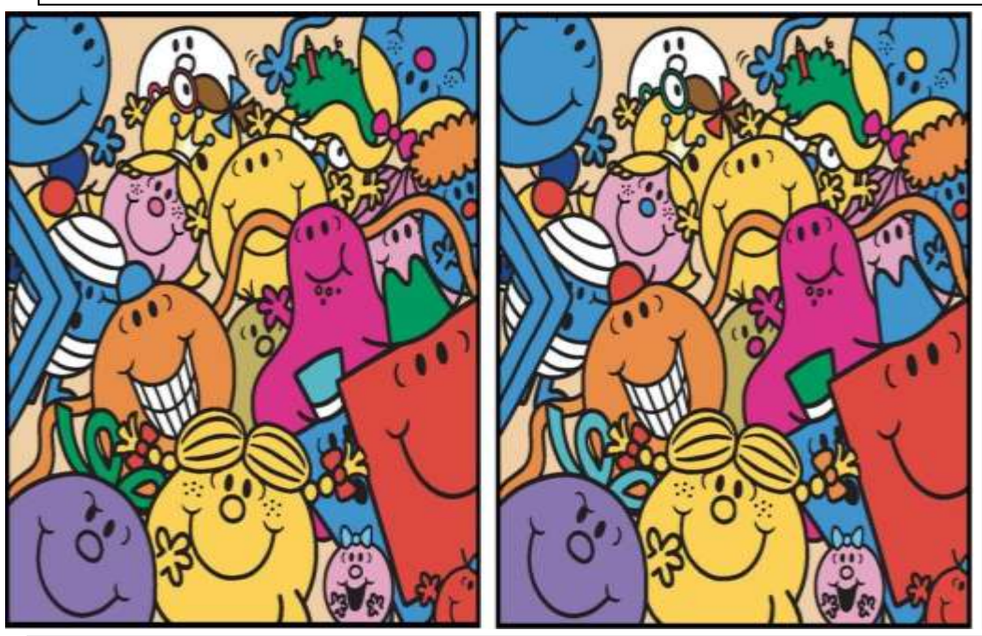
ENGLISH NEWS

EDITION NO. 545

9/16/2024 (#16 this year)

It's a public holiday[1] today, but we are at school. We have come in so that your parents can come and watch how we do classes. Do you think that is true? Have your parents come in to see how the teachers teach the classes, or have they come in to see how you take the classes? Haha. When I go to watch demo classes at my daughter's school, I must admit[2] that I spend more time watching my daughter than I do watching the teacher. I am interested to see what she is doing, how she is interacting with the other students, whether she is doing the work properly[3], whether she is happy. What do you think your parents will think?



8 differences!

Last week's answer

Boy Breaks Bronze Age Jar

Last month, a four-year-old boy accidentally[6] broke a Bronze Age jar. The jar is made of pottery and it is probably 4,000 years old. This happened at the Hecht Museum in Haifa, Israel. The boy is called Ariel and his mother was looking at another exhibit[7] when she heard a loud crash. Her first thought was, "Oh, I hope that's not my son!" Well, it was her son. He wanted to see what was inside the jar and pulled it over so he could look. The jar toppled[8] off its stand and smashed into pieces on the floor. The jar was probably made in 2200 BC and was used to hold oil or wine. Ariel's mother and father explained to museum staff what had happened. Ariel was very upset, and I expect the parents were very worried that they would have to pay a fortune[9], but the museum were very understanding. They have a restoration[10] expert at the museum who was able to fix the jar. The museum even used this as an opportunity to teach Ariel and he and his parents were invited to watch the jar being fixed. The jar is back on display in the museum now. The Hecht museum has a lot of exhibits that people can touch so that they can feel history. That is wonderful, but I guess it does come with some risks.

Something you didn't know about the Bronze Age

1. The Bronze Age[4] started in different places at different times. It began in Egypt and Mesopotamia in about 3500 BC and spread across to China in about 2000 BC.
2. Before the Bronze Age was the Stone Age and after the Bronze Age was the Iron Age.
3. The Bronze Age started when people worked out how to make bronze, which is made by melting and mixing copper and tin.
4. The Bronze Age came before the Iron Age because copper and tin can be melted in a normal fire, but iron needs much higher temperatures[5].
5. The first large cities appeared in the Bronze Age. Writing was invented during the Bronze Age, as well.

1.public holiday 祝日 2.must admit 正直に言うと 3.properly ちゃんと 4.Bronze Age 青銅器時代 5.temperature 温度 6.accidentally うっかり 7.exhibit 展示するもの 8.toppled 倒れた 9.fortune 大金 10. Restoration 修復

World record

I wrote this week's news about a museum, so let's look at some museum world record. The Louvre in Paris is the world's most visited museum. 8,900,000 people visited it in 2023, and that is why it is very difficult to get close to the Mona Lisa. The Louvre is also the world's biggest museum. It has 73,000 m^2 of floor space. The Louvre is the largest museum, but the Smithsonian Museum is the largest collection of museums. It has 19 different galleries and museums spread out[1] all over America. It has a natural history museum[2], a museum of air and space, and an art museum. Altogether, the Smithsonian has a floor area of 822,960 m^2. That is huge. The museums have 137 million exhibits as well! The oldest museum in the world is the Capitoline Museum in Rome. It was built in 1471. Museums didn't really start until the 19th century. Before that, rich people might have a collection of antiques, but regular people couldn't view them.

An Unusual Job

Underwater Welder

This week's job is not just unusual, it is very dangerous. Because it is so dangerous, it has a very high salary. Underwater welders[4] get "danger money"[5]. This probably won't surprise you, but an underwater welder does welding[6] … underwater. Welding is where two pieces of metal are joined together using heat. To do it, you have to make the metal very hot by using either a blowtorch[7] or electricity. On land, that is not very dangerous, but underwater, high pressure[8] blowtorches and electricity are very very dangerous. The first danger that underwater welders have to deal with is that they work deep in the sea. It takes them days to go down and back up, acclimatizing to the pressure[9] at many points. If they have any problems, nobody can come and help them. The second danger is they have to work in the dark. Light doesn't reach that far into the ocean. They have a headlight, but it is very dark. The third danger is the electricity. They use special equipment, but water conducts electricity[10] very well and if the equipment is broken, they can be electrocuted[11]. And the fourth danger is explosions. The very high temperatures split hydrogen from oxygen in the water, and if the hydrogen builds up, it can explode[12]. Because of all these things, underwater welders can make $130,000 a year. What do you think?

"Friends are those rare[3] people who ask how we are and then wait to hear the answer."—Ed Cunningham

1.spread out 広がる 2.natural history museum 自然史博物館 3.rare 珍しい
4.underwater welder 水中溶接工 5.danger money 危険手当 6.weld 溶接する
7.blowtorch バーナー 8.high pressure 高圧 9. acclimatize to the pressure 圧力に慣れる 10. conduct electricity 電気を通す 11.electrocuted 感電する 12.explode 爆発する