

ENGLISH NEWS

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It started snowing last week. I really need to change the tires on my bicycle. The problem is that the snow sticks¹ and then melts. If I have my summer tires on my bicycle when the snow has stuck, I slip, but if I have my winter tires on when the snow has melted, I wear down² the spikes. It's a conundrum³. I guess that I will have to change them. I am always surprised by how well they grip the ice. They have very good spikes and I never slip on ice. The problem is when the snow has just fallen and is still soft, or in March when the snow is starting to melt. Then it is difficult to grip. Ok, Steven's challenge for winter: don't fall off my bicycle.



15 differences

Last week's answer

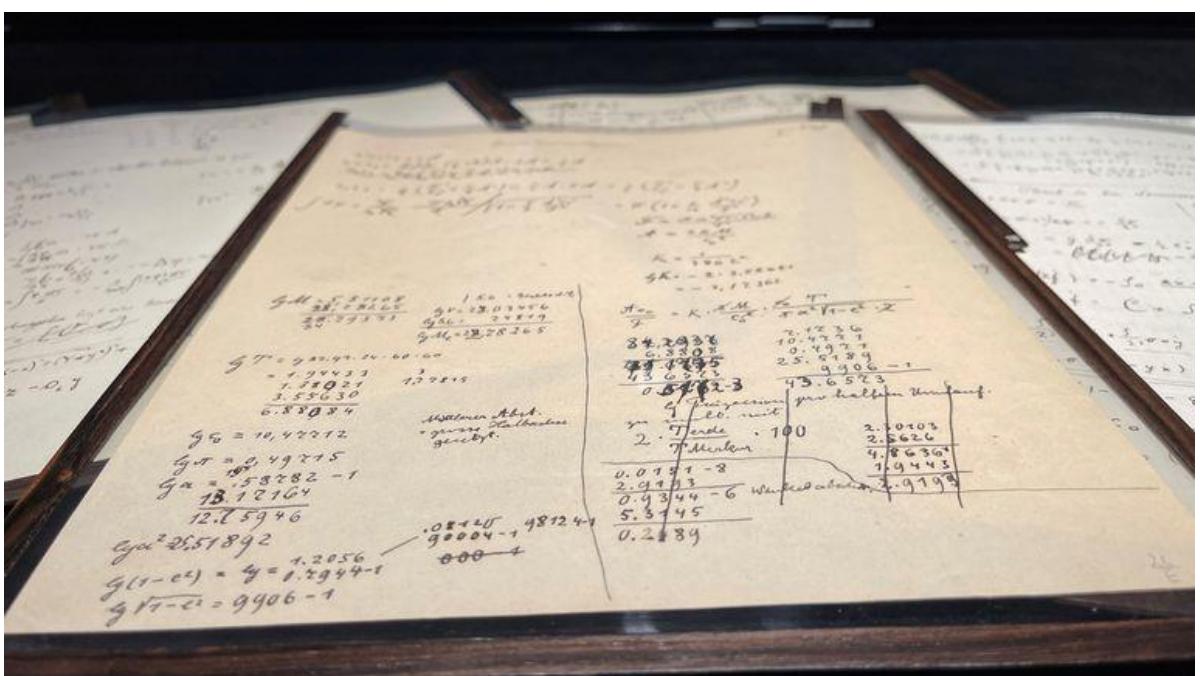


Something you didn't know about Einstein:

- Einstein spoke five languages: German, French, Italian, Latin, and English. He didn't start learning English until he was 54 years old.
- He renounced his German citizenship⁴ in 1895, when he was 16.
- He divorced⁵ his first wife and gave her all of his prize money from his Nobel Prize.
- Many people think that Einstein failed math at school. That is not true. He was an exceptional⁶ math student, but it was too easy for him.

Einstein Document Sells

Last week, Einstein's notes on his theory of general relativity⁷ sold at auction. How much do you think they sold for? The auction house, Christie's, thought it might sell for \$2 million. It ended up selling for \$13.1 million! Einstein published his theory of general relativity in 1915 and these are notes that he made while he was working it out. It is 54 pages that are filled with notes and calculations made by Einstein. It is possible to see how he developed some of his ideas. Einstein didn't keep many notes, which makes this document very rare. There are some mistakes in the calculations which is nice to see because it shows that Einstein was human, like the rest of us. He made mistakes, but he realized that he had made mistakes, corrected them and carried on. You can see his persistence⁸. When the theory was published, it revolutionized⁹ physics and the way people thought about the universe. Without Einstein's theory, we wouldn't be able to have GPS or understand black holes. It changed the way we think about space, time, and gravity. The identity of the person who bought the document has not been revealed¹⁰ and nobody knows what they intend to do with it. It would be nice if they donated it to a museum so regular people can go and see it.



- stick 積もる
- wear down する減らす
- conundrum なぞなぞ
- renounce citizenship 国籍を放棄する
- divorce 離婚する
- exceptional 特別
- theory of general relativity 一般相対性理論
- persistance 我慢力
- revolutionize 革命的に変化させる
- reveal 公開する



World record

This is a record that there is no way I will ever be able to break. I also don't think any of you will be able to either, unless you spend a few more years growing your hair longer. This week's record is for the most skips over a person's own hair in 30 seconds. Laetitia Ky is from Abidjan, Ivory Coast. She managed to skip 60 times in 30 seconds using her own hair. That is very impressive. She is an artist and an activist. She uses her hair to make sculptures¹ that send a political message. She wraps her dreadlocks² around wire to make the shapes. She calls her style the *Ky Concept*. She has been voted as one of the 35 most influential³ young people in the French-speaking world. She posts her pictures on Instagram and she has a lot of followers. She hopes to raise attention for issues such as women's rights, Black Lives Matter, and bullying. Her sculptures are very impressive.



**Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass.
It is about learning to dance in the rain.**

A building

Let's have a look at Angkor Wat this week. It is a temple complex⁴ in Cambodia. It was built by Emperor Suryavarman II in the 12th century. He was the head of the Khmer empire⁵. The temple was built where it is because it was the capital of his empire. Angkor means "city" and wat means "temple grounds". The temple was made from about 10 million sandstone blocks. That is more than all of the Egyptian pyramids.



Suryavarman II built the temple for the Hindu god Vishnu. Suryavarman died in 1150 AD and work on the temple stopped. After Suryavarman died, his successor was assassinated⁶ by Tribhuvanaditya, who became emperor of the Khmer Empire. In 1177, the Khmer empire was invaded⁷ by the Cham people and Tribhuvanaditya was killed and replaced by Jayavarman VII. He believed that he was able to overthrow⁸ the kingdom because the Hindu gods had failed the Khmer people. He changed Angkor Wat into a Buddhist temple. From Angkor Wat, Cambodia was slowly converted⁹ into the Buddhist country that it is today.

Recent archaeological digs¹⁰ have discovered more buildings that surrounded the temple a long time ago. People thought that the temple was only for the priests, but these new buildings are houses and other residential buildings, so there could have been a town surrounding Angkor Wat.

1.sculpture 彫刻 2.dreadlocks ドレッドヘア 3.influential 影響力の強い 4.complex 建物群 5.Khmer empire クメール帝国 6.assassinate 暗殺する 7.invade 侵攻する
8.overthrow 転覆させる 9.convert 変形する 10.archaeological dig 遺跡の発掘作業