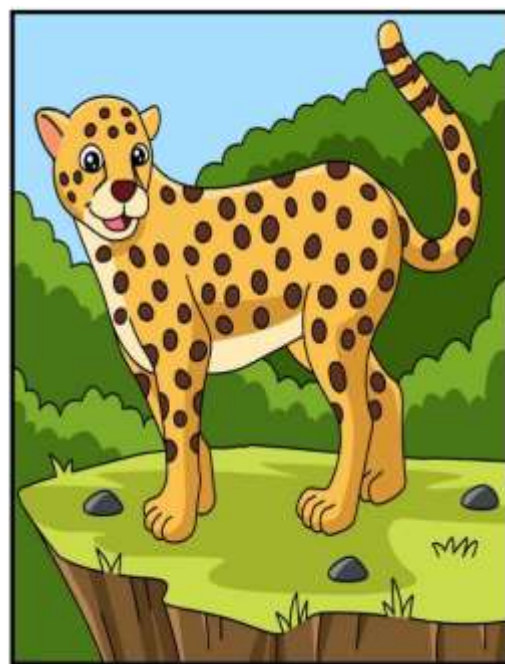
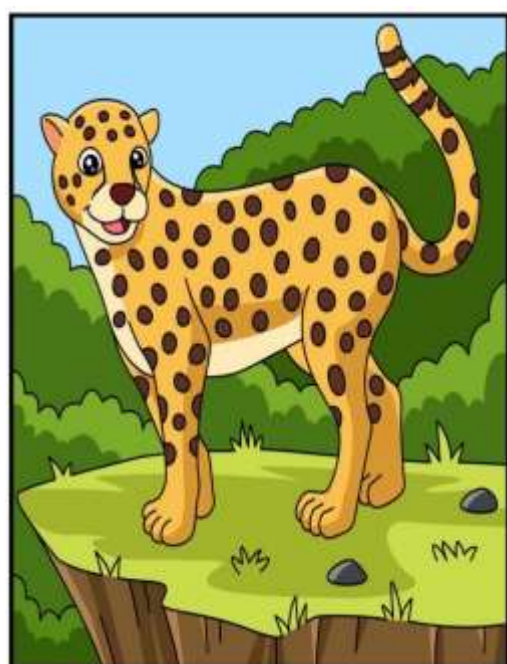


Hi. This is my last English News for this school year. You will have to wait for April to get the next one. I bet you can't wait. This is also the last paper version of the English News. From April, I will be going digital and I'll upload it to teams every week. I hope people will still read it. I know paperless is better, but I'm not sure people will still read the news. It is good English practice, so I hope so. I have made the decision to go paperless because I worked out¹ that I have used over 150,000 pieces of paper over the years. I started in 2009 and that is a lot of paper. Not to forget² the ink, of course. So, have a great spring vacation.



10 differences

Last week's answer



Something you didn't know about Wasabi

1. Wasabi comes from the Brassica family³, which also contains cabbage.
2. Many people think we eat the roots⁴ of the wasabi plant, but we eat the stem⁵.
3. Chili hurts your mouth because they contain capsaicin⁶, which sticks to your mouth. Wasabi hurts your nose because it contains allyl isothiocyanate⁷, which becomes a vapor⁸ and travels up through the back of your mouth to your nose.
4. Wasabi is very difficult to grow. It needs to have running water⁹ for its roots, it needs to be at about 1300 to 2500 meters altitude¹⁰, and it needs to have cool temperatures, but not too cold.
5. Nagano produces the most wasabi in Japan.

Wasabi Saves Ancient Documents

Last month, scientists worked out that wasabi can save ancient documents made of papyrus¹¹. Papyrus is a type of paper made from the crushed stems of the Cyprus papyrus plant. It was invented in ancient Egypt and many ancient books and documents were written on it. The main problem with papyrus is that it is made of an organic material¹², which means it will biodegrade¹³. We usually want things to biodegrade. Plastic doesn't biodegrade, and that is a big problem. However, we want to keep these ancient documents, and if they biodegrade, we will lose them. We can take photos and keep them digitally, but it is nice to have the real document. The documents are usually kept in climate and humidity controlled rooms, but even then fungus¹⁴ can start growing on the documents. The fungus will slowly break down the document until it has disappeared. But now, experts have worked out a way to protect the documents. The secret is wasabi. The scientists put wasabi on a piece of aluminium foil near the papyrus scroll and sealed it in a box. They left it there for three days and when they looked again, the vapor from the wasabi had killed all of the fungus. As well as that, the wasabi didn't damage the papyrus. So, wasabi is both delicious and a useful



- 1.work out 計算する 2.not to forget～もある 3.family 科 4.root 根 5.stem 茎 6.capsaicin カプサイシン 7.allyl isothiocyanate アリルイソチオシアネート 8.vapor 蒸気 9.running water 流水 10.altitude 海面からの高さ 11.papyrus パピルス 12.organic material 有機材料 13.biodegrade 生物分解する 14.fungus 菌類



World record

My wife was very excited when she saw the news about Ohtani Shouhei getting married and even more excited when she saw his wife on TV. They are both very tall. Ohtani is 194 cm tall and his wife is 180. She is a basketball player.

A student said to me that she wanted to be very tall as well. She said she would like to be 2 m tall! So, this week, here are some height world records. The tallest woman in the world is Rumeysa Gelgi, from Turkey. She is 215 cm tall. She is the tallest living woman. The tallest woman of all time is Zeng Jinlian. She was 248 cm tall. Unfortunately¹, she died when she was very young. The tallest living man is Sultan Kosen. He is 251 cm tall. However, he is small compared to Robert Wadlow, the tallest living person of all time. He was 272 cm tall. Unfortunately, he also died at a young age. It is difficult for the bodies of very very tall people to support their weight and they get many diseases². Being tall is nice, but being very tall can cause many problems. The best thing is to be happy at whatever height we are.



"If you're not failing every now and again, it's a sign you're not doing anything very innovative³."

— Woody Allen

One thing we can do to help the environment

#19 Carry a spork

Have you ever heard the word “spork⁴”? I don’t know if we have the same word in Japanese, but I know that we have sporks because I have seen them. A spork is a combination⁵ spoon and fork. It is spoon shaped with the tines⁶ of a fork on the top. If you only carry a fork, it is hard to eat soup. If you only have a spoon, it is hard to eat pasta. If you have a spork, you can eat anything. Along with the spork, a pair of chopsticks are also good. The habit of carrying “my chopsticks” was a huge a few years ago, but it seems to have faded away. Do you carry your own chopsticks? I know I don’t. But, I should. In Japan, we get thorough⁷ roughly 24 billion pairs of chopsticks per year. We also use an enormous quantity of plastic spoons and forks. 24 billion chopsticks means roughly 200 pairs of disposable⁸ chopsticks⁹ per person per year. It can be hard to carry things like that around because I don’t always have a bag, but that is no reason not to start. And we often think that I am only one person. What I do can’t make a difference! But that is nonsense¹⁰. With anything that we do, studying, exercising, trying to help the environment, a little is always better than nothing. We can do it!



- 1.unfortunately 残念ながら 2.disease 病気 3.innovative 革新的な 4.spork スプーク
5.combination 組み合わせる 6.tine フォークの歯 7.get through 使い果たす
8.disposable 使い捨て 9.disposable chopsticks 割りばし 10.nonsense 無意味な