

The weather has been very nice recently. Have you seen the lilac in the garden? It is absolutely beautiful. I really do like the garden here at school. It is wonderful. I wish we could spend more time out there. I would like to spend a whole day there. I found some red flowers on a tree that looked different from lilac. I used an app on my phone called "Google Lens". Have you heard of it? You can use your camera to search for things around you. I took a photo of the red flower and google told me that it is a red horse-chestnut¹! Isn't that amazing? It is incredible what technology is helping us to do these days.



10 differences

Here are last week's answers. How many did you find?

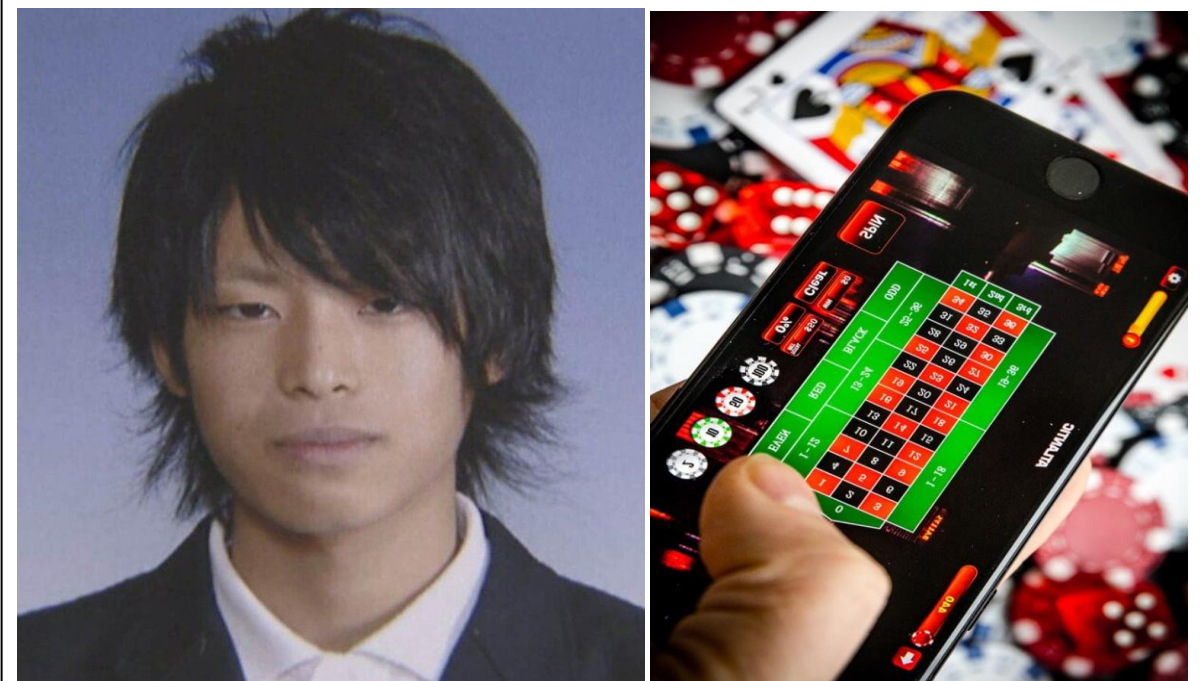


Something you didn't know about the casinos:

1. The first casino was built in Venice, Italy in 1638. It wasn't called a casino. It was opened by the Council of Venice² so they could control gambling.
2. The word "casino" comes from the Italian word *casa*, which means house.
3. People think they have a good chance in casinos, but they don't. The house always wins³. Worldwide in 2011, casinos made \$55 billion. This is projected to reach⁴ \$126 billion by 2025. More people are gambling every year.
4. The largest casino in the world is in America. It is the WinStar World Casino. It is almost 200,000m². That is enormous⁵.

Man Steals 46.3 Million Yen

Last week, a man who stole 46.3 million yen that was accidentally⁶ sent to him was arrested⁷. His name is Sho Taguchi and he is 24 years old. He comes from Abu in Yamaguchi prefecture. He received the money by accident. The government was giving 100,000 yen to families that were struggling⁷ because of the corona situation. Accidentally, and I don't know how, they paid all of the money for Abu into Mr. Taguchi's account. Many people would probably tell their bank that there had been a mistake, but Mr. Taguchi didn't do that. He went out and spent all of the money. He withdrew⁷ 600,000 yen every day and transferred⁸ it all to an online gambling site. He lost all of the money. Mr. Taguchi knew that the money had been sent to him by mistake because the town contacted him on April 8th. He said that he understood, and he would give the money back, but that was the day when he started to withdraw the money out of the bank. He withdrew it all over 11 days. On April 21st, he went to the bank with the town officials⁹, and they discovered the money had gone. He said that he was sorry and then he ran away. He was found and arrested last week. He does not have the money and he has no way to pay it back. I wonder what will happen to him.

