

The tests are over. Did you enjoy them? Probably not, but don't worry. Now they are over, we can start the run up to<sup>1</sup> Christmas. I walked round the school last night and all of the doors have Christmas wreaths on them and the Christmas tree looks beautiful. We start to make the stained glass for the windows on Friday. It is so exciting! I love this time of year. Everything is so much fun. What kind of designs are you going to do? When I was a homeroom teacher, my students always tried to get my head into the design somewhere. They said that I have an interestingly shaped head. I don't think anybody ever noticed.



12 differences

Last week:



### Something interesting: 747s

1. The number 747 doesn't mean anything significant<sup>2</sup>. The first 7 comes from 700. After World War 2, all types of planes were given a category. 300s and 400s were military aircraft<sup>3</sup>. 500s were for turbine engines<sup>4</sup>. 600s were for rockets and missiles. 700s were for passenger and transport aircraft. Boeing didn't think 700 was a very interesting number, so they put a 7 on the end and called their first plane the 707. The 747 is simply Boeing's 4<sup>th</sup> plane in the series.

2. A modern 747 can fly 12,320 km. It can carry 150 tons over the weight of the plane and the fuel. It can hold 216,849 liters of fuel. (Your mum's car probably holds 50L!)

### Last 747

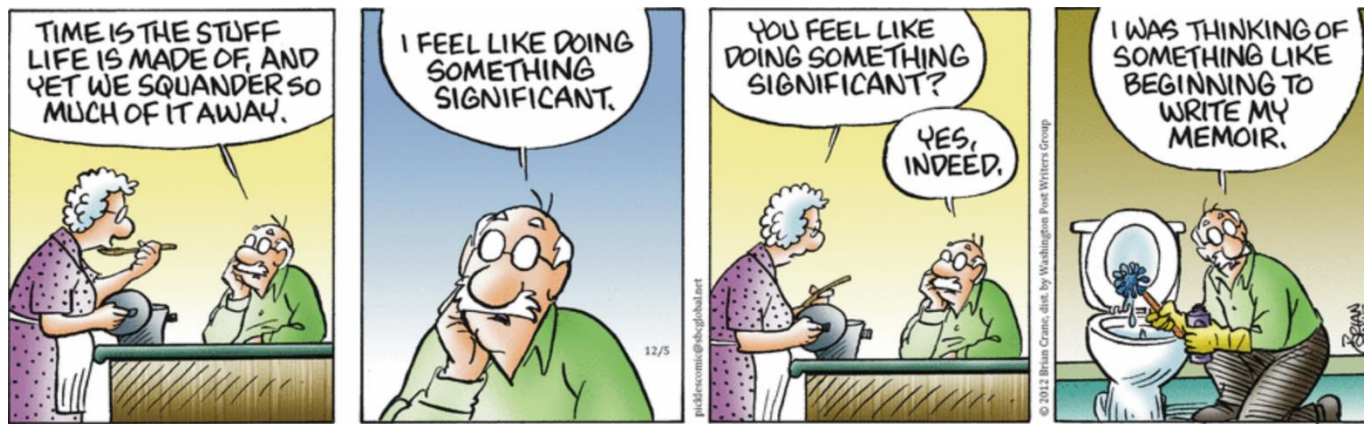
Last Wednesday, the last ever 747 rolled off<sup>5</sup> the production line<sup>6</sup> and out of the factory doors. The Boeing 747 has been made for fifty years and this one was 747 number 1,574. It is an iconic<sup>7</sup> aircraft. When people think of a passenger jet, they almost always picture a 747. The 747 was made in the Boeing factory in Washington, America. The factory was specially built for the 747 and is 20 meters high and 77 meters long. However, the planes are not actually built in this factory. Different parts are built in Boeing plants all over the world and shipped to Washington, where the planes are assembled.



Boeing may have built the last 747, but there are still 447 747s still in service around the world. If you travel internationally, you will probably travel on one at some point. So, why are Boeing discontinuing<sup>8</sup> them? The 747 is a large plane that can carry a huge amount of cargo, but that means that it needs very powerful engines. These powerful engines are not very efficient<sup>9</sup> and use a lot of fuel. They also produce an enormous amount of CO2, which is not good for the environment. Many airline companies are looking for planes that are more efficient and better for the environment. It hasn't happened yet, but at some point all planes will probably become electric. The next time you fly on a 747, think about how much they have done for us and how much they have changed international flight.

