

Did you watch President Trump's inauguration<sup>1</sup> on TV last Monday? It was quite late in Japanese time, so probably not. I saw the highlights on the news the next day. I didn't know whether to write about it for this week's English News or not, but I guess that I have got to. It is such an important event. I know that we are all not American, but whatever happens in America, tends to<sup>2</sup> affect the whole world. And Donald Trump has become the 47<sup>th</sup> president of the United States of America, after already serving as the 45<sup>th</sup>. His last term in office was very "interesting", so I'm sure this one will be as well. He promised that he would hit the ground running<sup>3</sup> and make lots of changes. On his first day, he cancelled a lot of the things that Biden did.



10 differences!

Last week's answer



## Something you didn't know about presidents

1. George Washington is the only president who didn't live in the White House because it hadn't been built by then.
2. Abraham Lincoln was a wrestler before he became president. He was very good.
3. William Howard Taft was the largest president. He weighed 160 kg.
4. James Buchanan was the only single president.
5. Richard Nixon was a very good musician. He played the piano, clarinet, violin, accordion, and saxophone.
6. Herbert Hoover spoke Mandarin Chinese<sup>4</sup> and often used it in the White House.
7. Rutherford B. Hayes had the first telephone in the White House. His number was 1.

## President Trump's Inauguration

Last Monday, on January 20<sup>th</sup>, Donald Trump became the 47<sup>th</sup> president of the United States of America. Trump was the 45<sup>th</sup> president until 2021, and Biden was the 46<sup>th</sup>. Trump isn't the first president to serve non-consecutive<sup>5</sup> terms. Grover Cleveland was the 22<sup>nd</sup> president and then the 24<sup>th</sup> president. Trump's inauguration was held inside because the weather was unseasonably<sup>6</sup> cold. A lot of important people were in attendance<sup>7</sup>. All of the surviving ex-presidents were there: Clinton, Bush, Obama, Biden. Many of the heads of the largest technology companies were there. Elon Musk (Tesla, X, and SpaceX), Jeff Bezos (Amazon), Mark Zuckerberg (Meta (Facebook, Instagram, and lots of others)), Sundar Pichai (Google), Tim Cook (Apple), Sam Altman (OpenAI (ChatGPT)). These people are so rich that they totaled over \$1.2 trillion! There were a lot of heads of states and celebrities there as well. Some people attended because they were interested and like big events, but a lot of people attended because they hope the Trump administration<sup>8</sup> will be favorable<sup>9</sup> to them. The whole inauguration is costing \$200 million. That seems like an awful lot<sup>10</sup> of money to spend on one day. Trump's inauguration is costing 4 times more than Biden's did and ten times more than Bill Clinton's did. There is also an enormous cost for the security that is not included in that. The security cost can also be hundreds of millions of dollars. The main part of the \$200 millions is paid for

by donations<sup>11</sup>, such as from the heads of those technology companies, but the rest is paid for by taxpayers<sup>12</sup>.

That seems like a waste of money<sup>13</sup>. What do you think?



- 1.inauguration 就任式 2.tend to～する傾向がある 3.hit the ground running 全力で取り掛ける  
4.Mandarin Chinese 官話（中国語） 5.non-consecutive 非連続の 6.unseasonably 季節外れに  
7.in attendance 出席している 8.Trump administration トランプ政権 9.favorable 好ましい 10.an awful lot 非常に多く 11.donations 寄付 12.taxpayers 納税者 13.a waste of money 無駄遣い





### World record

Our theme this week is presidents, so here are some presidential world records. The youngest ever president was Theodore Roosevelt. He was 42 when he became president. The oldest president is Donald Trump. He is 78. It is ironic<sup>1</sup> after he spent so long complaining about President Biden's age. The tallest president was Abraham Lincoln. He was 193 cm tall, plus the height of his top hat. The shortest president was James Madison. He was 163 cm tall. The richest president is Donald Trump. He is worth \$7 billion, if you can believe him. The poorest president was Harry Truman who needed the president's salary to survive. He didn't have much money when he became president. This is a record that can't be beaten now, but the longest serving president was Franklin D Roosevelt. He served from 1933 to 1945. The shortest presidency was William Henry Harrison. He became ill and died just after becoming president.



“If everything around you seems<sup>2</sup> dark, look again. You may be the light.” Rumi

### An Unusual Job

#### Coin Artists

I wanted to stay with my government<sup>3</sup> theme, so I have found this unusual job for you this week. Are you a talented artist? If you are, then this might be the job for you. The US Mint<sup>4</sup> employs professional artists to design all of the coins they mint<sup>5</sup>. I am writing about America, but every country has artists like this. You could work in the Japanese mint if you wanted to. These artists are not only very talented at drawing the images, they also have to be professional engravers<sup>6</sup> as well. They have to engrave the image into the die<sup>7</sup> that stamps all of the coins. First, they design the coin, based on a theme. Then they engrave the design into clay to make sure that it is possible. After that, they can engrave it into the metal die which is used to stamp the design into all of the coins. The coin has to be approved<sup>8</sup>, and if it is, the die is used to stamp the coin onto blank coins. There are two types of artists. There are some that are employed by the mint and some that work on a freelance base. If you want to work as a freelance coin designer, they pay about 350,000 yen for the design and a bonus of 500,000 yen if the design is actually used to make a coin. If you are good enough to be employed directly by the mint, you can make a lot more money. What do you think?



- 1.ironic 皮肉な 2.seem～のように見える 3.government 政府 4.mint (noun) 造幣局 (名刺) 5.mint (verb) (硬貨を) 铸造する (動詞) 6.engrave 彫る 7.die 鋳型 8.approve 認める