

Your tests have finished!! Well done! You survived through another set of exams. Now you just have to survive getting the results back. Don't worry. You'll be fine. And now we are well and truly¹ into December! The countdown to Christmas has begun. Are you playing Whamaggedon? You know, the game where you have to see how long you can go without hearing Wham's "Last Christmas"? I am still in the game. I don't know how, but I still haven't heard the song. What about you? I actually thought it would be impossible to get nine days into December without hearing it. Last year, I think I lost on the very first day of December. I listen to the radio from the UK as well, which is a very risky² thing to do.



10 differences!

Last week's answer



Something you didn't know about hiking

1. The word "hike" came from the Middle English³ "hyke", which meant to walk vigorously⁴.
2. The idea of hiking didn't become popular until after the 1850s. The Industrial Revolution⁵ kept a lot of people in poverty⁶, but it also made a wealthy middle class⁷. People lived in the cities and they started to walk in the countryside for pleasure⁸. They were able to travel on the newly invented trains and bicycle. Before that, people generally⁹ walked to get somewhere, not for pleasure.
3. The first hiking boots were invented in the late 19th century, just as hiking was starting to become more popular.

Lost Hiker Safe

A Canadian hiker has been found safe and sound¹⁰ after being lost in the Canadian Rockies in British Columbia for 50 days! Sam Benastick is 20 years old. He had spent some time backpacking in Europe and after coming back to Canada he wanted another adventure. He decided to go on a ten-day hike. He packed his rucksack with food and clothes for ten days and headed out¹¹ on October 7th. He had fishing gear¹² and he planned to catch some fish to eat as well. The weather in that area can change very quickly and it can become incredibly cold. On October 17th, there was no sign of him. When he still hadn't turned up on the 18th, his mother called the police. 120 people went to search for Sam, but the area is 800 km north of Vancouver and is enormous¹³. They couldn't find him. Sam had stuck to the trail, but he had been attacked by wolves and had become lost. The people looking for him had given up when, on the 26th of November, some surveyors found him walking on an access road. They rushed him to hospital. He had lost a lot of weight, but he was ok. He had cut up his sleeping bag and put it inside his clothes to keep warm. After a few days, he was released from hospital. It turns out that he didn't even manage



to catch a fish. He is very lucky that he was found when he was. If he had been out there for much longer, he might not have survived. Surviving for that long on his own is a very impressive¹⁴ thing to do.

- 1.well and truly 確かに 2.risky 危険な 3.Middle English 中英語 4.vigorously 活発に
5.Industrial Revolution 産業革命 6.poverty 貧困 7.middle class 中産階級 8.for pleasure 楽しみのために 9.generally 一般的に 10.safe and sound 無事に 11.head out 出発する
12.gear 道具 13.enormous 巨大



World record

Do you like doing jigsaw puzzles? I love them. I find them very relaxing. Although, my wife and my daughter bought me a sushi menu jigsaw puzzle for Christmas three years ago and it was mostly black. That wasn't very relaxing. Let's look at a few jigsaw puzzle world records. The world's largest jigsaw puzzle was made in Vietnam in 2011. Students at Ho Chi Minh City University of Economics made a jigsaw puzzle that had 551,232 pieces! It was 14 m by 23 m and it took the students 17 hours to put together. That is surprisingly fast. Imagine if they had lost one of the pieces. There are also timed¹ jigsaw records as well. The fastest time to do a 250 piece jigsaw puzzle is 9 minutes and 58 seconds. The fastest time to do a 500 piece puzzle is 32 minutes and 41 seconds. That was achieved² at the World Jigsaw Puzzle Championship! How awesome is that! There is a world jigsaw puzzle championship!!!!

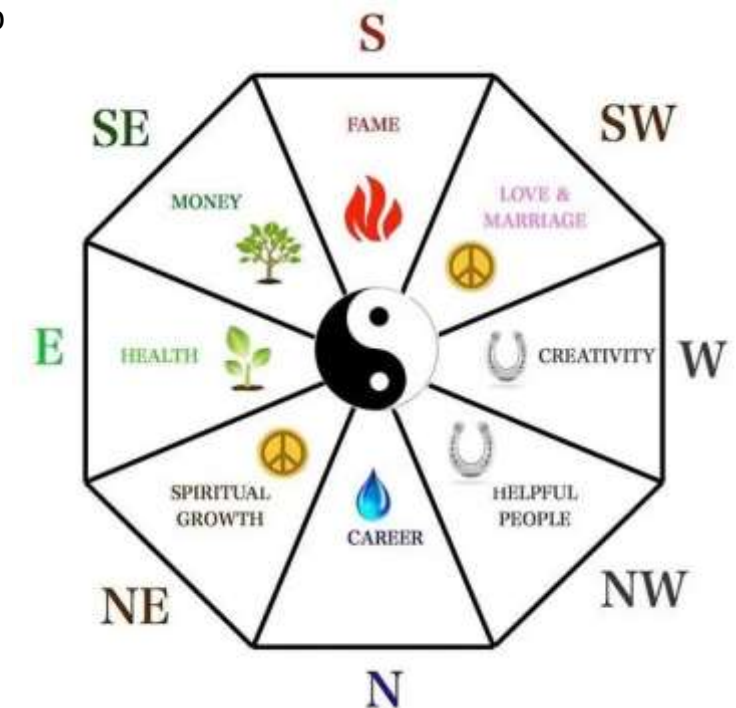


“I have no special talents. I am only passionately³ curious⁴.” Albert Einstein

An Unusual Job

Feng Shui⁵ Consultant

This is a job that you might have heard of. Well, you probably haven't heard of the job, but you will have heard of Feng Shui. Feng Shui is an ancient Chinese art⁶ that tries to focus⁷ the “chi”, energy, flowing through a room by placing furniture⁸ in certain places. By doing this, the theory⁹ is that you can increase your luck, prosperity¹⁰, and general wellbeing. Feng Shui has many rules that need to be followed to fix a room. You have to think about colors, the direction that furniture is pointing in, what furniture is next to other furniture, and lots of things like that. If it sounds confusing¹¹, but you think it is important, then you need to hire yourself a Feng Shui consultant. They are quite expensive, but they will go through your house and tell you where to put all of your furniture. I think I would like to wait and see what happened before I paid them. Although, a lot of the luck and the things that happens to us are down to our attitude¹², so if you believe that the position of things in your room will make you luckier and feel better, then it probably will. Still, an interesting job



1.timed 時間を計った 2.achieved 達成した 3.passionately 情熱的に 4.curious 好奇心が強い 5.Feng Shui 風水 6.ancient Chinese art 古代中国の技術 7.focus 集中 8.furniture 家具 9.theory 理論 10.prosperity 繁栄 11.confusing 混乱させる 12.attitude 態度