

The weather was beautiful last week. I went out in the garden and I took a great slow-motion video of a butterfly. It was beautiful. Sometimes I think I would like to sit in the garden for a whole day and just watch the world go by. What about you? We have a wonderful garden here. We are very lucky. Do you have a garden at home? I live in an apartment and I don't have a garden, but I would really like one. My wife doesn't think that I should have a garden. She says that I don't have green fingers¹. Everything I try to grow on our balcony dies. If I had a garden, she says, it would just be full of dead vegetables and crows.



10 differences
This one is very hard

Here are last week's answers.



Something you didn't know about chocolate:

1. Chocolate comes from cacao, which originally came from the Amazon rainforest².
2. One cacao tree can produce enough cacao beans to make 2.5 kg of chocolate.
3. Chocolate can be poisonous for dogs and cats because it contains theobromine³.
4. Swiss people eat the most chocolate. They eat 8.8 kg every year. Japan is number 11, with 1.2 kg every year.
5. 3 million tons of cacao beans are eaten every year.
6. Most of the world's cacao is not grown in the Amazon anymore. It is mostly grown in the Ivory Coast.

Two People Rescued After Falling in Tank of Chocolate

Nobody wants to have an accident⁴. That goes without saying⁵. However, there are some accidents that we wouldn't mind having. Last week, two people in Pennsylvania, America, fell into a tank full of chocolate at the M&M factory. The chocolate in the tank was waist high, but the two people couldn't climb out. Firefighters were called and they had to cut a hole in the side of the tank. They

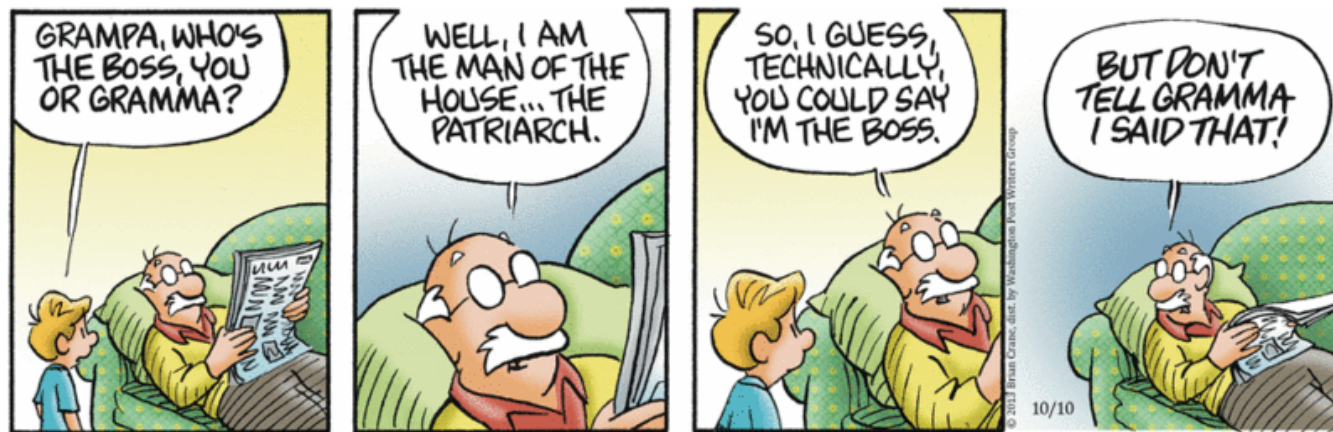


managed to get both people out and they were taken to hospital. I don't know how the people are. The chocolate was in liquid form⁶, so it might have been very hot. It took an hour for the firefighters to get the two people out. Workplace accidents still happen, but they are a lot fewer than they used to be. Factories are a lot safer than they used to be. M&Ms are owned by the Mars corporation and I'm sure they are going to have an investigation⁷ to find out what happened. The good thing about accidents is that companies learn from them and make sure the same thing doesn't happen again. Hopefully the



