

It was Valentine's Day last week. Did you get and give a lot of chocolates? We don't have this tradition¹ in England. On Valentine's Day, boys give to girls and girls give to boys. You usually only give a present or a card to someone you really like. Boyfriends give to their girlfriends, and vice versa². Wives give to their husbands, and vice versa. A common present is flowers or chocolates. I think that the majority of the year's flowers and chocolates are sold on the day before Valentine's Day. It is always nice to make something, but I am not very good at cooking. It is much safer if I buy something. My wife is happier as well. Valentine's Day is also my wedding anniversary. I have been married for 17 years. My wife is very patient³.



10 differences!

Last week's answer



Something you didn't know about CAT scans⁴

1. CAT stands for Computerized Axial Tomography. "Computerized" means by computer. "Axial" means across an axis. "Tomography" means imaging something by sections.
2. The CAT scanner was invented in 1972. The two inventors won a Nobel prize.
3. CAT scanners take many X-ray images in cross sections⁵, like a loaf of bread, and then puts them together.
4. Sometimes patients⁶ drink a contrast dye⁷ so that different parts of the body show up more easily on the scan.
5. CAT scans are much faster than MRI scans.

Italian Doctor Gives His Cat a CAT Scan

In Rome, Italy, a doctor has gone viral after using a hospital's CT scanner to check on his sick cat. The doctor, who works at a hospital in the city of Arezzo, brought his pet in after the cat fell off the roof. The CT scanner, also called a CAT scan, is usually used for humans. It takes detailed⁸ images of the inside of the body to help doctors find injuries⁹ or illnesses. However, in this unusual case, the doctor decided to use it on his pet. He then operated on¹⁰ his cat. Hospital staff were surprised to see the cat inside the machine. Some found it amusing, but others were not happy because the scanner is meant for human patients. Reports say that the doctor performed the scan outside of normal hospital hours, when no patients were waiting. After the story spread online, many people reacted with mixed opinions. Some animal lovers praised the doctor for caring about his pet. Others, including hospital officials, said the machine should only be used for people. The hospital has since launched an investigation¹¹ to see if any rules were broken. The cat's condition has not been fully reported, but sources say it is now doing fine. Meanwhile, the doctor may face consequences¹² for using hospital equipment in an unusual way. What do you think?



- 1.tradition 伝統 2.vice versa 逆もまた同様 3.patient 我慢強い 4.CAT scanCT スキャン
5.cross section 断面 6.patient 患者 7.contrast dye 造影剤 8.detailed 詳細な 9.injury けが
10.operate on 手術する 11.launch an investigation 捜査を開始する 12.face consequences 結果を受け入れる



World record

Do you have a cat or a dog? I have a cat, but it seems that more people in the world have dogs. There is no way to get an exact figure¹, but it is estimated² that there are 600 million pet cats in the world and 900 million pet dogs. Here are some cat world records. The biggest domestic cat³ is the Maine Coon. They are generally about 10 kg and 41 cm tall, but the biggest ever Maine Coon was 50 cm tall and 123 cm long (including its tail). We all know that cats can jump a long way. The record for longest cat jump is 3.3 m. That doesn't sound very far, but remember how small they are. The snow leopard, which is a cat, can jump over 15 m! The average cat can jump over 2 m vertically⁴, but a tiger can vertically jump 5 m! There have even been reports of tigers jumping over 6 m! The world record for the heaviest domestic cat was called Meow and he weighed 18 kg. Domestic cats are still pretty small. The heaviest known cat, a liger (a cross between a lion and a tiger) weighs 418 kg!



“I have studied many philosophers⁵ and many cats. The wisdom⁶ of cats is infinitely⁷ superior⁸.” Hippolyte Taine

An Unusual Job

Cat Trainer for TV

I have called this job “cat trainer” but it is many animals and not just cats. Have you ever seen a movie or a TV show where an animal does something? Maybe it walks to a certain place on the set. Or maybe it stops somewhere and sits down. Or maybe it looks at someone and meows. Somebody has trained that animal to do that action, and that person is an animal trainer. Animal trainers have a lot of jobs, but the first job is to find animals that can be trained easily. If you have a cat, you will know that they are very difficult to train. Dogs are easier, but cats only move when they want to. This is not actually true and most animals can be trained with patience⁹. An animal trainer has to train their animals to follow general commands¹⁰. Then, when an animal is needed in a movie, they have to find out what the animal will have to do and train it specifically¹¹. That can take a long time. Animal trainers need to have a deep understanding of animal psychology¹² and training methods. They have to be very patient people because it can take a long time. Because there are so many different types of animals, an animal trainer will only specialize in¹³ a few species¹⁴. What do you think? Sounds interesting?



- 1.exact figure 正確な数字 2.estimated 推定の 3.domestic cat 飼い猫 4.vertically 垂直に
5.philosopher 哲学者 6.wisdom 知恵 7.ininitely 無限に 8.superior 優れた 9.patience 我慢
10.command 命令 11.specifically 具体的に 12.psychology 心理学 13.specialize in～を専門とする 14.species 種