

This is the last English News for 2023. We finish for the winter vacation at the end of this week. Are you excited? It's going to be a fun week. We have to get all of the stained glass ready and then put it up in the windows. That is a lot of work, but it is beautiful when we finish. Then we have to practice and get ready for the Christmas pageant¹. That will also be wonderful. I love this time of year. Then, next Monday, one week from today, is Christmas!!!! What presents will you get? What presents will you buy? Will Santa come to your house? How good have you been this year? Haha. Santa is going to visit my daughter, although, I don't know if she still believes in him.



10 differences

Last week's answer



Something you didn't know about Christmas

1. Santa Claus is based on² the story of St. Nicholas. He was a bishop³ in the 4th century AD. He was renowned for⁴ giving gifts to people who had nothing. The name Santa Claus comes from the Dutch version of St. Nicholas. In old Dutch, it was Sinter Kiklaas, which became Sante Klaas in modern Dutch, and then Santa Claus in English.
2. The first Christmas trees were decorated in Germany in 1539.
3. The English word "Xmas", which is short for Christmas, comes from Greek. In Greek, X is the 22nd letter of the alphabet and is "chi". X is the first letter of the Greek word for Christ – Χριστός. In English, the church started using X as an abbreviation⁵ for Christ from 1100. It was first used to shorten Christmas in 1551.

Whamaggedon

Last Christmas, I gave you my heart, but the very next day, you gave it away. This year, to save me from tears, I'll give it to someone special.

Do you know this song? It is called "Last Christmas" and it was sung by a group called Wham in 1984. Since its release, it has become one of the most popular Christmas songs. It is not number one. The most popular Christmas song is "All I want for Christmas is you", by Mariah Carey. However, if you ask people to name a Christmas song, most of them will probably name Wham's Last Christmas. It is played everywhere. Any shop you go into will probably be playing the song. And that is what Whamaggedon is.

Whamaggedon is a combination⁶ of the words "Wham" and "armageddon". It is a Christmas challenge that was started in Denmark in about 2010 and it has since spread around the world. It is a challenge that runs from December 1st to midnight on December 24th. I have only just heard about the game, so we are all going to have to start playing from today. Here are the rules:

1. The aim⁷ of the game is to go as long as you can without hearing Wham's "Last Christmas" song.
2. The game runs from December 1st to December 24th.
3. Only the original song counts. Covers⁸ of the song or people in your class singing it don't count.
4. You have lost the second⁹ you recognize¹⁰ the song.

Have fun and Merry Christmas.



- 1.pageant 時代劇 2.based on～に基づいて 3.bishop 主教 4.renowned for～であること
 で有名である 5.abbreviation 省略 6.combination 組み合わせる 7.aim 目的 8.cover 曲
 のカバー 9.the second。。。の瞬間 10.recognize 認識する



World record

It is nearly Christmas, so, here are some Christmas world records for you. The tallest chocolate Santa was 5 meters tall. It was made in Italy in 2011. The most lights on a Christmas tree is 194,672. Kiwanis Malmedy managed to get all of those lights on the tree in front of his house. I don't know how long it took him or how much his electricity bill¹ for that month was. The largest model of Santa is 20 meters tall. It was made in 2013 by a shopping mall in Brazil. The largest gathering² of Santas was in India in 2014. 18,112 people dressed as Santa turned up for the event. The world's oldest Christmas tree was bought in 1886. It is not a real tree and it doesn't look like it has many branches³ left. In 1950 the world's tallest Christmas tree was displayed in Washington DC. It was 67.36 meters tall!



When somebody does something good, applaud⁴! You will make two people happy.

- Samuel Goldwyn

One thing we can do to help the environment

#11 Turning off devices⁵

This is something I have never really thought about. Very often, I leave my computer and my TV on standby⁶ mode. I didn't think that standby used much electricity. However, it turns out that standby power is about 40% of the power that a device uses. If you leave a device on standby, it always has to be ready to react when you need it to. That means, the screen might be off, but the device is still running. We have our devices on standby for a long time and that power usage⁷ starts to add up⁸. Not all devices have standby mode, and some devices, like the fridge, we need to leave on all of the time, but standby power can be over 10% of your family's electricity bill. That can cost a lot, but it also means each family is adding 1000 kilograms of CO2 to the atmosphere⁹ every year, just by using standby mode. There are a few things we can do. First, we can switch off devices when we are not using them. Second, we can buy new devices that are far more efficient¹⁰, although this still isn't as good as switching devices off. Let's try!



1.bill 請求書 2.gathering 集まり 3.branch 枝 4.applaud 拍手を送る 5.device 機械 6.standby 待機 7.power usage 電力使用量 8.add up 重なっていく 9.atmosphere 大気 10.efficient 効率的な