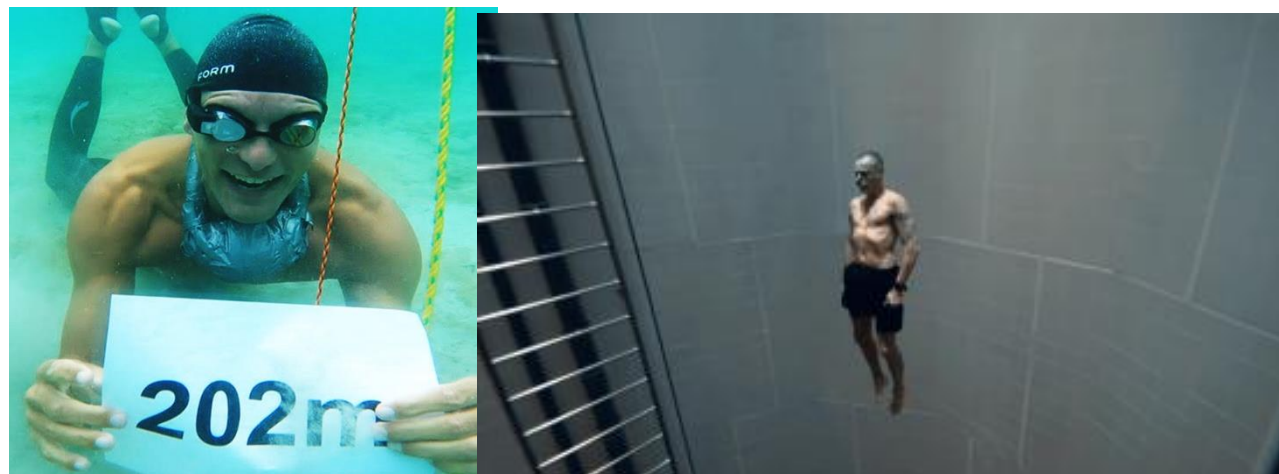
two people will make a full recovery and will be back at work soon. And I hope that they still enjoy eating m&ms. They will probably receive some compensation⁸ from the Mars corporation. That usually happens. Hopefully it won't just be a big bag of chocolate. I don't think they would appreciate that.

- 1.green fingers 園芸の才◆親指が緑色になるくらいに植物をいじっているところから 2. Amazon rainforest アマゾンの熱帯雨林 3.theobromine テオブロミン 4.accident 事故 5.goes without saying 言うまでもない 6.liquid form 液体 7.investigation 調査 8.compensation 補償金



World record

I have been trying to increase the amount of time I can hold my breath recently. It is not easy to do. The world record for holding breath is 11 minutes and 35 seconds, which is insane¹. This week, I want to look at a different breath holding world record. The longest distance swam underwater on one breath is held by Stig Severinsen. He is Danish and is a doctor. He is a freediving champion as well. His record is 202 meters swimming underwater. An average pool is 25 meters long, so he can swim a little over 8 lengths of a swimming pool, 4 lengths of an Olympic swimming pool. That is incredible. He holds many other records as well. He can hold his breath for eight minutes 40 seconds and he has free dived to a depth of 64 meters. He says that he hasn't suffered any brain damage², but he would say that, wouldn't he?



Life doesn't say that we have to be the best, only that we try our best.

H. Jackson Brown Jr.

A building

This week let's look at Coober Pedy. It is not one building, it is a whole town. It is in Australia, 846 km north of Adelaide. It is famous because the whole town is underground³. It is built in the desert⁴ where daytime temperatures in the summer can go well above 40°C. It is too hot to live above ground and the cost of air conditioning would be too high. The houses that are underground stay at a constant cool temperature. There are no trees or plants growing here because of the desert and because the cost of water is so high. Water has to be pumped⁵ up from the Great Artesian Basin and the water prices for residents⁶ are the highest in South Australia.



So, why do people live here? The town was started in 1915 because opals⁷ were found. People were searching for gold, and they found opals instead. Opals are very valuable, and they are more expensive than gold or diamonds. Australia mines 95% of the world's opals and most of those come from



Coober Pedy. The population of the town is 2,500 and most people either make their living from opal mining⁸ or from serving the town. Tourism has become a big industry as well. Sometimes, tourists even find an opal to take home. I would like to visit.

1.insane 考えられないこと 2.brain damage 脳傷害 3.underground 地下で 4.desert 砂漠 5.pump ポンプでくみ上げる 6.resident 市民 7.opal オパール 8.mine 採掘する