

This is the first English News after the summer vacation. How was it? Did you have a nice relaxing time? I was pleasantly surprised by the weather because it was much cooler than last year's summer was. Did you go anywhere nice? My family and I went to Niseko, which was a lot of fun. I think it would be great to have a second house¹ in Niseko, but I can't even afford² my first house and Niseko is a very expensive place to buy a house in. Maybe I should start charging 100 yen for my English News and I can save the money up so that I can buy a house in Niseko in the future. I'll call it the house that the English News built.



12 differences!

Last week's answer



Something you didn't know about single-use packaging

- 200 million tons of plastic is used every year for single-use³ packaging.
- By 2050, by weight⁴, there will be more plastic than fish in all the oceans.
- Only about 9% of plastic is recycled.
- Single-use plastics take over 1,000 years to decompose⁵.
- To produce 1 kg of plastic takes 2 kg of oil. That's 400 million kg per year.
- Recycling plastic uses 88% less energy than making new plastic.
- A lot of developing countries don't have the infrastructure⁶ to deal with plastic.
- Many people are starting to take note and major companies like Amazon are trying to reduce the amount of plastic they use.

Europe Will Ban Single-Use Plastic Packaging

Have you ever gone shopping, come home, unpacked all of your things, and ended up with a mountain of plastic packaging? Europe is trying to reduce this plastic waste, which could set an example for the rest of the world. The European Union (EU) has been working on cutting down plastic use for years, and now, in 2024, they are planning

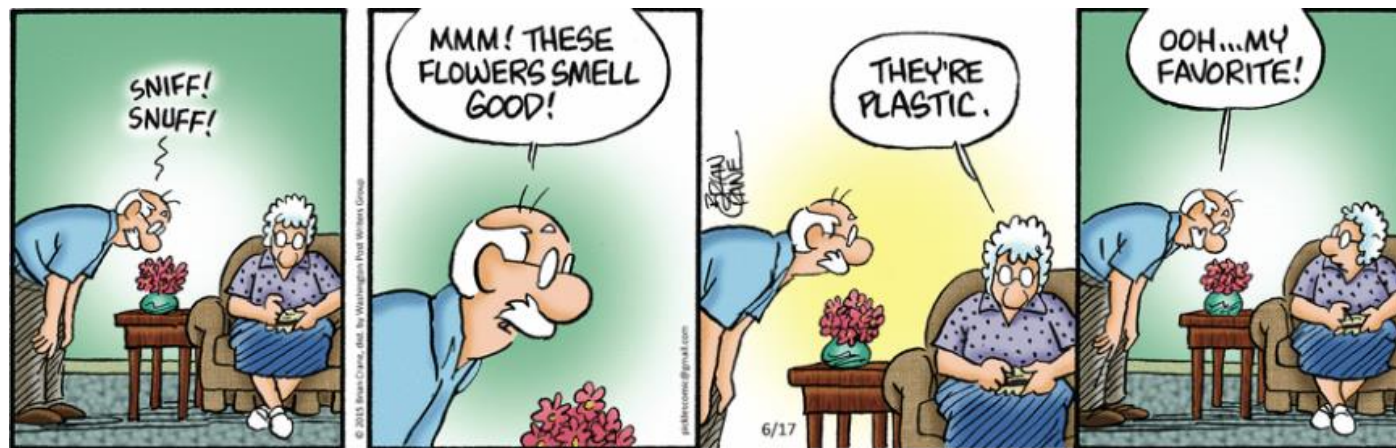


to introduce even stricter⁷ rules. One of the main goals is to ensure that by 2030, all packaging used in Europe must be recyclable. This means that companies will have to rethink how they make their products to make sure that the materials can be reused instead of thrown away. By 2035, the EU wants all recyclable materials to be processed efficiently⁸, meaning recycling facilities will need to be able to handle⁹ large amounts of waste. Another important part of the plan is that by 2030, new plastic packaging must include recycled materials. This is a step towards creating a circular economy¹⁰, where materials are continuously reused rather than discarded¹¹ after one use. Additionally, the EU aims to reduce the amount of packaging waste per person



by 15% by 2040. This will encourage people and companies to use less plastic and be more mindful¹² of the waste they produce. Other countries might follow Europe's lead and introduce similar laws, helping to reduce plastic pollution globally. This is something Japan could learn from. We use far too much plastic here.

