

Welcome back or welcome to Hokusei! This is the 1<sup>st</sup> English News of 2024 and it is the first paperless English News. I decided to go paperless when I realized how much paper and ink I had used. A week has passed since the start of the school year. How are things going? Have you settled in<sup>1</sup> to your new classes? New 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students, how are you doing? Have you learned how to find your way around school yet? Don't worry if you get lost, just stop and ask anybody. All of the teachers and students are very friendly. And the English Play is on Friday and Saturday this week. I am very excited. They always put on a wonderful show! Good luck everyone!!



10 differences

Last week's answer



### Something you didn't know about Africa

1. Nobody knows where the name Africa came from. The Romans called the people who lived near the Nile Afri. In Latin, "ca" on the end of a word means land, America, for example. So, Afri+ca means land of the Afri. The word Afri could come from an older word, "ifri", which meant people who live in caves<sup>2</sup>.
2. Africa is much larger than it looks on maps. It is the second largest continent<sup>3</sup> and has a land area of 30 million km<sup>2</sup>.
3. Africa is known as the "cradle of humankind"<sup>4</sup> because it is where humans first evolved. Early humans started to walk out of Africa between 90,000 and 60,000 years ago, heading into all the other countries.

1年生、4年生チームスがあるまで印刷します。

### Russ Cook Finished Run Across Africa

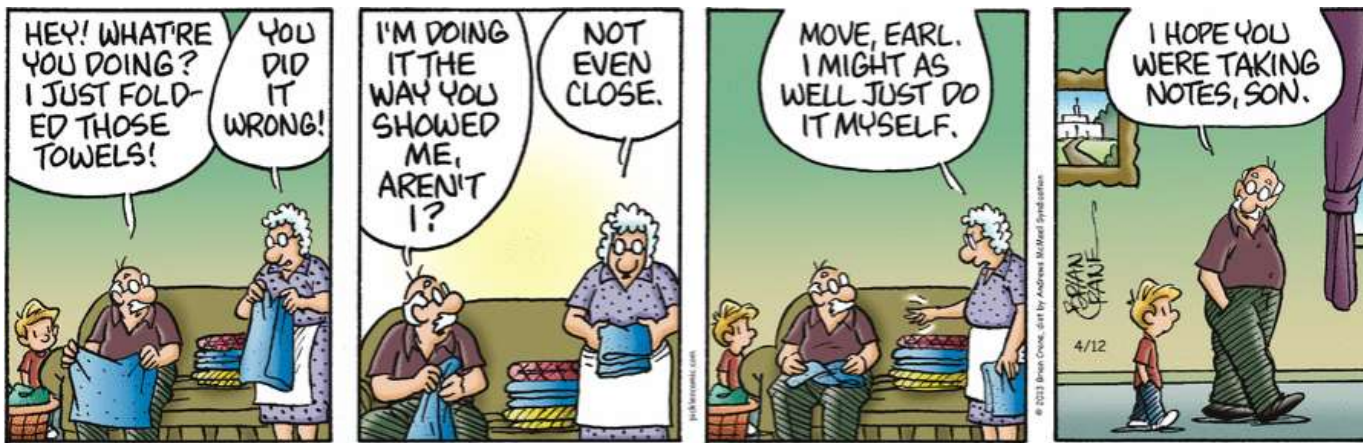


Last week, a British man called Russ Cook completed his run across Africa. In fact, it should be called the run up Africa because he started on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2023 at the most southerly tip<sup>5</sup> of South Africa, called Cape Agulhas, and he ran to the most northerly point of Tunisia. The whole run was 16,000 km and it took him 352 days, running over 60 km every day with almost no rest days. He calls himself "The Hardest Geezer". "Hard" means "strong" and a "geezer" is a man in British slang<sup>6</sup>. His original goal was to run all the way without having any rests, but he had visa problems in a few countries and had to stop. He did the run for charity and so far he has raised 173,000,000 yen. His

goal is to raise 193,000,000 yen and it looks like he will do it because his story is in newspapers in many countries now. As well as the visa problems, he and his crew were also robbed at gunpoint<sup>7</sup> and they had a lot of equipment<sup>8</sup> stolen<sup>9</sup>. He ran across the Sahara desert and he got very sick. He never gave up, though, and he ran on through everything. He hasn't said if he is going to try another challenge after this one. I wonder where he could run. Maybe he could run all around the world?



- 1.settled in 落ち着く 2.cave 洞窟 3.continent 大陸 4.cradle of humankind 南アフリカの人類化石遺跡群 5.tip 国の先 6.slang 俗語 7.robbed at gunpoint 銃を突きつけられる 8.equipment 道具 9.stolen 盗まれた steal・stole・stolen



### World record

Here's a strange record to start the year off. How many teeth do you have? Most of us have 32 teeth. If you have had your wisdom teeth<sup>1</sup> removed, then you will have 28 teeth. Some animals have fewer teeth than we do. Elephants only have 26 teeth. Cats have 30 teeth. Many animals have many more teeth than we do. Dogs have 42 teeth. Crocodiles have between 60 and 110 teeth, depending on the type of crocodile. Sharks have 300 or more teeth. The world record for the most teeth in a human is 41. A Canadian man called Evano Mellone has teeth between teeth in his mouth. He even has some teeth that haven't come through yet. However, there is a boy in India who had 526 teeth in his mouth. This is not a record though, because they were not whole teeth. He had a sac in his lower jaw that contained 526 tiny teeth!



"The person who does not read books has no advantage<sup>2</sup> over the person who cannot read them."

— Mark Twain

### An Unusual Job

#### Lego Master Builder

During the spring vacation, my daughter and I put together some of the Lego sets she has. There are so many different Lego sets these days, pretty much something for everything.



Nobody seems to know exactly how many Lego sets there are, but brickset.com, a Lego set catalogue<sup>3</sup> not connected to Lego, lists<sup>4</sup> 20,668 Lego sets! While my daughter and I were making the sets, I started to think about who comes up with the ideas and who makes the instructions. Well, that is this week's unusual job. If you really like Lego, then maybe you can become a Lego Master Builder! Lego is a Danish company, and they have teams of designers that work on making new sets. You can become one of these designers if you try. These people are called Lego Designers. Then, if you really like Lego, you can become a Lego Certified<sup>5</sup> Professional. These people make large Lego models for businesses or shows. Then, if you really really like Lego, you can become a Lego Master Builder. It is very hard to become an LMB and there is usually only one in each country. An LMB makes artwork with Lego, makes things for Legoland, makes original models, and makes displays for Lego events. The LMB for Japan is Jumpei Mitsui. He started to work for Lego while he was a student at the University of Tokyo.



- 1.wisdom teeth 親知らず
- 2.advantage 利点
- 3.catalogue カタログ
- 4.list 上場する
- 5.certified 資格を持っている