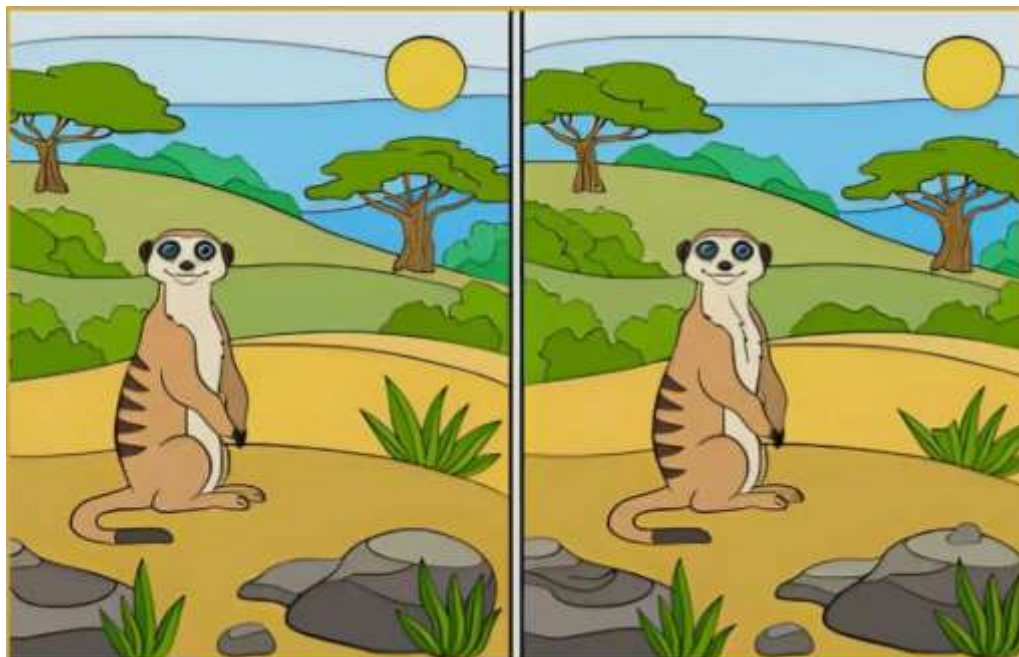


Did you have a good weekend? I hope you were able to relax after all of the hard work you put into studying for your tests. Did you do something to celebrate them finishing? I went to Shabuyo with my family on Saturday. I think that might be my favorite restaurant. Haha. The weather is starting to warm up for summer. I wonder how hot it is going to be. The TV news keeps saying that they think this year is going to be hotter than last year. Last year was incredibly hot, so I am a little bit nervous. I like hot weather, but I cannot cope¹ with humid weather. What about you? I think, if I had to choose, I would like to live somewhere that is permanently² spring.



12 differences

Last week's answer



Something you didn't know about the Library

1. The oldest library was started in 668 BC by Ashurbanipal, King of the Assyrians. He had 30,000 clay³ tablets that people could read.
2. The biggest library in the world is the Library of Congress in America. It has over 39 million books and 167 million items altogether! The library has 1,349 km of shelves.
3. The first bookmobile was introduced in the UK in 1857. It was a library pulled behind a horse and was used to take books into rural⁴ communities.
4. Libraries used to be kept warm with coal-fired stoves⁵. Most libraries were built with an apartment above them so that the librarian could shovel coal whenever anybody wanted to use the library.

The Library of Things

There is a new trend spreading around the world. It is called the Library of Things. I'm sure that you have used a library at some time in your life, even if it is just our library at school. What did you borrow? Books? Magazines? A newspaper? The Library of Things is an idea that is based on a real library, but you borrow things and not books. Do you like DIY? I do. Have you bought an expensive electric tool⁶ that you have only used twice? I have. Well, one reason for the Library of Things is to help people like me. At the Library of Things, you can rent things for one day. That means, I could rent that expensive tool instead of buying it and save myself a lot of money. That is not the only reason though. I can afford to buy the expensive tool (just don't tell my wife), but there are many people that cannot. The Library of Things can help them. However, the biggest reason for the Library of Things is to reduce waste⁷. We buy so many things that we don't need and then throw them away. If we can rent them, instead of buying them,



we can reduce electrical waste, which is a type of waste that is growing every year. We can work together as a community to reuse things. The first Library of Things was started in 2014 and now they are in many countries. I couldn't find any in Japan. Maybe we could set up the first branch⁸ here at our school. What do you think?

- 1.cope うまく処理する 2.permanently 永久に 3.clay 粘土 4.rural 田舎の
5.coal-fired stove 石炭ストーブ 6.tool 道具 7.reduce waste 無駄を省く
8.branch 支店



World record

I drove over a long bridge today and that made me wonder what the longest bridge in the world is. So, this week, here are some bridge records for you. The longest bridge in the world is the Danyang–Kunshan Grand Bridge in China. How long do you think it is? It is 164.8 km long! It is a bridge for a high speed train. The longest road bridge is the Bang Na expressway bridge in Thailand and it is 54 km long. I wonder what would happen if a car broke down¹ on the middle of this bridge. The tallest bridge in the world is the Millau Viaduct in France. It is 336 m from the ground. The highest bridge in the world is the Duge Bridge in China and it is 565 m high. It is a bridge between two mountains, which is why it is so high. All of these bridges are pretty new. The oldest still standing bridge is the Arkadiko bridge in Greece. It was built in 1300 BC and is still standing². You can't walk over it though. I would love to go and see it.



"The most wasted of days is one without laughter." — E. E. Cummings (poet)

An Unusual Job

Line Stander

This is not really a full time job, more like a part time job. Still, if you like standing, and you want to earn a little extra pocket money, this would be a good job. A line stander is basically³ someone who just stands in line⁴ for someone else. For example, you want to buy tickets to a concert, but you know that it will be popular and people are going to line up for 8 hours. You haven't got the time to stand in line for all that time, so you hire a line stander. That person will stand in the line for you and then call you when they get close to the front so that you can go and replace⁵ them. You can get a line stander to wait in any line and there are websites to find someone. On average, in America, they cost about 3,000 yen an hour, but they would probably be a lot cheaper in Japan. Actually, thinking about it, I do this job every New Years day for my daughter. We go to Aeon so that she can buy those lucky bags with stationery⁶ or stuff like that in it. The line is really long and I stand in the line for her, while she and my wife look in other shops. I get to read my book and I love it but, after reading this, I think that I should start charging⁷ her!



1.break down 故障する 2.still standing まだ残っている 3.basically 基本的に 4.stand in line 列になら似ます 5.replace 入れ替える 6.stationery 文房具 7.charge 請求する