

Last week was fairly¹ hard for teachers and students. The first week back after the summer vacation always seems tough². Still, it is great to be back amongst our friends again. And we have many activities coming up over the next few months. You have your tests next week, of course, but let's try not to think about those. Then the junior high school festival is coming up. And we have our sports day in October. It is going to be very interesting having it here at school. I am excited to see what kind of things we do. We'll also start collecting food for the Sapporo food bank so you can start thinking about that and stocking up.



8 differences!

Last week's answer



Something you didn't know about unexploded bombs³

1. Approximately 3 million tons of bombs were dropped by the Allies⁴ on Germany and Japan during World War 2. Germany only dropped about 100,000 tons on the UK.
2. Between 1947 and 2018, 1.3 million unexploded bombs have been destroyed in the area around Berlin.
3. It is estimated that 100,000 tons of bombs are in the sea around France and the UK.
4. Bombs can survive for over a hundred years, but they become more dangerous as they get older because the chemicals⁵ start to leak⁶.
5. In 2022, 1,372 unexploded WW2 bombs were destroyed in Japan. 500 of those were found in Okinawa.

2nd World War Bomb Found in my Step-sister's Garden

It is not very often that my family is in the news, but my step-sister⁷ and her husband were in the news last week. They have a house not far from my dad's house and they decided to have their garden landscaped⁸. They hired a company to do the work. The landscapers brought in a lot of equipment to work on the garden and one of the things was a digger⁹. While they were digging, one of the men noticed something they had dug up. He thought it was an old Coca-Cola bottle that had been buried in the garden. Just to be safe, they used Google Lens to identify¹⁰ it. You have probably used Google Lens yourself. You take a picture, and Google searches for information about the picture. The result that came back said that they had found an unexploded World War 2 bomb. They were very surprised and they called the police. This is quite a common thing in the UK because a lot of bombs were dropped by the Germans during World War 2 and a lot of them didn't explode. However, even after 79 years, the bombs are still live. The police called the army and their bomb disposal¹¹ people took the bomb away and destroyed it. They had to close down all of the nearby streets for the morning, but everyone was ok. I wonder if the landscape gardeners raised their fees after to get some extra "danger money".



- 1.fairly かなり 2.tough きつい 3.unexploded bomb 不発弾 4.Allies 連合国 5.chemicals 化学物質
6.leak 漏れる 7.step-sister 異母姉妹 8.landscape 造園する 9.digger 掘削機 10.identify 特定する
11.bomb disposal 爆弾処理



World record

Here is a record that I think we could beat if we tried. There are records for the fastest time to solve¹ a Rubik's cube and the fastest time to assemble LEGO models, but there is also a record for the fastest time to assemble² a Mr. Potato Head. Do you know that toy? It is very famous in the UK and USA, but maybe not so much in Japan. I think it became more popular after Toy Story was released because one of the characters is Mr. Potato Head. I got one for my daughter when she was younger. All of the features of his face come off and the game is to put them back on again. The world record is held by Lim Kai Yi from Malaysia and he managed to assemble his Mr. Potato Head in 5.43 seconds. You have to put on two arms, two eyes, two ears, his mouth, his nose, his moustache, his hat, and his glasses. What do you think? Can you beat 5.43 seconds? I'm sure that some of you can because you are young but I am getting older and my reactions³ seem to have slowed down a lot. If you want to try, let me know.



“Success is the sum⁴ of small efforts, repeated day in and day out⁵.” — Robert Collier

An Unusual Job

Futurist

Do you like thinking about the future? Are you good at guessing what is going to happen in the next few weeks, or months, or years? If you are, then this might be a good job for you. You could be a futurist. A futurist is someone who thinks about the future and tries to predict⁶ what it might be like. They look at trends⁷ in technology, society, and the environment to imagine how things could change over time. For example, a futurist might study how new inventions like robots or artificial intelligence could affect jobs, or how climate change might change the way we live. Futurists don't just guess, they use research and data to make informed⁸ predictions. They often work with companies, governments, or schools to help them prepare for the future. This could mean planning new products, creating better policies⁹, or even thinking about what skills people will need in the years to come. Futurists try to help us understand what the world is going to be like. Futurists need a lot of knowledge in a wide range of fields¹⁰, and they are people who are very interested in the world. They can earn a lot of money. What do you think? Do you think you could do it?



- 1.solve 解決する 2.assemble 組み立てる 3.reactions 反射神経 4.sum 合計
5.day in and day out 毎日毎日 6.predict 予測する 7.trend 傾向
8.informed 情報に基づいた 9.policy 政策 10.field 分野