- 1.Second house 別荘 2.Afford 賄うことができる 3.Single-use - 使い捨て 4.By weight 重さで
5.Decompose 分解する 6.Infrastructure インフラ 7.Strict 厳しい 8.Efficiently 効率的に 9.To handle 扱う
10.Circular economy 循環型経済 11.Discard 捨てる 12.Mindful 注意深い



World record

Do you like corn? Do you like mazes? Then you'll love this week's record. The world's largest corn maze is in Dixon, California, at Cool Patch Pumpkins. This impressive maze is 63 acres¹, which is 0.255 km². (If you don't know how big that is, it's 500 m by 500 m, much bigger than our school.) Each year, the maze is uniquely designed, offering a new and challenging experience for visitors. The complicated² paths can take hours to navigate³. The maze is carefully designed each year using GPS technology, then carved⁴ out by workers. It takes a long time to make. It has become a popular attraction during the autumn season, especially around Halloween, when it draws large crowds.

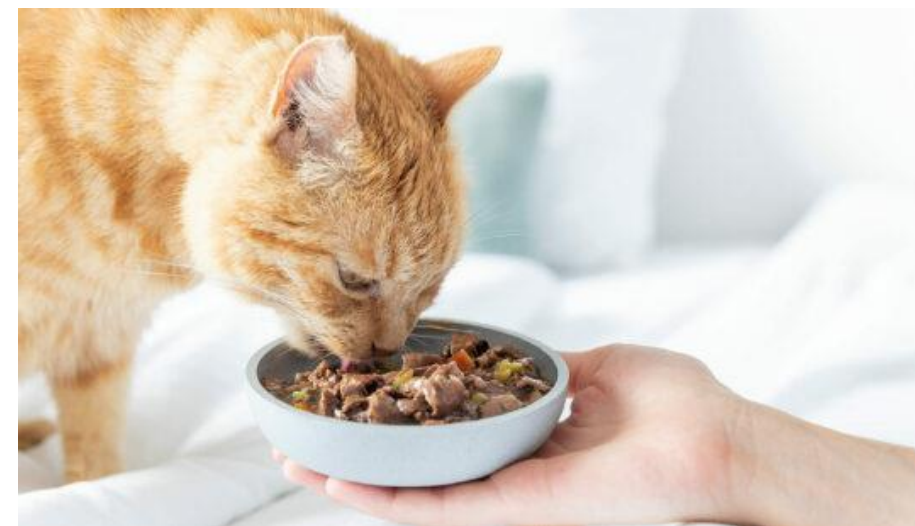


“Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can.” — Arthur Ashe

An Unusual Job

Pet Food Taster

Do you have a cat or a dog? Have you ever fed them, looked at their food and thought, “I wonder what that tastes like?” If so, this job might be for you. You might think that cat and dog food is just made of meats and additives⁵ and then canned because cats and dogs will eat anything, but that isn't true. Creating a new pet food is a very difficult task. Firstly, the smell has to be good because cats and dogs rely on⁶ their sense of smell more than their sense of taste. The smell also has to be good because we have to smell it as well. The food also has to have a good balance of nutrients⁷. All of these things can be created by scientists, but the only way to know how the food smells and tastes is to smell and taste it because an animal can't tell you what they think. Pet food tasters have to analyze⁸ the food and write long reports. They start by looking at the texture and the consistency⁹ of the food. Then they smell the food and write down their opinions. Finally, they put a small amount of the food in their mouths, and they chew it for a while. They don't have to swallow the food, and they can spit it out¹⁰ after they have finished. Then they clean their mouths with water. It doesn't sound like a good job, but it seems to be fairly well paid. What do you think?



- 1.acre エーカー 2.complicated 複雑な 3.navigate 航行する 4.carve 彫る
5.additive 添加物 6.rely on 頼る 7.nutrient 栄養素 8.analyze 分析する
9.consistency 一貫性 10.spit it out 吐き出す