

Did you have a good three-day weekend? What did you do? And once you get through this week, you have another long vacation. You only have classes 1 and 2 on next Monday. Then you have the rest of Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday off. We have classes on Thursday and then Friday is another public holiday. You are very lucky. You have so much time to study for your tests! Haha. I expect you will all get 100 points! Good luck. And Valentine's Day is this week. Are you excited? Are you going to give and receive a lot of chocolates? My daughter always makes me something, which is nice. It is my 17th wedding anniversary¹ on Valentine's Day as well!



10 differences

Last week's answer



Something you didn't know about Shoes

1. People have worn coverings² on their feet for thousands of years. We realized³ that we could run further and faster if we protected our feet.
2. The earliest shoes discovered come from 10,000 years ago. They are bark⁴ sandals.
3. High heels for women were first worn by Catherine de Medici in 1550. Men already wore high heels because they used them for horse riding.
4. The metal holes in your shoes that your laces go through are called eyelets. The metal pieces on the end of each lace are called aglets. They stop the lace fraying⁵ and make it easier to put through the eyes. They were invented in 1790 by Harvey Kennedy. The name comes from the French "aiguillette", which means needle.

Cobbler Goes Viral

An American cobbler has gone viral on Tik Tok, Instagram, and YouTube. Jim McFarland is a cobbler⁶ in Florida. His grandfather became a cobbler in 1918 and he ran a successful business. He trained his son, Jim's dad, and he opened up a shop in the 1970s. He trained Jim to be a cobbler and Jim opened his shop, McFarland Shoe Repair in 1986. Jim is a master craftsman⁷, but we would never have heard of him if it hadn't been for the Corona Virus pandemic. People couldn't leave their houses and his business dried up⁸. He didn't know what to do, but his daughter persuaded him to try YouTube. Jim started making videos where he repairs shoes. Because of his level of skill, people started to watch the videos. Before long, he went viral. Today, he has over 1.2 million subscribers on TikTok. He has 650,000 on Instagram, and 180,000 on YouTube. And all he does is fix shoes. Jim says that a lot of the comments ask him how people can train to become a cobbler. He says that makes him happy because



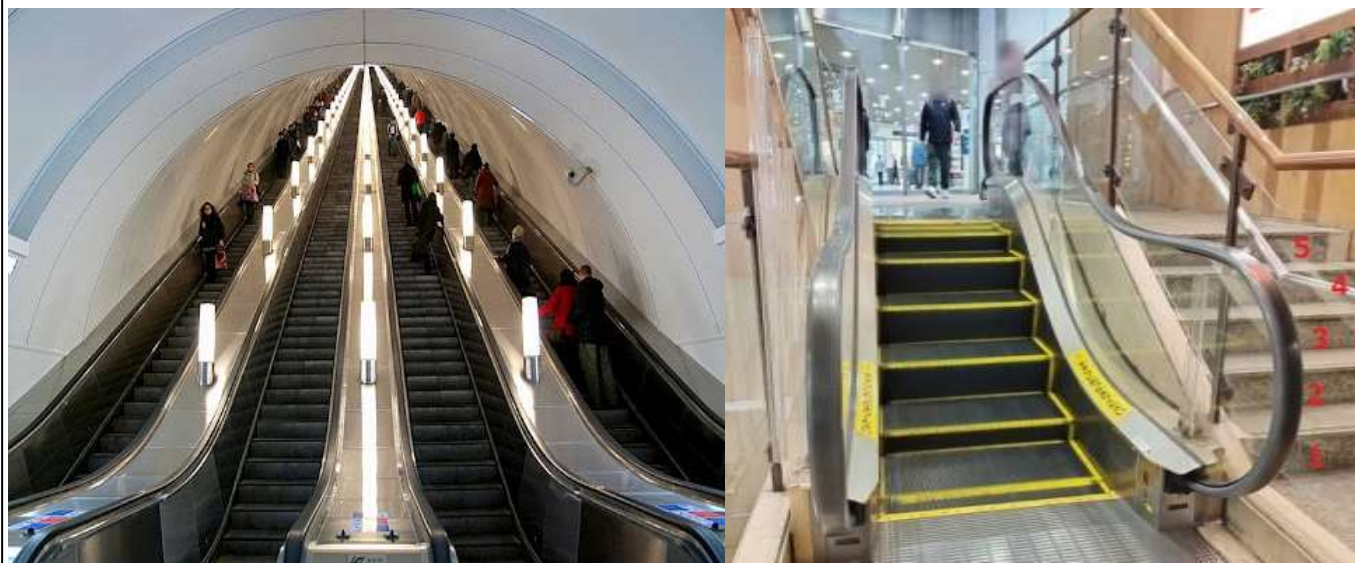
cobbling is a dying profession⁹. Not many young people in schools ask their teachers how they can become a cobbler. He also says it is good because people are starting to fix things, rather than throw them away.

1.wedding anniversary 結婚記念日 2.covering 被覆 3.realize 気づく 4.bark 木の皮 5.fray 擦り切れさせる 6.cobbler 靴修理屋 7.master craftsman 優れた職人 8.business dry up 仕事（お客さん）がなくなる 9.dying profession 消えゆく技



World record

When you go to the subway station, do you take the stairs or the escalator? I know I should take the stairs, but I tend to¹ use the escalator more often. So, here are some escalator world records. The world's smallest escalator is actually in Kawasaki, Japan. It has only 5 steps showing at any time and it takes 8 seconds to ride. It is called the Petitcalator. (Petite+escalator). The longest escalator in the world is in a subway station in St. Petersburg, Russia. It goes up 69 m, is 125 m long, and it has 770 steps. It takes three minutes to ride the escalator. The longest escalator system is in Hong Kong. It is a connected system of escalators, not just one. You step off one and you step onto the next one. The whole system is 800 m long.



Almost everything will work again if you unplug² it for a few minutes, including you.

— Anne Lamott

One thing we can do to help the environment

#16 Fix things

I wrote about the cobbler Jim McFarland in the news on the other side of this English News. He is doing something that we all need to do if we are going to help our planet. He is fixing³ things. We live in a throwaway society⁴ these days. If something is broken, we just throw it away and buy a new one. Now, not all of that is our fault⁵. Over the last 20 years, companies have stopped making things that we can fix and have started making things that go out of date and get replaced. I cannot fix my phone if it breaks. I cannot fix a car if it breaks. When my dad was younger, he could fix anything in a car, but these days you need computers to analyze the cars diagnostics⁶. You need to be an IT technician, not a mechanic. Things are changing. Apple's latest iPhone can be fixed. We may not be able to fix devices, but we certainly can fix our clothes, bags, and shoes. There are many places that fix things like that or remake older items into newer ones. If we use places like that, or fix our clothes ourselves, we will be helping the environment.



1.tend to〜しがち 2.unplug コンセントを一回抜く 3.fix 直す 4.throwaway society 使い捨て社会 5.fault せい 6.diagnostic 診断