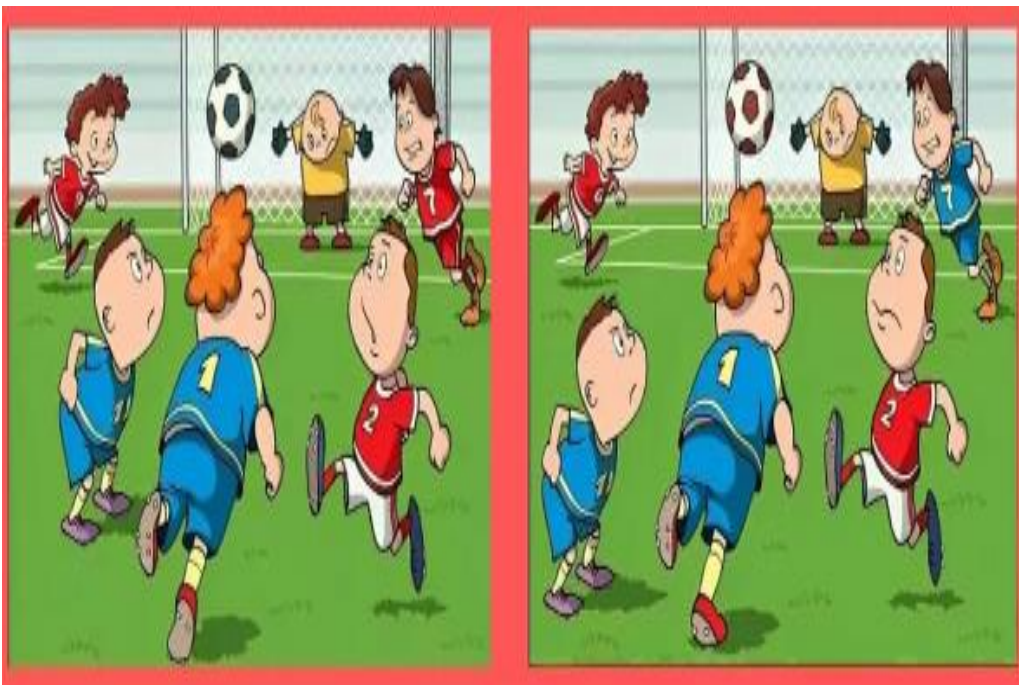


This is going to be an exciting week. The English play is on Friday and Saturday. Friday is the day for Hokusei students to go and watch it and Saturday is the day when anyone can go and watch it. I think it is going to be amazing. I can hear the students practicing very hard every day after school. They have been working on it very hard for months now. They have made amazing costumes and the props look awesome. The songs and the dances sound wonderful as well. I can't wait to see it. You'll want to get there as soon as you can on Friday to make sure¹ you get a good seat. And don't worry. It is fun even if you can't understand the English.



9 differences

Here are the answers to last week's puzzle.



Something you didn't know about shoes:

1. Robert Wadlow had the largest feet. They were 47 cm long.
2. The average woman owns 21 pairs of shoes and the average man has 12.
3. Japan measures shoes in cm, but the UK uses a different system. If you have 24 cm feet in Japan, you are a size 5.5 in the UK. 5.5 what? 5.5 barleycorns². Shoes have been measured in barleycorns for over a thousand years.
4. Men wore high heels before women did. Boots for men used to have a heel so they could grip the stirrups³ when they rode horses.
5. The oldest shoe ever found was made of leather and is 5,500 years old.
6. Sneakers are called sneakers because you can sneak up on people.

Shoes that Grow

An Indian entrepreneur⁴ has worked out a way to make shoes that grow. If you ever have children you will realize that they are very expensive. Obviously⁵, they need food, toys, books, and things like that, but a lot of the expense⁶ comes from their clothes and their shoes. Children's feet grow very quickly from when they are born until they are teenagers and they usually need new shoes every year, sometimes every few months. We all have enough money that it isn't too difficult to buy new shoes every time our children's feet grow, but a lot of people in the world don't have as much money as we do. This is what motivated⁷ the entrepreneur to try to work out a way to help. He also realized that most of the time children are wearing shoes, they don't fit properly because the children's feet have grown too big for them. He wanted to make shoes that would fit and be comfortable. He has invented shoes that have soft, knitted⁸ uppers. They are strong and supportive⁹, but they are very flexible¹⁰. They stretch as the child's foot grows and one pair of shoes can cover three shoe sizes. That makes it cheaper to get shoes for a child and it is much better for the child's foot.



1. make sure 確実に〜する
2. barleycorn 大麦
3. stirrup あぶみ
4. entrepreneur 起業家
5. obviously 明らかに
6. expense 費用
7. motivate 動機を与える
8. knitted 編まれた
9. supportive 支える
10. flexible 柔らかい



World record

This is a world record that you can all try and get once you pass your driving test. The world record for the highest mileage¹ in a car is 3,250,000 miles. 1 mile is 1.6 kilometers, so that is 5,230,000 km. That is the same as 130 trips around the world or going to the moon and back 6.5 times. That is a very long way. An American called Irvin Gordon bought a Volvo 1880s in 1966. He drove a lot and he drove across America many times a year. He washed his car often, changed the oil and the tires, and took very good care of it. By 2018, he had driven 5,230,000 km! That is an astonishing² distance. Unfortunately, he died in 2018. If he hadn't died, who knows



how far he could have driven the car. After he died, his children inherited³ the car and they sold it back to Volvo for an undisclosed price⁴. Volvo display it in their headquarters and are investigating⁵ why it lasted so long.

Do not confine⁶ your children to your own learning because they were born in another time. – Hebrew Proverb

An invention

Have you ever played with a slinky? They sell them in the hundred yen shop these days and they are made of plastic. When I was a child, they were only made of metal. My brother and I had one each and we raced them down the stairs. Have you ever played with one? They are a lot of fun. Do you know when they were invented? They were invented by accident in 1943. A mechanical engineer⁷ called Richard James was trying to make a spring that would keep ship equipment⁸ steady at sea. He came up with the spring that would become the slinky spring. While he was working, he accidentally knocked



the spring off his desk and it slowly stepped down to the floor over a series of boxes. He brought it home and the neighborhood children loved it. It took a few years, but a toy shop agreed to sell it and it became hugely popular. His wife came up with the name slinky. By 1960 the toy was becoming very popular with children. In 1960, Richard James divorced⁹ his

wife and moved to Bolivia to be a missionary¹⁰. He died in 1974. His wife, Betty James, took over the company and made it very successful. She died in 2008 and by the time of her death, over 300 million slinkys had been sold all over the world. The toy is still very popular, all because a man accidentally knocked a spring off his desk.



J.D. CAVRICH / AP

1.mileage 総走行距離 2.astonishing 驚くべき 3.inherit 相続する 4.undisclosed price 発表していない値段 5.investigate 調べる 6.confine 制限する 7.mechanical engineer 機械工学士 8.equipment 道具 9.divorce 離婚する 10.missionary 宣教師