

11/15/2021 (#17 this year)

There is another trash pickup today. I am really excited. I always love doing this. Picking up trash is obviously a worthwhile¹ thing to do but, more than that, I love walking around outside with students. It is so much fun. The Yahoo weather has had a rain mark on Monday for the last couple of weeks, but it has disappeared, so I am quietly hopeful². We're leaving a little earlier than usual, because the nights are drawing in³. If you didn't sign up for this one, the next one is the 6th of December, just after your tests.

13 differences



Something you didn't know about shogi:

1. Shogi means "general's⁴ board game" in English and is a game of strategy⁵.
2. The game started in India and came to Japan through Korea about 1200 years ago. Modern shogi started in about 1600.
3. Shogi is different to chess because you can use captured⁶ pieces as your own pieces. In chess, they are just taken off the board. This is called the "drop rule". This makes it more like battles in real life where people can switch loyalties⁷ when captured.
4. There are 81 squares on the board (9x9) and each player has 20 pieces.
5. The shortest possible shogi checkmate is 7 moves.

The Youngest Person to Win All Shogi Titles

Last week, Sota Fuji won the famous Ryou championship. This was the fourth of the four major shogi titles. He was 19 years and 3 months old when he won. He is the youngest person to hold all four titles. He beat his



rival Masayuki Toyoshima four games to zero. Toyoshima is his rival, but Toyoshima hasn't beaten Fuji in four championships now. Sota Fuji is probably Japan's most famous shogi player. He became famous when he was the youngest person to turn pro. He was 14 years and 2 months old. He won his first title when he was 17 years and 11 months old. He won his first 29 games when he turned professional, which is a record. He is also the youngest player to be given the rank of 9-dan. When he was an elementary school student, he played against high school students and regularly won. Sota Fuji's run of 29 wins brought shogi into the media. This was good for him, but it was also good for the game. It brought renewed interest⁸ in the game. People started learning how to play it and bought books and games. Fuji thought about



becoming a professional shogi player after junior high school, but he decided to go to high school. However, he left before he graduated to concentrate on⁹ his shogi playing. If students want to quit high school, I always caution¹⁰ them that it will make it harder to find a job, but Fuji

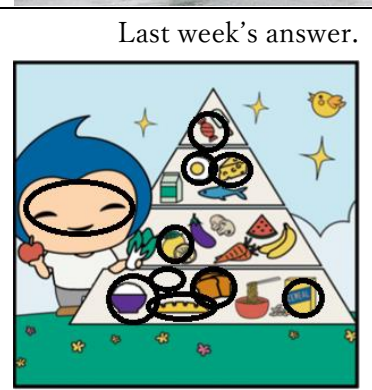
won 44,000,000 yen for his last match, so he probably made the right decision.

- 1.worthwhile 価値のある 2.quietly hopeful 心の中にお祈っている 3.the nights are drawing in 日は短くなっている 4.general 将 5.strategy 戦略 6.capture 捕らえる 7.loyalty 忠義 8.renewed interest 新たな興味 9.concentrate on に集中する 10.caution 注意する



World record

Do you like surfing? Well, this week's world record is for you. The world record for the most people on a surfboard is 66! The board was 3.3m wide and 12.8m long. It is called a surfboard, but that sounds more like a boat to me. All 66 people were able to stand on the board and they rode it for 13 seconds. I don't think they did an tricks. Let's stick with surfing records. The biggest wave ever surfed was 30.9m high and it was surfed by Antonio Laureano. That is approximately¹ the same height as a 10-story building. As icing on the cake², Antonio is only a high school student! His father videoed him surfing and then they sent the video to an expert to measure the height of the wave. That is not a wave that will be beaten in a hurry³ because it is very unusual to get waves that big in an area that can be surfed.



Last week's answer.

Be mindful⁴. Be grateful. Be positive. Be true. Be kind.

A monument

Let's have a look at the colosseum. The colosseum is an amphitheater⁵ (a type of stadium) in Rome. It was built in 69-79 AD and a lot of it is still standing. I saw it when I was a high school student, and it is very impressive. When it was opened, it could hold up to 80,000 spectators⁶. It was used for many different types of shows. There would be gladiator fights, mock battles⁷, animal hunts, and dramas. There is some evidence⁸ that the colosseum could be filled with water to show famous sea battles. Aqueducts⁹ (a Roman invention) would bring water in to the colosseum to fill it and flat-bottomed boats would sail in it. The colosseum was still used, even after the Roman Empire fell¹⁰ in 395 AD. However, it eventually became a Christian shrine. The building partly collapsed when several earthquakes hit the area and the stone that broke off was stolen by people to make other buildings. It was a very common custom to make new buildings using broken stone from old buildings. You can see this a lot in Egypt. Preserving¹¹ old buildings so we can admire the past is a very modern idea. The building wasn't originally called the "Colosseum". It was called the Amphitheatrum. In the 6th century, people started calling it the



"colosseum", which means "giant". They called it this because of a giant statue of the Emperor Nero (30m high) that was moved to stand next to the Colosseum. It was called the Colossus Neronis (the Colossus of Nero).

1.approximately 大体 2.the icing on the cake 花を添えるもの 3.in a hurry すぐに
4.mindful 意識している 5.amphitheater 円形競技場 6.spectator 観客 7.mock battle 模擬戦
8.evidence 証拠 9.aqueduct 送水路 10.Fall of the Roman Empire ローマ帝国の滅亡
11.preserve 保存する