



ENGLISH BULLETIN BOARD

dbS Language Training and Translations

Did you know...

American household Christmas lights, a favorite holiday tradition, use up more electricity than some poorer countries—such as El Salvador or Ethiopia—do in a year. Bright lights strung on American trees, rooftops and lawns between Thanksgiving and Christmas account for 6.63 billion kilowatt hours of electricity consumption every year, according to a recent blog post by the Center for Global Development.

Tech news

Markus Witte is the founder of the language app babbel. With the help of this app, a lot of people try to learn languages. The ads for the app promise that one can learn a language in real short time.

In an interview with the German newspaper FAZ, Mr. Witte now admitted that learning a language best works with a teacher and in the respective country. He pointed out that people speak with people and that learning a language is a very human matter and not a tech thing.

<https://www.faz.net/aktuell/wirtschaft/diginomics>



LT&T news

Dear All,
constant dripping wears away the stone. This saying points out that with little steps and persistence you can achieve a difficult objective. You all experience this with your regular one-hour English training. I am very pleased to see and hear how your English skills grow when talking to you.

By now, over 200 hundred people take part in our program German wide and 21 trainers teach successfully under our guidance.

As the number of participants in our program is constantly increasing, so is our range of services. Starting out with English training, we added the translation section already last year. Then teaching of German as a foreign language came up. Now, we are proud to offer some more special workshops for e.g. negotiation and presentation techniques in English. In cooperation with a language school you can have intensive training in Ireland with language stressing on your special work field.

At Warstein and Poing we will have a TEDlike event next summer and I hope to see many of you at this occasion. If you are interested in one of our projects, please contact us.

My staff and I wish you all a Happy Holiday Season and look forward to working with you next year!

Best wishes, Sibylle Feinbier



How many rubber bands are needed to see a watermelon explode?

This story went viral a couple of years ago and was a question in one of the game shows on German TV a few weeks ago.

Make an educated guess. How many were needed?

398 450 679

It is the last number indeed. The German newspaper Die Welt reported about the original attempt in April 2016. There I learned as well that it took 44 minutes as every band was added one at a time.

Rubbing rubber

The word “rubber” had a lively existence long before it became attached to the elastic substance we associate it with today.

A “rubber” could be a hard brush (1664), a rough towel to stimulate the skin (1577), a horse towel (1598), a whetstone (1553), tooth powder (1558), a polished brick (1744), a person who takes brass rubbings (1840) and a masseur at a Turkish bath.
www.telegraph.com

Over the rainbow... the soundtrack to the following story.



Dorothy is a young girl who lives in a farmhouse in Kansas with her hardworking Uncle Henry and Aunt Em. The joy of her life is her dog, Toto. A sudden cyclone strikes, and, by the time Dorothy catches Toto, she is unable to reach the storm cellar. They are still in the house when the cyclone carries it away for a long journey. When at last the house lands, Dorothy finds that she is in a beautiful land inhabited by very short, strangely dressed people. The Witch of the North informs her that she is in the land of the Munchkins, who are grateful to her for having killed the Wicked Witch of the East. The house having landed on the witch, thus freeing them. The Witch of the North gives Dorothy the silver shoes of the dead witch and advises her to go to the City of Emeralds to see the Great Wizard Oz, who might help her return to Kansas. The witch sends Dorothy off along the yellow brick road with a magical kiss to protect her from harm.

On the long journey to the Emerald City, Dorothy and Toto are joined by the Scarecrow, who wishes he had brains; the Tin man, who longs for a heart; and the Cowardly Lion, who seeks courage. They face many trials along their route, but they overcome them all, often because of the Scarecrow’s good sense, the Tin Woodman’s kindness, and the bravery of the Cowardly Lion. At last they reach the Emerald City, where the Guardian of the Gates outfits them with green-lensed glasses and leads them to the Palace of Oz. Oz seems reluctant to grant their wishes, though. Then Toto knocks over a screen, revealing that Oz is only a common man. However, he fills the Scarecrow’s head with bran and pins and needles, saying that they are brains; he puts a silk-and-sawdust heart into the Tin Woodman; and he gives the Cowardly Lion a drink that he says is courage.

Dorothy and her friends then go to seek the help of the Witch of the South, who really could help them to get back home. Glinda, the witch summons the Winged Monkeys so that they can take the Tin Woodman back to rule the Winkies, the Scarecrow back to Emerald City, and the Cowardly Lion to the forest to be king of the beasts. Then she tells Dorothy how to use the silver shoes to take her back to Kansas. Dorothy gathers up Toto, clicks her heels together three times, and says, “Take me home to Aunt Em!” She is transported back to the farm in Kansas.

The story is called: **The wizard of Oz.**

Vocabulary in this issue.

1 Did you know..?

strung on = **past of to string; objects threaded together or attached on a string; aufgereiht, aneinander hängend**

lawn = **short grass in the garden; Rasen**

3 LT&T news

persistence = **the fact of continuing an action, Ausdauer, Beharrlichkeit**

objective = **another word for goal; Ziel**

increasing = **becoming or make greater in size; zunehmend, steigen**

German as a foreign language = **German taught to people with another mother tongue; Deutsch als Fremdsprache**

negotiation = **discussing to reach an agreement; Verhandlung**

4 How many rubber bands do you need to see a watermelon explode?

viral, to go viral = **a video, image, story, etc. to spread quickly and widely among internet users via social networking sites, e-mail; sich im Internet verbreiten**

educated guess = **a guess which is based on a certain amount of knowledge and is therefore likely to be correct; begründete Vermutung**

one at a time = **one after another, one by one; eins nach dem anderen**

5 Rubbing rubber

lively = **full of energy, active; lebhaft**

existence = **the fact or state of living; Existenz, Bestehen**

to attach = **to join or fasten (something) to something else, to connect; befestigen, verbinden**

a brush = **an item with a block of bristles, Bürste**

a towel = **a cloth to use for drying something, Handtuch**

a whetstone = **a stone used for sharpening, Wetzstein**

a polished brick = **a brick is a clay stone used for buildings; ein polierter Backstein**

brass rubbings = **the action of rubbing with a pencil or chalk on paper laying on engraved brass ornaments to reproduce this as a picture; einen Abdruck von Messingbildern durch abreiben erstellen**

6 Over the rainbow....

sudden = **occurring quickly, plötzlich**

inhabited = **lived in, bewohnt**

thus = **as a result; somit**

to advise = **to offer a suggestion; raten, beraten**

a scarecrow = **a human figure to set up to scare birds away; Vogelscheuche**

tin man = **a man made of tin; Blechmann**

cowardly = **lacking courage; feige**

bravery = **courageous behavior; Tapferkeit**

to grant = **to give or allow; gewähren**

revealing = **making information known; enthüllen**

common = **occurring, done often; gemeinsam, häufig**

courage = **strength to face something that frightens; Mut**

to summon = **order someone to be present; herbeirufen, einberufen**