

Physics Recreations: A Puzzle in Esperanto

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December 3, 2011

The following puzzle appeared in Esperanto in the September-October 2011 issue of the magazine *Usona Esperantisto* (*American Esperantist*). Esperanto is an international language invented in 1887 by the Polish ophthalmologist L.L. Zamenhof, and acts as a common second language to allow people around the world to easily communicate with each other. There are currently about two million Esperanto speakers worldwide.

Enigmo Matematika

En parko estis pendŝnura baskulo kies du brakoj ne estis egale longaj.

Iun tagon, kiam kelkaj knaboj ludis tie, preterpasis sumoisto. La knaboj petis al la sumoisto, ke li pendu de la ŝnuro de la baskulo.

Ekvilibro okazis kiam tri knaboj pendis de la alia ŝnuro. La sumo de la pezoj de la tri knaboj estis 108 kg.

Poste, la sumoisto pendis de la aliflanka ŝnuro. Tiam necesis kvar knaboj por ekvilibrigi la baskulon. La sumo de la pezoj de la kvar knaboj estis 147 kg.

Do, kiom estas la pezo de la sumoisto?

[*Tiu ĉi enigmon sendis direktoro Vilĉjo HARRIS, el libro nomita "Gimnastiko por cerbo" de TACUMI Hirosi, havebla ĉe [la Esperanto-USA] rebutiko. La solvo aperos venontnumere.—Red.*]

In English (my translation):

Mathematical Puzzle

In a park there was a hanging-rope seesaw whose two arms were of unequal length.

One day, when a few boys were playing there, a sumo wrestler passed by. The boys asked the sumo wrestler if he would hang from one end of the seesaw.

The seesaw balanced when three boys hung from the other end. The sum of the weights of the three boys was 108 kg.

Afterwards, the sumo wrestler hung from the other end of the seesaw. This time four boys were required to balance the seesaw. The sum of the weights of the four boys was 147 kg.

What is the weight of the sumo wrestler?

[*This puzzle was sent by director Bill Harris, from a book named "Gymnastics for the Mind" by Tatsumi Hirosi, available at the Esperanto-USA on-line bookstore. The solution will appear in a future issue.—Ed.*]



Figure 1: Baskulo (a seesaw), Chicago, 1902. (Credit: *Chicago Daily News*.)