1.the run up to までの時間 2.significant 重要な 3.military aircraft 軍用機 4.turbine engine タービン機関 5.roll off から出る 6.production line 組立ライン 7.iconic 像の 8.discontinue 中止 9.efficient 効率的な





### World record

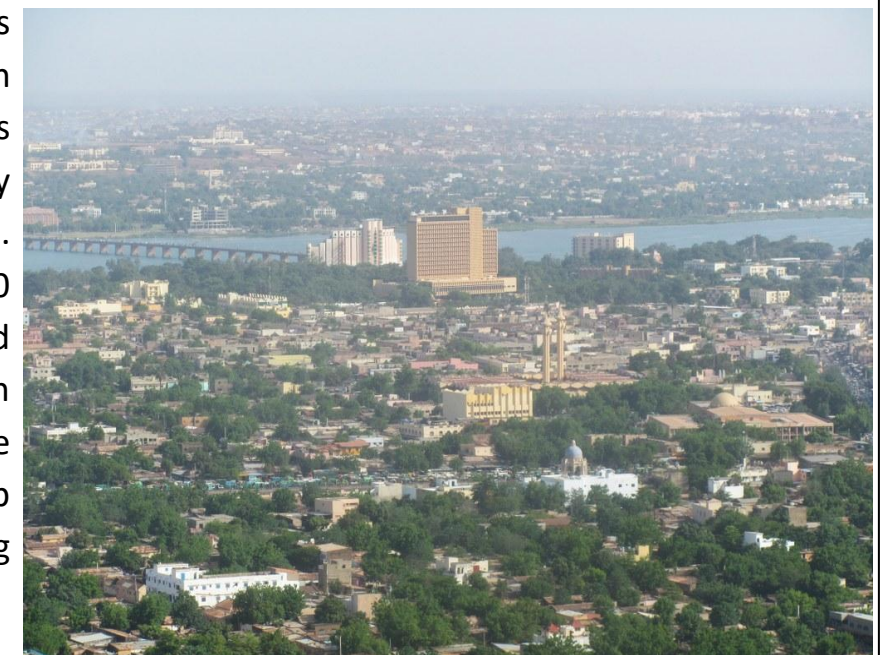
I wrote about 747s, so I thought I would do plane-based<sup>1</sup> world record this week. The longest distance a plane has flown without landing is 64 days and 22 hours. It wasn't a special plane. It was a regular two-seater propeller plane<sup>2</sup> and it was refueled<sup>3</sup> twice a day. The pilots flew low over the ground and dropped a refueling pipe down to a fuel truck that followed them along the ground. They flew giant circuits around the desert and they did it as a publicity stunt<sup>4</sup> for the Hacienda Casino in Las Vegas. The pilots never left the plane and had a platform that hung out of the side of the plane that they could sit on to wash or go to the toilet. When they landed, neither pilot could walk. Their plane now hangs over the baggage claim area<sup>5</sup> in McCarran International Airport, Las Vegas.



**The bad news is time flies<sup>6</sup>. The good news is you are the pilot.**  
**-Michael Altshuler**

### A capital city – Bamako

Let's look at Bamako, the capital city of Mali. Mali is a country in the west of Africa and it is surrounded by Mauritania, Algeria, Niger, Burkino Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, and Senegal. Mali has a very long history and people have been living there for over 10,000 years. Back then, the Sahara wasn't a desert. Cities started to appear by 900 BC. The Sahara had become a desert by then and life was harder. By AD 600, a trade in gold, salt, and slaves<sup>6</sup> had begun in the area and Mali became a very wealthy empire. That lasted until 1680. There were several large famines<sup>7</sup> in Saharan Africa, which killed many people. Also, European countries started to enter Africa looking for colonies and resources<sup>8</sup>. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Mali became a French colony and only gained independence in 1960 and Bamako became the official capital city. The official language of Mali is French, but most people communicate in a language called Bambara. There are many different groups of people, but most of them can use Bambara. After independence, Mali was affected by several droughts<sup>9</sup> and famines. There has also been a lot of fighting between different parts of the community. A ceasefire<sup>10</sup> was declared in 2018, but the government was overthrown<sup>11</sup> in 2020. Bamako has become a large city in the last 60 years. It had 100,000 people in 1960 and 1,810,366 people in 2009. Infrastructure cannot keep up with the growing city.



- 1.X-based Xをベースにする 2.propeller plane プロペラ機 3.refuel 燃料を補給する 4.publicity stunt 売名行為 5.baggage claim area 手荷物引取所 6.slave 奴隷 7.famine 飢饉 8.resources 天然資源 9.drought 干ばつ 10.ceasefire 休戦 9.overthrow the government 政府の転覆