

The whole school is back together again! The jhs 3rd grade are back from Canada and the 5th grade are back from Cambodia, Taiwan, and Okinawa. I hope everyone had a great time. I know that the JHS had a good time in Canada because I was there with them. Canada is a beautiful country and everybody is so friendly. We can all relax and get back into normal school life for a while now. We don't have any big events for a while. Autumn seems to have arrived while I was away in Canada. The mornings are getting darker and the weather is getting colder. Many people don't like that, but, to me, it means Christmas is getting close! And I love Christmas!!!



10 differences

Last week's answer



Something you didn't know about Amazon:

1. Jeff Bezos started Amazon in 1994. He wanted to call it "Relentless¹". If you type in relentless.com it will redirect to Amazon.
2. Amazon owns more than 100 other companies.
3. Amazon employs² over 1.6 million people around the world. That makes it number 8 in the world. Walmart is number 1 with 2.3 million employees.
4. In the logo of Amazon, the arrow goes from A to Z because you can buy everything.
5. Amazon sells many things, but it actually makes most of its money from technology. Amazon Web Services is its technology arm³ and hosts many major companies, such as Netflix, LinkedIn, and Facebook.

Amazon Makes Packaging That Fits The Product

Have you ever ordered anything from Amazon? I order a lot of stuff and no matter what I order, it always seems to come in the same size box. Even tiny things are vacuum sealed⁴ to the bottom of giant, empty boxes. There is a huge amount of waste⁵. Amazon always said it is easier to do this than try to find different sized boxes for every product. They stock millions of products, and their warehouse⁶ staff have to fill the boxes as quickly as they can. If the staff had to sort through a variety of boxes to find the one that best fitted, it would slow them down and make the job more difficult. This was Amazon's main argument.

Amazon sends billions of packages every year and all of that waste starts to add up. However, recently, Amazon has done two things to change the way they pack their products. The first thing they have done is install an AI system to analyze⁷ how to pack items inside a box. The computer can work out how to put things into a box that might seem too small in order to cut waste. It sends instructions to the packer on how to arrange the items inside the box. The second thing is to make packaging that fits the product. Amazon has a science department and they have put a lot of time into coming up with weather-resistant⁸ stretchy⁹ paper that can be completely recycled. A machine scans the product that is going to be wrapped and then cuts the stretchy paper to the correct size. The paper is then sealed with heat. Using this machine reduces an average of 26 grams of packaging per parcel. That is about 60,000 tons a year for Amazon.



- 1.relentless 無慈悲な 2.employ 雇う 3.arm 部門 4.vacuum seal 真空包装 5.waste 無駄
6.warehouse 倉庫 7.analyze 分析する 8.weather-resistant 耐候性の 9.stretchy 伸びやすい



World record

I wrote a few weeks ago about how we should all take shorter showers. I have actually been doing that. I bought a waterproof¹ timer that I use, and I make sure I don't use more than 4 minutes of water, although my goal is always under 3 minutes. Well, Kevin "Catfish" McCarthy has the world record for the longest shower in the world. In 1985, he spent 341 hours in the shower! That is 5 hours over two weeks. He used a shower in his dormitory² at Buffalo State College. This sounds like a relatively³ easy record at first, but if you think about it, it isn't. The first problem is you have stay under the showerhead for it to be counted as "showering". That makes it very difficult to sleep. Also, being in water for a long time can damage our skin. The skin can chafe⁴ or even peel off⁵ after longer than 12 hours in water. A shower is a little different to a bath because you can let different parts of the body dry at a time, so Kevin survived. However, an average shower uses about 60 liters of water a minute, which means in 361 hours Kevin used 1,299,600 liters of water. That is about the same as an Olympic swimming pool!



The happiness of your life depends on⁶ the quality of your thoughts. -

Marcus Aurelius

One thing we can do to help the environment

#7 Use my own coffee cup

This is a solution that I am not sure if I can do. I have a tumbler that I can use in Starbucks. Whenever I go, I can use my own tumbler and I get a small discount⁷. The discount is nice, but the whole point⁸ of using your own cup is to help the environment. Across all of its stores, Starbucks uses 8,000 paper cups every minute!!! That's 4 billion cups a year. And Starbucks is only one coffee chain. All of the coffee shops use billions of these cups. Using your own cup can cut down on this waste, which helps the environment in so many ways. So, why don't I think I can do it? I don't drink Starbucks' coffee that often. I drink convenience store coffee far more often and I'm not sure if you can use your own coffee cup in a convenience store. I have done some research online and it looks like you can use your own cup in Lawson. Some 7-11s let you use your own cup, and some don't. FamilyMart won't let you use your own cup. So, I guess that means I am going to be drinking more Lawson coffee from now on. I have always thought it strange that convenience stores don't sell a "my cup". Starbucks don't sell their own tumbler because it is good for the environment. They sell it because it makes them look good, they make money from the tumbler, and if you own a Starbucks' tumbler you are more likely to buy coffee at Starbucks. 7-11 should do this.



1.waterproof 防水 2.dormitory 寮 3.relatively 比較的 4.chafe すり減らす 5.peel off 剥く 6.depend on~による 7.discount 割引 8.the whole point of~の本質