

The English Play was last Saturday. What did you think? I thought it was incredible¹. They did a wonderful job. The singing and the dancing were amazing. And this is the last week of school before Golden Week. Are you excited? Do you have any plans for the vacation? I'm hoping the weather will be nice, but my family and I are not going out. I have promised my daughter that I will decorate² her bedroom, so we are going to spend the whole week painting, wallpapering³, and trying to hide any mistakes that I make. It is going to be a lot of fun. I am not very good at DIY, but I think it will be good to learn.



12 differences
Here are the answers to last week's puzzle. I'm sorry, but I used the wrong picture. There were only 4 things



Something you didn't know about rice:

1. Rice is a staple food⁴ in 17 Asian countries, 9 American countries, and 8 African countries.
2. People in Laos and Bangladesh eat the most rice per person. In both countries, the average person eats 270 kg of rice a year. People in Japan eat about 90 kg a year. Americans eat about 10 kg a year.
3. White rice can last for 30 years and still be eaten. Brown rice only lasts a few months.
4. It takes 5,000 liters of water to grow 1 kg of rice.
5. Rice is the oldest grain⁵ humans have eaten. Rice was domesticated⁶ 13,000 years ago and wheat was only domesticated 10,000 years ago.
6. The word "rice" comes from the Greek word "oruza".

Rice Polystyrene

Have you ever ordered anything from Amazon? When it comes, the item is usually packaged in polystyrene⁷ to make sure it doesn't break in transit. That polystyrene is extremely bad for the environment. Polystyrene takes over 500 years to biodegrade⁸ and it leaches⁹ dangerous chemicals into the ground while it breaks down. The materials that are used to make it are also dangerous and people in the factories have to be very careful. An engineer in New Delhi has come up with a way to help. He has made something that looks and feels the same as polystyrene, and he has made it from rice stubble. Rice stubble is the dead stalks¹⁰ that are left over in India every year after the rice season has finished. When farmers grow rice, they harvest the rice and then the stalks are left in the field. They can't feed them to animals and they have to clear the field before the next growing season, so they burn the rice stubble. This puts a lot of smoke and CO2 into the air. Arpit Dhupar looked at this problem and he looked at the problem of polystyrene. He put the two problems together and found a way to make a material that is similar to polystyrene from these rice stalks. He has solved many problems at once. People don't need to make polystyrene (which is dangerous). People don't need to throw polystyrene away (which is bad for the environment). Farmers don't need to burn the rice stubble (which is bad for the environment). He pays farmers for the rice stubble and they have more money (which is good for the farmers and the economy).



- 1.incredible 信じられないほど素晴らしい 2.decorate 装飾する 3.wallpapering 壁紙を張る 4.staple food 主食 5.grain 穀物 6.domesticate 環境に適応させる 7.polystyrene ポリスチレン 8.biodegrade 生物分解する 9.leach 濾す 10.stalk 柄



World record

This is a world record that you can break if you have enough time and money. You are all still young, so you could easily break it if you wanted. This is the world record for the most consecutive¹ days going to Disneyland. The world record is 2,995 days and it is held by Jeff Reitz. He started going to the Disneyland in California in 2012. He went every day until the park was closed for the corona virus. He hasn't been back since. He started to go because he was unemployed and he didn't have anything to do. Someone gave him a Disneyland year pass as a present and he started. After a while, he found a job, but he kept visiting the park. It didn't cost him as much money as people think. A year pass is about \$1,400, so it cost him \$3.85 a day. Disneyland has been using a reservation² system to limit³ the number of people going to the park, but things are going back to normal now, so he says he will start visiting again. However, his record is for the most consecutive days, so I guess he has to start from one again. I wonder if he will.



The most wasted of days is one without laughs. – E. E. Cummings

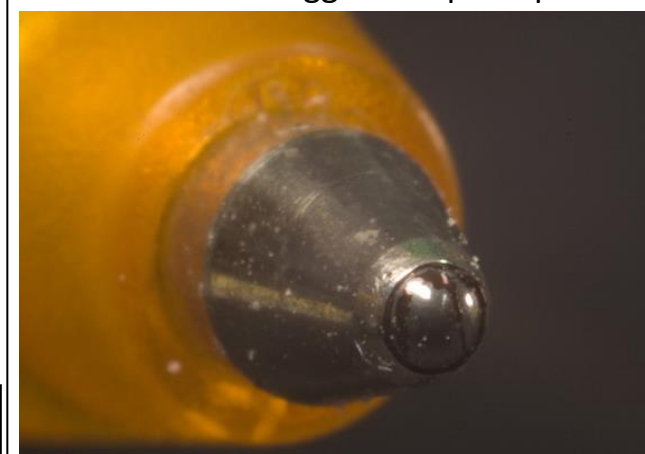
An invention

Have you ever wondered who invented the ballpoint pen? Most of you write with pencils at school, but I'm sure you have used a pen at some time. The ballpoint pen⁴ was invented in 1936 by László Bíró. Actually, he didn't invent the ballpoint system. That was invented by John Loud in 1888, but he couldn't find an ink that worked and his pen was too rough⁵ to be



used. László Bíró realized that ink used for printing newspapers dries quickly, so he tried to use that in his pens, and it worked. It is a thick ink that dries very quickly. A ballpoint pen has a steel ball in a socket⁶ at the end.

When you write, the ball rotates, picks up ink from the chamber⁷, and puts it on the paper. Bíró escaped the Nazis during World War 2 and went to live in Argentina. He started to make pens with his brother. In 1945, a French baron⁸ called Marcel Bich bought the patent for the pen from Bíró and started to sell them. He paid \$2 million for the patent. He gave his name to his company, and changed it to Bic. He started to sell the pens and Bic has become the biggest ballpoint pen company in the world. They have sold



more than 100 billion pens. The most famous pen is the Bic Cristal. It comes in 18 different colors and is sold worldwide. It is the most common pen in the world. In many countries, a ballpoint pen is called a biro because of László Bíró.

- 1.consecutive 連続 2.reservation 予約 3.limit 制限 4.ballpoint pen ボールペン
5.rough ざらざらする 6.socket 受け口 7.chamber 空間 8.baron 男爵