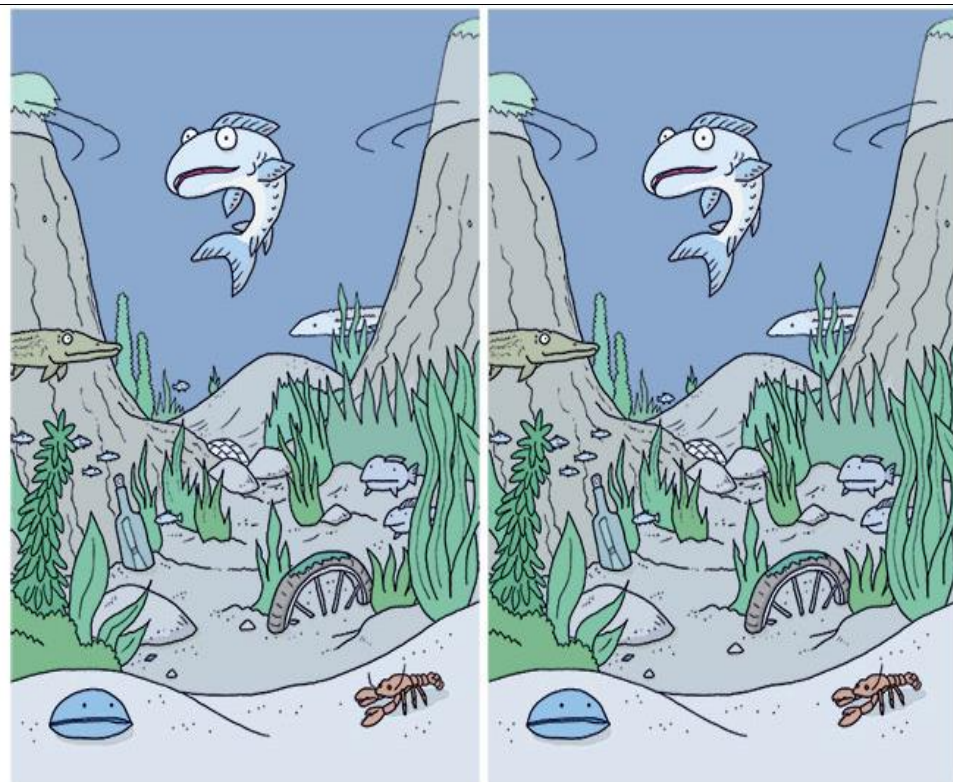
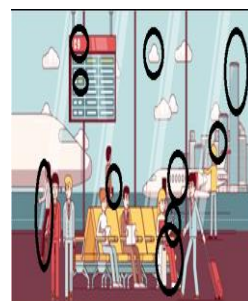


We are halfway through October now. I can't believe how quickly this year is going by. I know it makes me sound old, but the days, weeks, months, and years seem to be going faster and faster. I guess that means I am having a lot of fun because, as we all know, time flies when you are having fun¹. What about you?



There are 12 differences this week! How many can you find? Last week's answer. (Sorry. I said 30 differences. But there were 10!!)



Something you didn't know about 100-yen shops:

1. There are over 6,000 hundred-yen shops across Japan.
2. The ancestor² of the modern 100-yen shop was the 10-sen store, started in about 1920.
3. From the 1960s, 100-yen shop sellers would travel around supermarkets and department stores, setting up a small booth³ for one day.
4. The first 100-yen shop was LIFE Kasugai and it opened in 1985.
5. Hirotake Yano tried to improve the quality of the products and he opened the first Daiso in 1991.
6. The number of stores jumped during the recession⁴ after the bubble burst⁵ in 1992.

Daiso Goes Online

Daiso, the 100-yen shop has opened up an online store. They have a catalogue of 30,000 items and they are mostly 110 yen, including tax⁶. Some of the items are more expensive, but the same price as the store. Postage is 880 yen to Hokkaido and free if you order 110 items (11,000 yen). There are 21 Daiso shops in Sapporo at the moment. There are 137 hundred-yen shops if you count other companies as well. I guess that we won't be using the online version of their shop

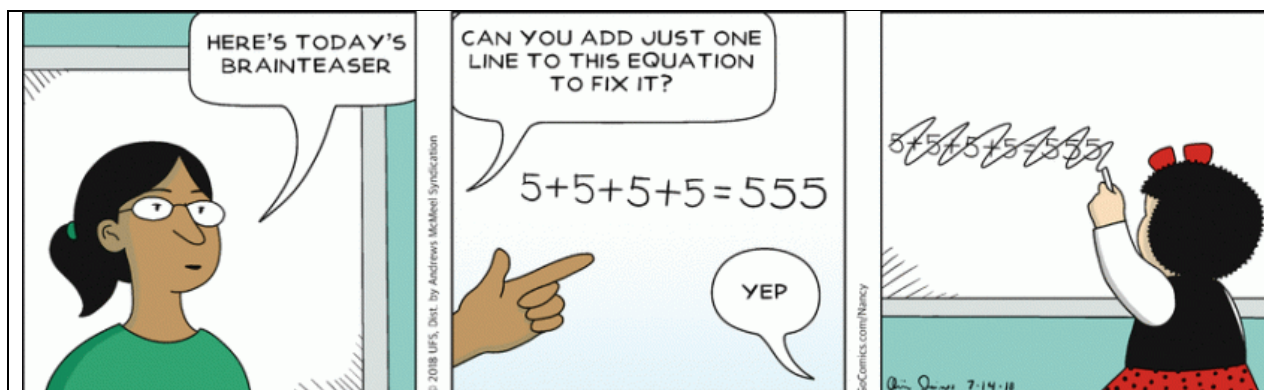


because you have to try hard to be more than two km away from a hundred-yen shop in Sapporo. However, we are lucky because we live in a big city. I'm sure there are some people who don't live near one and they might consider⁷ the online version. If ten people order eleven things each and pool their orders, they would get free postage as well.

