

This is my last English News before the summer vacation. 3 glorious<sup>1</sup> weeks of vacation! What are you going to do? Are you going to go anywhere? When I was at high school in the UK, we have about 9 weeks of summer vacation! It was heaven for students, but not so great for parents. If both parents work, they need to find someone to look after the children. And if a parent is at home, the children will drive them mad<sup>2</sup>. My mother was a teacher, so she was at home when we were and my brother and I drove her up the wall<sup>3</sup>. She was so glad when school started again! Haha. I hope you have a great summer and come back in August refreshed.



12 differences!

Last week's answer



## Something you didn't know about people missing at sea

1. Jose Salvador Alvarenga spent 438 days adrift<sup>4</sup> in the Pacific Ocean when the motor on his fishing boat died. He ate fish, turtles, birds that landed on his boat, and drank rainwater. In the end, his boat floated near to land and he swam to shore.
2. 438 days sounds like a long time, but it is not actually the longest. A Japanese sailor called Oguri Jukichi and his crew were stranded<sup>5</sup> in their boat off the coast of Japan in 1814. The ship drifted<sup>6</sup> out into the Pacific, before reaching Santa Barbara 484 days later. All of the crew but Jukichi and two others had died. They lived on soy beans, which the hold was full of, rainwater, and seawater that they distilled<sup>7</sup>.

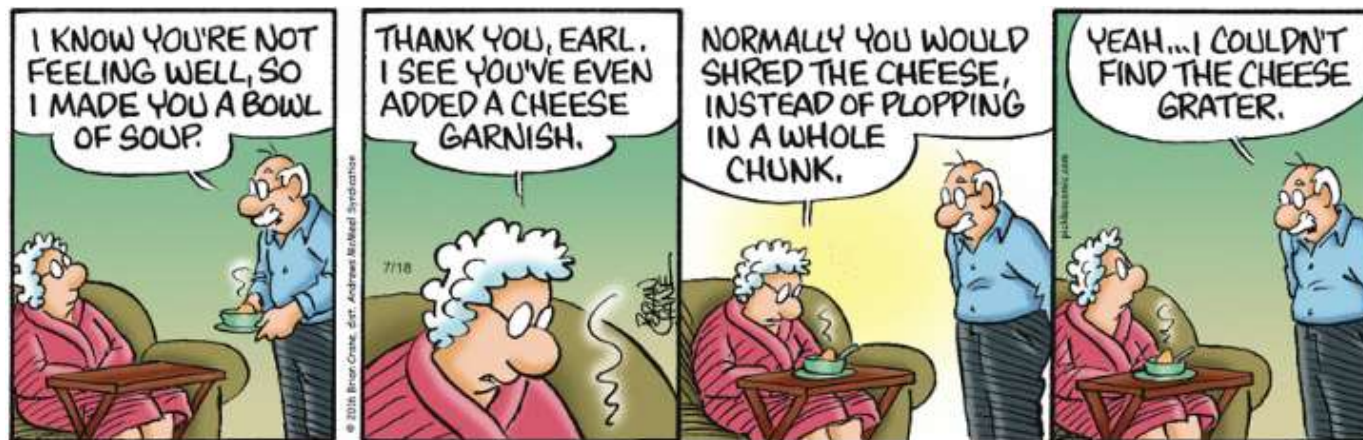
## Chinese Woman in Inflatable Ring Saved

Last week, a miracle happened. A Chinese lady was swimming in the sea off a beach in Shimoda, Shizuoka with an inflatable ring<sup>8</sup>. She was there with her friends and when her friends looked for her, they couldn't find her. They couldn't find her because the Chinese lady had drifted out to sea and nobody could hear her shout for help. It didn't stop there. She kept drifting out to sea and couldn't get back into shore. She was being pulled out into the Pacific Ocean and there was nothing between her and Hawaii, 6,500 km away. A lot of ships use the sea, but a woman in an inflatable ring is tiny, and there was almost no chance anyone would see her. Well, a miracle happened. The woman floated in the sea for 36 hours before someone on a ship saw her! The ship that spotted her was a giant cargo ship and it couldn't stop. It radioed a smaller ship that went to rescue the woman. Sailors from the ship went into the water to pull her out. She was dehydrated<sup>9</sup>, but the sea was warm and she was ok. She was too weak and couldn't stand up, so they had to carry her up the ladder<sup>10</sup> onto the ship. Then she was taken by helicopter to hospital. She was very lucky. Humans can usually survive about three days without water. Another day, and she would probably have died. Whoever saw her from the deck of a massive<sup>11</sup> cargo ship is an amazing person.



- 1.glorious すてきな 2.drive someone mad の気を狂わせる 3.drive someone up the wall おかっかさせる 4.adrift 漂流している 5.stranded 動けなくなった 6.drift 漂流 7.distill 蒸留する 8.inflatable ring 浮き輪 9.dehydrated 脱水症状 10.ladder はしご 11.massive 超大





### World record

There was a bee in one of the classrooms the other day and the students started screaming. I switched off the classroom lights and the bee flew back out of the window. Bees are not scary because they will only sting<sup>1</sup> you if they really have to. A bee's sting is a last resort<sup>2</sup> because they die if they use it. Wasps<sup>3</sup> and hornets<sup>4</sup> are a different matter<sup>5</sup>. Those are scary because they can keep on stinging forever. Anyway, the man behind this week's record isn't scared of bees. Ruan Liangming from China has the world record for the largest mantle<sup>6</sup> of bees. He was covered in 637,000 bees! I'm not sure if it was exactly that number because it was probably impossible for people to count them, but I'm sure it was close. Still, that is an impressive record. What do you think? Do you feel like trying to break this record?



“Trust yourself. You know more than you think you do.” — Benjamin Spock

### An Unusual Job

#### Watching Paint Dry

Do you have a lot of patience<sup>7</sup>? If you do, then this is probably the job for you. Watching paint dry is not as boring as it sounds. People doing this job have to find out how long different types of paint take to dry in different conditions<sup>8</sup> and what they look like when they have dried. Companies that make paint need to know how it dries in lots of different situations, and they don't have time to do all of the tests themselves. If you do this job, you use small pieces of different materials and paint them with the paint that you are testing. Then you watch them dry. As they are drying, you have to take notes on how quickly they are drying and their consistency<sup>9</sup>. Then you have to change the temperature, or change the material, and do the experiment again. You will probably spend most of every day just watching paint dry. It depends on the paint, but some dry in about 15 minutes and some take over an hour to dry. Once the experiment is finished, you have to write a report

for the company so that they can change the paint, if they want to. The salary is surprisingly high because you need to be very observant<sup>10</sup> and very patient for this job. There are not a lot of people that can stare at something like a piece of painted wood for over an hour without falling asleep. What about you?



- 1.sting 刺す 2.last resort 最後の手段 3.wasp カリバチ 4.hornet スズメバチ 5.different matter 別問題 6.mantle マント 7.patience 忍耐 8.condition 状況 9.consistency 粘度 10.observant 知覚力の鋭い