

We are supposed to have the last trash pickup of the year today, but the weather looks like rain again. I am writing this last Thursday, and all of the weather sites say rain on Sunday, rain on Tuesday, and probably rain on Monday. I think I am probably going to have to cancel the event. That's a shame¹, but we still got to pick up trash five times this year. That is amazing and we did a lot to clean up the neighborhood. I don't know if I would be allowed to, but I would love to do a trash pick up along Odori and around Sapporo station next year. I wonder what I need to do to get permission. I will look into it.



7 differences

Last week:



Something interesting about candy:

1. The ancient Egyptians were the first people to make candy. They mixed fruit and nuts in honey.
2. The word "candy" comes from the Arabic word "qandi", which means "made of sugar". This is because sugar came into Europe from the Middle East².
3. People started eating candy after 1830. The price of sugar dropped and machines had been invented in the Industrial Revolution³ that could mass produce⁴ candy.
4. Because candy is mostly sugar, bacteria⁵ cannot grow on it and it can last for a very long time on the shelf.

Sakuma Drops

The Sakuma Seika Company announced that they will stop making their famous drops this month and the company will go out of business in January of next year. The drops were hard candies that were made with real fruit juice. They were hugely popular, but the company has to close. There are several reasons. A lot of other companies have introduced cheaper versions and Sakuma cannot compete. They cannot get enough staff because of the corona virus situation. The price of the raw materials⁶ and of the energy they use has sky rocketed⁷. They cannot afford to keep making them and have decided to shut up shop⁸. Sakura Drops were first made in 1908. They put them in the famous can in 1913. The design of the can changes often and they have become collectors' items⁹. The drops have been around for so long that many people grew up with them. They have been a staple¹⁰ in convenience stores and supermarkets for 114 years. The company could raise the price, but they would have to raise it so high that nobody would buy them. They have had to make the difficult decision to stop making them and close. One of the problems is that the drops tend to be bought by elderly people who remember eating them when they were children. Young people have so many snacks to choose from that they very rarely choose Sakuma Drops. What about you?

Have you eaten them? Do you have a box at home? Will you miss them? What kind of snacks do you eat? It is sad that a company that has been around for so long has to close its doors and go out of business.

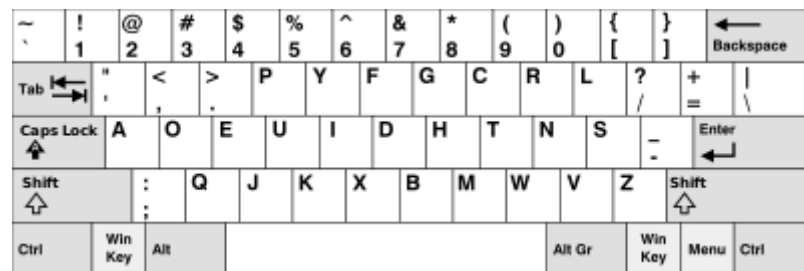


- 1.a shame 残念 2.Middle East 中東 3.Industrial Revolution 産業革命 4.mass produce 大量生産する 5.bacteria 細菌 6.raw material 原料 7.sky rocket 急に上がる 8.shut up shop 解散する 9.collectors' items 収集家が欲しが物 10.staple 必需品



World record

It took me a long time to write this English News because I type very slowly. The world record for the fastest typing is Barbara Blackburn. She managed to type at a speed of 212 words per minute. That is very fast! That is faster than most people can speak. I am going to make this passage exactly 212 words long. Try and read it in one minute. You have to read almost four words a second. And that is just reading! To type that quickly your hands have to move so fast! She managed to get the world record in 2005 and she was using a Dvorak simplified keyboard¹. The Dvorak keyboard is easier to use than the QWERTY keyboard because it groups commonly used² letters closer together. The QWERTY keyboard does the opposite of that: it tries to separate commonly used letters. There is also a record for the fastest typing on a typewriter³. I doubt any of you will have ever used a typewriter. After you finish every line, you have to pull a lever and slide the roller over so you can start typing on the next line. That record was made by Rose Louisa Fritz in 1906. She was able to type at 100 words per minute.



Whenever you find yourself on the side of the majority⁴, it is time to pause and reflect⁵. -Mark Twain.

A capital city – St John's

Let's look at St John's, the capital city of Antigua and Barbuda. Antigua and Barbuda is a country in the West Indies⁶. There are two main islands and some smaller islands. The main islands of Antigua and Barbuda are about 30 km apart. People have lived on the islands since about 2900 BC. They rowed to the islands in canoes from the area that is now Venezuela. Christopher Columbus saw the islands on his way to America and named them "Santa Maria de la Antigua". The British colonized⁷ the islands in 1632 and transported slaves⁸ from Africa to grow tobacco, ginger, and sugar. The British Navy docked⁹ there as well. The British made St John's the capital of their colony. Antigua and Barbuda gained independence in 1981, and St John's became the official capital city. St John's has a population of 22,000 people and it is the main port of the country. Many cruise ships visit St John's every week. Most of the people who live there have African ancestry¹⁰. There are very few native people left. The people speak English, but there are very different accents on the islands of Antigua and Barbuda. If you want to visit, you can get a flight from Miami, Florida, and it takes about 3 hours.



- 1.Dvorak simplified keyboard ドボラックキーボード 2.commonly used よく使われている
- 3.typewriter タイプライター 4.majority 過半数 5.reflect 内省する 6.West Indies 西インド諸島 7.colonize 植民地にされる 8.transport slaves 奴隷を運ぶ 9.dock ドックに入る
- 10.ancestry 先祖