

This is my first English News of 2025. It is going to be a wonderful year. I am feeling very positive and I think a lot of good things are going to happen this year. Did you make any new year resolutions¹? I made three and I have already broken one of them. Haha. How about you? My father always says that his only new year resolution is not to make any new year resolutions. I'm not sure about that logic loop². If his new year resolution is not to make any resolutions, then he fulfills³ it and breaks it at the same time. What do you think? My resolutions are: 1. Check things more thoroughly⁴. 2. Do 30 pushups every day. 3. Try to realize when I am rationalizing⁵ something. Which one do you think I have already broken? Have a great 2025!



10 differences!

Last week's answer



Something you didn't know about Christmas gifts

1. People have given gifts for thousands of years, but they only started wrapping them in wrapping paper in 1917. The Hall Brothers (who started Hallmark) started selling decorative wrapping paper and the trend took off.
2. In America alone, over \$1 trillion⁶ is spent on Christmas gifts every year.
3. 60% of pet owners buy a Christmas present for their pet.
4. Today, the most desired Christmas present is a smartphone or a computer. In 1900, the most desired gift was an orange, candy, or handmade toys.
5. The idea of a Christmas stocking started because Saint Nicholas (Santa) was said to drop coins down the chimney⁷ and they would land in stockings drying by the fire.

46 Year Old Christmas Present

I know that Christmas has been and gone, but this is a good Christmas story. A man called Tim King runs a construction business in Illinois, USA. Last Christmas, he decided to do some work on his parents' house. This is the house he grew up in. They wanted to make one of their rooms bigger and they needed to knock down a wall in the middle of the room. The wall was not a supporting wall⁸ and it was just made of drywall⁹, which is a hollow¹⁰ wall. When he pulled the wall down, he found a Christmas present that had his name written on it. "Timothy". The wrapping paper was very old and as soon as he saw it he knew that it had been in the wall for a long time. He opened it up and it had a set of Matchbox jets. Matchbox is a toy company that makes toy cars. He said that it was something he wanted when he was 6 years old. He is 52 now, so the present has been inside the wall for 46 years. The present must have fallen through a crack¹¹ in the ceiling from the attic¹² upstairs, which was where they hid all of the Christmas presents every year before Christmas. His parents didn't notice that the present wasn't there and he didn't know about the present. I think he should pull down some more walls in the house to see if there are any other presents there. The Matchbox jets are probably a collector's item now.

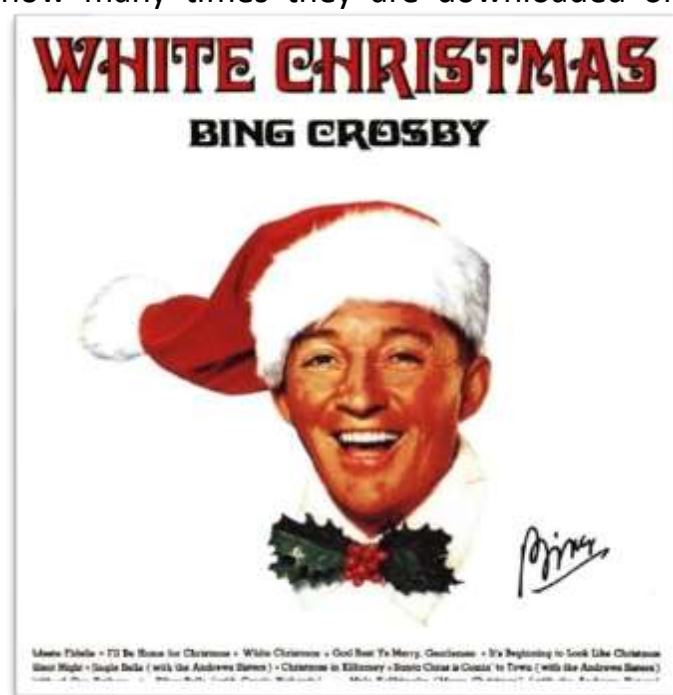


- 1.new year resolution 新年の抱負 2.logic loop 論理ループ 3.fulfill 果たす 4.thoroughly 徹底的に 5.rationalize 合理化する 6.trillion 1 兆 7.chimney 煙突 8.supporting wall 支持壁 9.drywall 石膏ボード 10.hollow 空洞 11.crack ひび 12.attic 屋根裏



World record

I thought I'd do some music records this week because it would have been Elvis Presley's 90th birthday last week. Hopefully, you all know who Elvis Presley is. If you don't, go to YouTube right now. The best selling artists of all time are The Beatles. They have sold over 600 million albums or singles. Michael Jackson is number two and Elvis Presley is number 3. The most sold single of all time is "White Christmas" by Bing Crosby. It has sold more than 50 million copies. That doesn't include streaming. Modern music records are slightly¹ different because they are measured on how many times they are downloaded or streamed. You can't do that with old music because once someone buys a CD, you don't know how many times they listen to it. There are also many different ways to listen to a song and the different services don't combine² their data. For example, "Blinding Lights" by The Weeknd is the most streamed song on Spotify with 4.5 billion streams. It has about 1 billion views on YouTube. It has over two billion streams on Amazon music, and there are many other services as well. It is very difficult to keep records these days.



“Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow.” Albert Einstein

An Unusual Job

Chocolate Taster

This sounds like a dream job, but it might not be as fun as you think. Most of us like chocolate. No. That's not true. Many of us love chocolate and feel like we could eat it all day long. Well, have you ever heard the expression³ “too much of a good thing”? Being a chocolate taster is a little like that. Firstly, chocolate tasters are not employed⁴ by a company to enjoy eating chocolate. They are there to provide⁵ a professional and an impartial⁶ opinion about the chocolate. They have to taste it and then describe and rate the appearance⁷, texture⁸, mouthfeel⁹, and the taste. Then they have to break all of these things down into smaller categories and describe the chocolate in as much detail as they can. There are different levels of chocolate taster as well. You can be a basic chocolate taster or you can be a master chocolate taster. If you are a master, you need a lot of experience, but you also need training in chemistry. You need to know what makes the chocolate taste the way it does and how to improve it or change it. You will also have to eat a large quantity¹⁰ of chocolate and you might find you don't love it quite as much if it is your job.



1.slightly わずかに 2.combine 組み合わせる 3.expression 表現 4.employ 雇用する 5.provide 提供する 6.impartial 公平な 7.appearance 外見 8.texture 質感 9.mouthfeel 口当たり 10.quantity 量