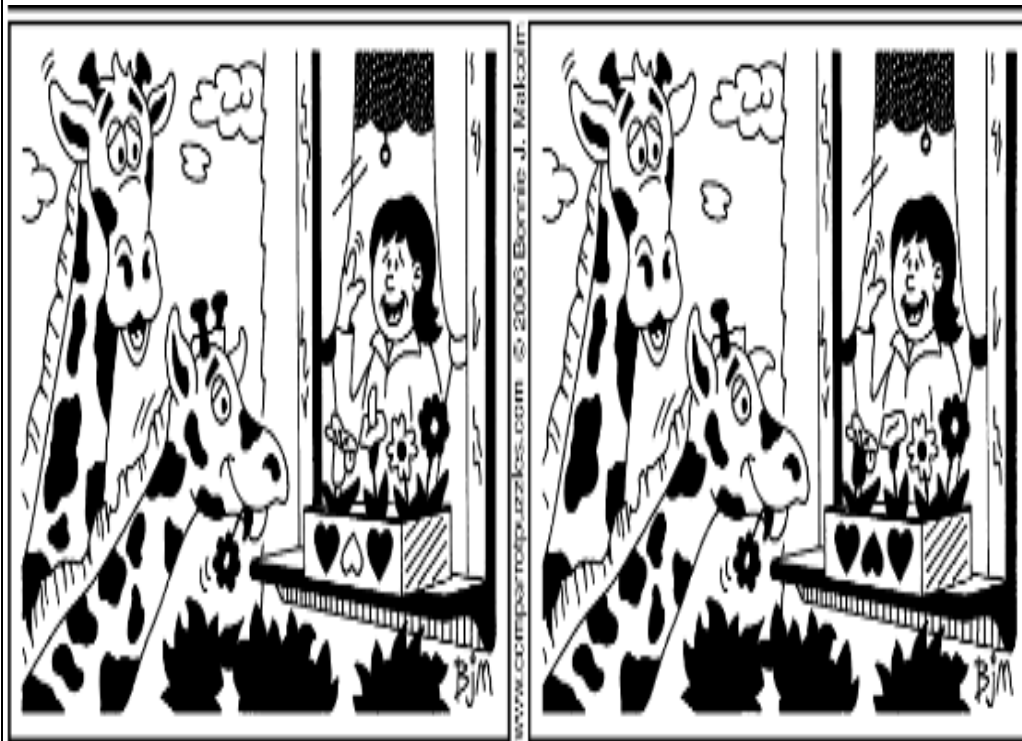


We had quite an eventful<sup>1</sup> week last week. You can say many things about 2020, but you can never say that it is boring. I'm hoping that things will start to settle down<sup>2</sup> and get back to normal, but that doesn't look likely in the near future. There is talk of a vaccination<sup>3</sup> for the corona virus, and I'm hoping that will help us go back to the life we used to know. Do you remember last January? Back when the pandemic hadn't started, and we were just going about our daily lives? That seems like a lifetime ago.

### Something Interesting (Scooby-Doo)

1. Scooby-Doo's full name is Scoobert-Doo.
2. In the original idea, the group were a rock band and Scooby-Doo played the bongos.
3. Scooby-Doo merchandize is everywhere and has made over \$2 billion.
4. There have been 413 cartoons and movies since the series was created.
5. The character is over 50 years old, but Scooby-Doo has always been 7.
6. The character designer, Iwao Takamoto, asked his friend who bred Great Danes what a perfect Great Dane would look like. Then he drew the exact opposite.
7. The voice actor for Fred, the leader of the group, is the only person who still voices the character. All of the other actors have retired and been replaced. Frank Welker has voiced Fred for 50 years and only missed one episode. I wonder if his voice still sounds the same.



Can you find the differences? There are 12 this week. Some are hard.

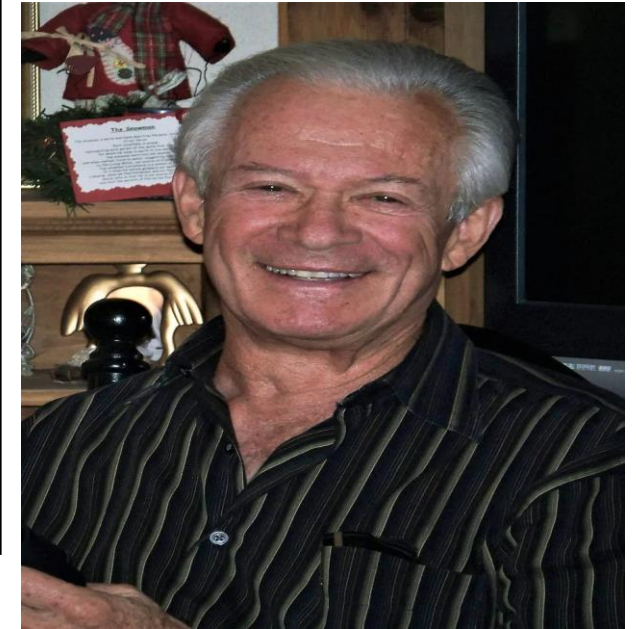
### Last week's answer



### Scooby-Doo Creator Dies

Ken Spears, the creator of Scooby-Doo died last week at the age of 82. I'm sure many of you have seen the Scooby-Doo cartoon. I grew up with it. It was on TV every Saturday morning.

