

You had a nice long holiday last week. What did you do? You only had to come in to school on Monday morning and then on Thursday. I bet you wish<sup>1</sup> every week was like that. Haha. The high school graduation is this week. I can't believe how quickly the time has flown<sup>2</sup> by. I knew some of the kids who are graduating when they were junior high school first graders. They were only 12 years old and they were tiny. Now, they are 18 and about to go off into the big wide world. I hope all of the students graduating have a great time at university and manage to do everything they want to. I hope they don't forget where they have come from.



12 differences

Last week's answer



### Something you didn't know about Daiso

1. The company's name comes Dai 大 (big) and so 創 (to make).
2. Daiso has 5,200 shops in 26 different countries.
3. The most sold item from Daiso is batteries. They sell 5 batteries every second!
4. The second most sold item is fake eyelashes<sup>3</sup>!
5. Every hour, around the world, 230,000 people are in a Daiso.
6. Daiso has 8 warehouses<sup>4</sup> around Japan and they are fully automated<sup>5</sup>.
7. Daiso has over 100,000 products. The company says that they introduce 700 new items<sup>6</sup> every month.

### Founder of Daiso Dies Aged 80

Hirotake Yano died last week. He was 80 years old. I had never heard his name before this news. You might have heard of him, but probably not. However, I'm guessing that most of you will have used the store he created at least once and probably more often. He was the founder<sup>7</sup> of Daiso, the most famous 100 yen shop chain in Japan. It is famous throughout Japan, but it can be found in other countries as well. If you go to Vancouver, you will find one there. He was born in 1943 and his birth name was Koro Kurihara. He was born in Japanese occupied<sup>8</sup> China during World War 2 and he came back to Japan after the war finished. When he got married, he took his wife's name and changed his name to Hirotake Yano. He thought it was better for business than his original name. He started a shop in 1972 called Yano Shoten. In 1977, he changed the name to Daiso and made all of the prices 100 yen. He said that he did it because it was too confusing<sup>9</sup> to have to price everything in the store differently. When Japan's bubble burst in the 1990s, people started looking for cheaper things to buy and Daiso took off. Hirotake Yano expanded and soon had stores all over Japan. He became a billionaire during his life and probably changed the way people thought about shopping. There are two quotes he made that I love:

"I have failed many times, and I thought that whatever I tried, nothing was going to succeed. [...] But I kept going because I thought there was nothing else I could do."  
"I am not a smart person. I have no talent. I just try my best and work hard to sell my products."  
He was quite an impressive<sup>10</sup> person.



1. I bet you wish ... 〜がいいのに、と思っているに違いない 2. time flies 時間が飛ぶ 3. fake eyelash つけまつげ 4. warehouse 倉庫 5. fully automated 完全に自動化された 6. item 商品 7. founder 創立者 8. occupied 占領する 9. confusing 混乱する 10. impressive すごい





### World record

Do you like Big Macs? I do, but I don't eat them very often. I don't go to McDonald's very often either. If I am honest with you, I prefer Burger King's Whopper. Well, this week, let's look at the world record for Big Macs. There are a few records we can look at. First, let's look at speed. The fastest time to eat a full Big Mac meal is 56 seconds. That includes large fries and a large drink. The fastest time to eat 10 Big Macs, without fries and drinks, is 4 minutes and 47 seconds. The most Big Macs eaten in one sitting<sup>1</sup> is 32. Joey Chestnut ate 32 Big Macs in about 32 minutes. And, the world record for the most Big Macs eaten in a lifetime goes to Don Gorske. He is an American and he only eats Big Macs. He had his first Big Mac in 1972 and since then he has pretty much<sup>2</sup> only eaten Big Macs. He eats an average of 2.3 Big Macs every day and he has eaten over 33,000 of them. He never eats the fries.



# Whatever you are, be a good one.

— Abraham Lincoln

## One thing we can do to help the environment

### #17 Don't Use the 100 Yen Shop

It seems strange to write this after I just wrote about the founder of Daiso dying. I used to do a lot of shopping at Daiso and all of the other hundred yen stores. My daughter still does. She loves to spend her pocket money<sup>3</sup> at the hundred yen store because her money goes further<sup>4</sup>. However, I am trying to limit what I buy there to things that I really need. It is very easy to go there for something and end up<sup>5</sup> buying five things. You see something you want and it is only 100 yen, so you buy it. Yet, it is not something you really wanted or needed. I have drawers full of stuff from the hundred yen shop and I throw away what I don't use. And that is the problem. Because it is cheap, we have no problem throwing away things from the hundred yen shop. Most of it is made of plastic, which is bad for the environment in so many ways. Now, times are hard and people go to the hundred yen shop because it is cheap and they can't afford<sup>6</sup> to shop elsewhere. I understand that and I am not saying to buy more expensive things. I am just saying that we should try to think if we really need the things we are going to the shop to buy. Is there something else in our house that could do the same job? Is

there something we can fix, recycle, or repurpose<sup>7</sup>? And, if we do go to the hundred yen shop, can we buy something that is not plastic? Or walk away with only the thing we went there to buy? It is not easy.



1. In one sitting 一度に 2. pretty much ほとんど 3. pocket money お小遣い 4. make money go further 同じのお金でもっと買えるように 5. end up doing をしてしまう 6. afford お金の余裕がある 7. repurpose 別の目的で使う