Some people don't like the idea of the hundred-yen shop because it encourages⁸ the throw-away society⁹. The cheaper that we can buy things, the more likely we are to throw them away when they break. This just adds to trash and plastic pollution. In an ideal world, we would all buy sustainable¹⁰, handmade goods. I would love to live in that world, but I still buy a lot of things from the 100-yen shop. I guess I probably always will. What about you? Will you cut down?

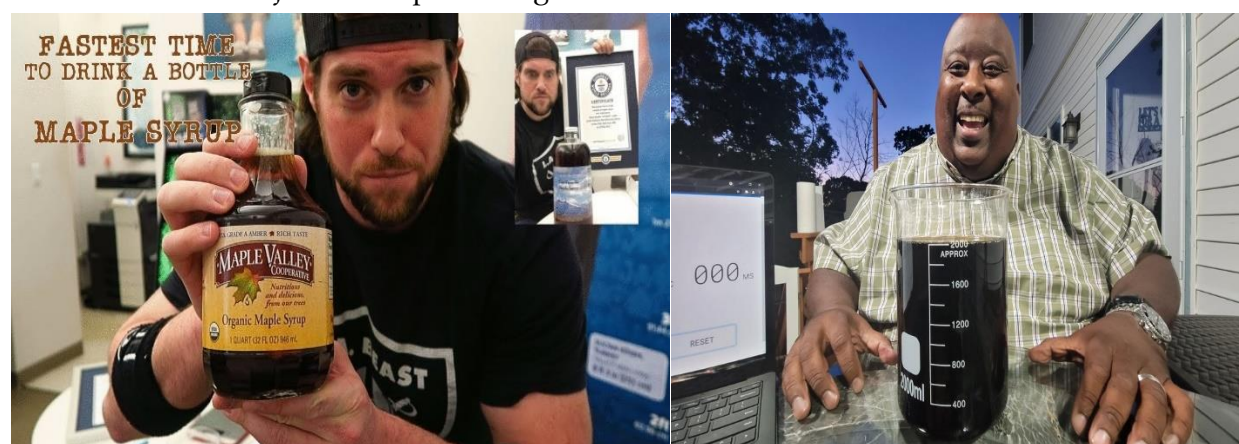


- 1.time flies when you're having fun 楽しい時間はあっという間 2.ancestor 先祖 3.booth 売店
4.recession 不景気 5.bubble burst バブル (経済) 崩壊 6.tax 税金 7.consider よく考える
8.encourage 勇気づける 9.throw-away society 使い捨て社会 10.sustainable 維持できる



World record

I was just having a drink of water when I thought of this record. How fast can you drink? Here are four drinking records for you. These are going to surprise you. The fastest time to drink 1 liter of beer is 1.3 seconds! I couldn't even tip out¹ the beer that fast! The fastest time to drink 1 liter of lemon juice is 17 seconds! That is fast, but I couldn't even drink that much lemon juice! That is crazy. The fastest time to drink 1 liter of gravy is 38.22 seconds! Gravy is thick². That would be hard to drink. The fastest time to drink 2 liters of soda is 18.45 seconds! Could you even drink 2 liters of soda? And, this last one is for Alex, the fastest time to drink 1 liter of maple syrup is 10.8 seconds. I can see Alex is going to want to try to break that one. Good luck. I always say that we should try to break these world records, but I'm not sure that these would be possible, no matter how much practice we did. I think I would just end up choking to death³.



Life isn't about finding yourself.
Life is about creating yourself.

A monument

Let's have a look at the Taj Mahal. It is probably one of, if not the most famous building in India. It was built between 1632 and 1653. It is made of ivory-white marble. It was ordered by the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan as the tomb⁴ for his wife. His wife was called Mumtaz Mahal. This is one reason why the building is called the Taj "Mahal". She died at the age of 38 while giving birth to a daughter. Shah Jahan was heartbroken, and her death changed his personality. Shah Jahan was deposed⁵ just after the Taj Mahal was finished and he was buried next to his wife when he died. There was a rumor⁶ that



the emperor planned a black Taj Mahal for himself, but that is only a myth⁷. The Taj Mahal is completely symmetrical⁸, except for the burial chamber. The tomb of Shah Jahan's wife is in the middle, but his tomb is to her left. This is not unusual for tombs from that time. The dome over the tomb is probably the most famous part of the building. It is 35m high. If converted into modern money, the Taj Mahal cost about \$950 million to make. The name Taj Mahal comes from Persian⁹. Taj means "crown" and Mahal means "palace". The Taj Mahal has been voted one of the new 7 wonders of the world¹⁰.



1.tip out 出す 2.thick 濃い 3.choke to death 息が詰まって死ぬ 4.tomb 墓所 5.depose 退位させる 6.rumor 噂 7.myth 作り話 8.symmetrical 対称な 9.Persian ペルシア語 10.7 wonders of the world 世界の七不思議