In the 19502, Ken Spears was looking for a job and one of his friends, William Hanna, offered him a job in an animation studio. William Hanna is obviously half of the Hanna-Barbera duo<sup>4</sup> who made many of the cartoons we love, including Tom



and Jerry. The studio was trying to make a new cartoon that would be exciting, but not violent. Ken Spears, wrote the story and the characters were designed by Iwao Takamoto. In the beginning, Scooby-Doo was called "Too Much" and was a sheepdog<sup>5</sup>. The show was called "Who's S-S-Scared?". The executives at Hanna-Barbera didn't like it. They cut some of the characters and decided to change the dog into a Great Dane<sup>6</sup>. His name was still Too Much.

Fred Silverman, head of<sup>7</sup> daytime programming at CBS, took a red-eye flight<sup>8</sup>. While he was flying, he listened to Frank Sinatra's song, "Strangers in the Night". In that song, Sinatra sings, "doo-be-doo-be-doo". Silverman loved it and thought that would be a great name for the dog character. So, Too Much became Scooby-Doo. And the cartoon became, "Scooby-Doo, where are you?". And the rest is history<sup>9</sup>.

- 1.Eventful 多事 2.Settle down 落ち着く 3.Vaccination ワクチン 4.Duo 二人組  
5.Sheepdog 牧羊犬 6.Great Dane グレートデン 7.Head of の長 8.Red-eye flight 夜行便(寝られないから目が赤くなる) 9.And the rest is history あとはご存知の通り



### World Records

Do you have a lot of shoes? I have five pairs. My wife has about 15. What about you? There is a man in America called Joshua Mueller. He has the world's largest collection of converse shoes. He has 1,546 different pairs of converse shoes! That is incredible. How much do converse shoes cost? Let me check on Amazon. The cheapest pair of real converse shoes I could find was 4,700 yen. That means he has spent 7,266,200 yen on shoes! That is insane<sup>1</sup>! He says that he sometimes wears the shoes. I guess he would have to. If he has spent that much money on converse shoes, he won't be able to afford<sup>2</sup> any others. He either wears some of his collection, or he goes to work in his socks!



ONE DAY or DAY ONE  
You decide

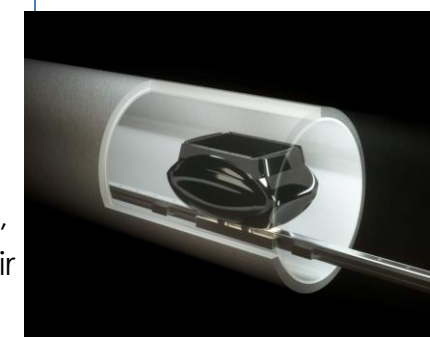
## The ~est in the world

Do you come to school by train? How long does it take? The longest continuous<sup>3</sup> train ride you can take anywhere in the world without changing trains is from Moscow, Russia to Pyongyang, North Korea. It is 10,267km and takes 206 hours. It does have the small disadvantage<sup>4</sup> that you end up in North Korea. I'm not sure if that is a good thing or a bad thing. If you are willing to<sup>5</sup> transfer<sup>6</sup> trains, then you can take a 17,000km journey from Porto, Portugal to Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. You have to change trains 8 times. It will cost you about \$2,000 and will take about 327 hours. It sounds wonderful, but I would rather break it up than do it all in one. I think that I will do it when I win the lottery.



## Something You Probably Didn't Know

A lot of modern trains use mag-lev<sup>7</sup> technology. This is short for magnetic levitation. It does two things. Firstly, magnetic repulsion<sup>8</sup> between magnets in the train and on the track cause the train to float<sup>9</sup>. You can try this with your own magnets. If you put N to N or S to S, the magnet will float. Secondly, the trains change their magnetic field<sup>10</sup> so that the repulsion also pushes the train forward. This means trains can go much faster than regular trains. A normal train has to carry a large engine and wheels. The engine is heavy, and the wheels are slowed down by friction<sup>11</sup> with the ground. Mag-lev trains don't need this engine, so they are lighter, and they have no wheels, so they have less friction. Mag-lev trains can reach speeds of up to 600km/h, but they probably cannot go faster than this because of air friction. Some people think we can make vacuum tubes<sup>12</sup> to have trains going at 3,000km/h, but this would be incredibly expensive. It is not impossible, just expensive.



1. Insane 頭がおかしい
2. Afford to をするためにお金がある
3. Continuous 連続
4. Disadvantage 弱点
5. Willing to ~をやってもいい
6. Transfer 乗り換え
7. Mag-lev 磁気浮上
8. Magnetic repulsion 磁気反発
9. Float 浮かぶ
10. Magnetic field 磁場
11. Friction 摩擦
12. Vacuum tube 真空管