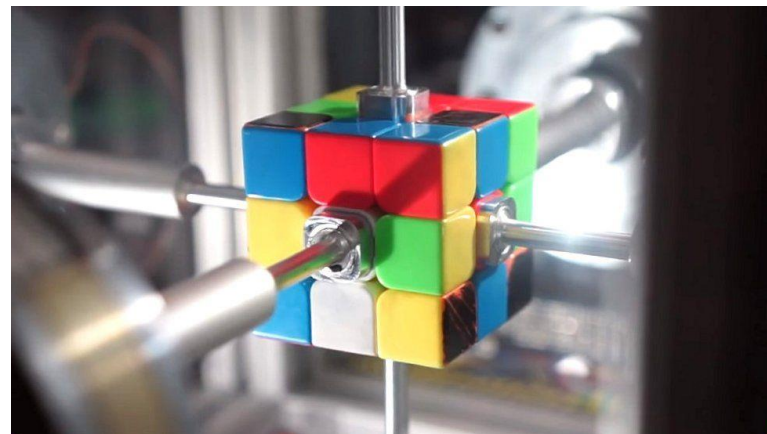


- 1.red horse-chestnut ベニバナトチノキ 2. Venice ベネチアにある委員会 3.the house always wins カジノは負けいない 4.projected to reach になる予定 5.enormous 大きい 6.accidentally うっかり 7.struggle きつい 8.transfer 振り込む 9.official 公務員



World record

I might have written about this record before, but do you know what the record for solving a Rubik's cube is? It's 3.47 seconds. That is insanelly¹ fast. I can't even pick mine up off the table in that time. Yusheng Du of China managed to achieve this time in 2018. It hasn't been beaten yet. However, that is the world record for a human. Machines can solve Rubik's cubes much faster than we can. A team at MIT created a robot that can solve the Rubik's cube in 0.38 seconds. That is ridiculous. You can find the video on YouTube and it difficult to see what the robot is doing even in slow motion. In regular motion it is just a blur². People have been wondering how fast a cube can be solved and there is no easy answer to it. Machines can probably go even faster than the current record, but the problem is not the machine. The problem is the Rubik's cube. At speeds like that, it is likely to explode³.



It is our choices that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities⁴.”
—J. K. Rowling

A building

This week let's look at the Guggenheim Museums. They are modern art⁵ galleries and there are seven of them. There are three in America, one in Mexico, one in France, one in Italy, and one in Germany. There are plans to build an eight in in Abu Dhabi. All of them are nice buildings, but the museums in New York and Spain are probably the most interesting.

This is the New York museum. It was built in 1959 and is one of the most

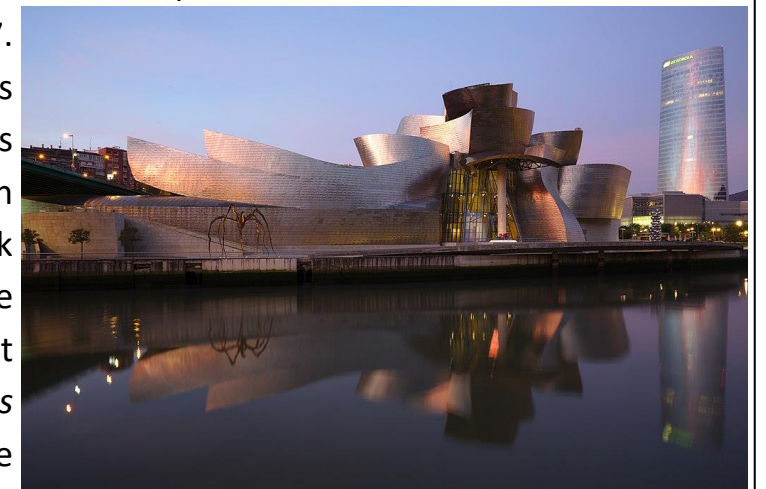


famous modern art galleries in the world. All of the museums were founded⁶ by Solomon R. Guggenheim, who was a an American businessman and art collector. He was incredibly wealthy, but he loved art, so he used most of his fortune⁷ to create a

foundation⁸ to buy and protect art. Unfortunately, he died before this building was finished. And this is the Spanish museum. It is in Bilbao. The

building was built in 1997.

It is famous because of its beautiful design. It was designed by a Canadian architect called Frank Gehry. People say that the museum doesn't just contain art, the museum *is* art. What do you think? The



Guggenheim museums contain many famous works of art, and they buy more every year. Solomon R. Guggenheim never got to see his dream come true, but he has done a lot for the world of art.

1.insanel 正気とは思えないほど (すごく) 2.blur ぼやける 3.explode 爆発する 4.ability 能力 5.modern art 現代美術する 6.founded 創られた 7.fortune 財産 8.foundation 財団法人