

We have had a lot of snow recently. And it has been unseasonably¹ warm. The snow has been big, wet, and heavy. I wear spikes on my shoes so I don't slip on the ice, but there hasn't been much ice. The big, wet, heavy snow sticks to the spikes on the bottom of my shoes and I get taller and taller and taller. What about you? Do you have trouble walking in the snow? One thing that this wet, sticky, heavy snow is good for is making snowmen. I went to the park with my daughter last week and we made our first snowman of the year. We got very wet, but it was a lot of fun. Have you made any snowmen this year? What did they look like?



10 differences

Last week's answer

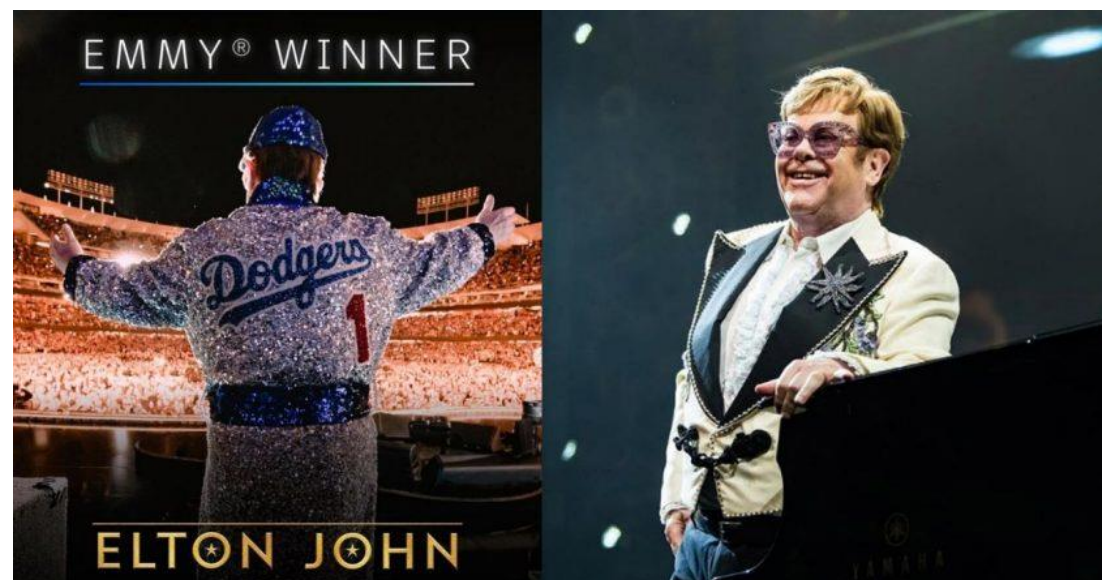


Something you didn't know about Elton John

1. Elton John isn't his real name. His real name is Reginald Dwight. He took the name Elton John because his two favorite musicians were a saxophone player called Elton Dean and a singer called Long John Baldry.
2. He has the second best-selling single² of all time. "Candle in the Wind 1997" was written after the death of Princess Diana. It has sold 33 million copies. The number one single is Bing Crosby's "White Christmas".
3. He has over 1,000 pairs of glasses, but he doesn't actually need to wear glasses.
4. Elton John has written most of his songs with Bernie Taupin. Bernie write the lyrics³ for the songs and Elton writes the music.

Elton John is an EGOT

Do you know who Elton John is? Many of you are probably too young, but you definitely⁴ know some of his songs. They are very well known and if I played some of them to you, you would say, "Oh! I know that!" He is 76 years old now and he has been singing and performing since he was 20 years old. If you google, "list of artists by sales," you will find that Elton John is the 4th most sold artist of all time. He is behind the Beatles, Elvis Presley, and Michael Jackson, but he is ahead of Queen, and Madonna. He has sold over 300 million records, cds, and song downloads. He has received many awards throughout⁵ his life and last week, he received an Emmy award, which has made him an EGOT. Egot stands for Emmy, Grammie, Oscar, Tony. They are all awards. An Emmy award is given for excellence⁶ in the television industry⁷. A Grammy award is given for excellence in the music industry. An Oscar is given for excellence in the movie industry. A Tony is given for excellence in the theater industry. Elton John won his Emmy in 2023 for his farewell concert special. He is retiring⁸ and this was his last concert. It was broadcast on TV. He has won 6 Grammys in his career. He has won 2 Oscars. One for the song "Can you feel the love tonight?" in the Lion King and one for "I'm gonna love me again" in Rocketman. He won a Tony award for the music he wrote for the musical Aida in 2000. He has won many other awards as well. I wonder what is next. Do you think he can win a Nobel Prize?



- 1.unseasonably 季節外れの 2.best-selling single 1番売れてるシングル 3.lyrics 歌詞 4.definitely 絶対 5.throughout~を通じて 6.excellence 優れていること 7.industry 産業 8.retire 引退



World record

Here are some cycling world records this week. Do you like to cycle? I love getting out on my bike, but there is too much snow to cycle at the moment. Ok. Here we go with some cycling world records. The fastest person on a bicycle was Denise Mueller-Korenek. She rode behind a car and managed to reach 296 km/h! The furthest anyone has cycled in an hour is 56.7 km, by Filippo Ganno. Michael Secrest has the record for the greatest distance cycled in 24 hours. He slipstreamed¹ behind a truck and rode 1,956 km in 24 hours! Christoph Strasser has the record for the time to cycle across the USA. It took him 7 days, 15 hours, and 56 minutes. He cycled 4,860 km. Amanda Coker has the record for the furthest ridden in 1 month. She rode 12,894 km! She also has the record for the fastest time to ride 100,000 miles (160,000 km). It took her 423 days. This is her:



So many books, so little time.

– Frank Zappa (he was a songwriter, singer, and guitarist)

One thing we can do to help the environment

#14 Use Less Palm Oil²

This one is surprisingly³ difficult because palm oil seems to be in absolutely everything. I am trying to cut out palm oil for environmental reasons and because I am trying to eat less ultra-processed food⁴. Palm oil is made from the fruit of the palm oil tree. It is small fruit, about the size of a small kiwi. It is picked off the tree, boiled, and then pressed to make oil. A palm oil fruit contains about 65% oil. Natural oil is healthy, but the big companies that use it, distill⁵ out all of the color and the nutrients⁶ so they can use it in more ways. It is very unhealthy. So, how is palm oil bad for the environment? Palm oil trees are cheaper to grow and cheaper to care for than many other plants. The oil can be sold more easily and farmers can make more money than if they made other vegetable oil. Palm oil trees grow in hot places like southern Asia, Africa, and Latin America⁷. Farmers there need money, so they plant more palm oil trees. That means they need space and they make the space by cutting down the forest. This destroys the habitats⁸ of many animals. It also causes soil erosion⁹ which makes floods worse. And a lot of chemicals and pollutants¹⁰ are released when the palm oil is made. I am trying to avoid palm oil, but it is in so many things!



- 1.slipstreamed スリップストリームに入る
- 2.palm oil ヤシ油
- 3.surprisingly 驚くほどに
- 4.ultra-processed food 超加工食品
- 5.distill 滴らせる
- 6.nutrient 栄養物
- 7.Latin America 中南米
- 8.habitat 生息地
- 9.soil erosion 土地浸食
- 10.pollutant 汚染物質