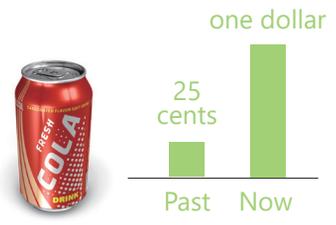


04



Who Stole My Money?

1 I remember when a can of Coke was 25 cents. My parents could buy candy for a penny! Today you might pay a dollar for a soda, and nothing costs a penny, so what happened?



2 Inflation, that's what. Inflation is often called "too many dollars chasing too few goods." It's when prices in a country rise **across the board**. If your favorite snack gets a bit more expensive, that's not inflation, but when the price of your snack, bread, sugar, gasoline, and many other things all rise at the same time, that's inflation. Inflation means your money buys less than it used to.

3 Experts have different views on why and how inflation happens. One reason for inflation is an increase in the supply of money. Generally, when the supply of something goes up, the demand for it goes down. In other words, its value goes down, so when there is a lot of money circulating, each piece of money becomes less valuable.

Questions

_____ 1. What is the article mainly about? ♦Main Idea♦

- A** The factors that cause inflation.
- B** How governments can prevent inflation.
- C** The effects that inflation has on the global economy.
- D** Some of the good things about inflation.

_____ 2. What does this article focus on? ♦Subject Matter♦

- A** The supply of money.
- B** National taxes.
- C** Falling profits.
- D** Rising Prices.

_____ 3. Which of the following statements is true? ♦Supporting Details♦

- A** Taxes help reduce inflation.
- B** When your money buys more, that's inflation.
- C** Inflation is caused by one simple factor.
- D** Printing more money can lead to inflation.

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◀ When there is a lot of money circulating, each piece of money becomes less valuable.



▲ The price of a candy bar may go up if the nuts in it are suddenly more expensive.

4 Another cause of inflation is a rise in production costs. This means it costs more money to make a particular product. The price of a candy bar may go up if the nuts in it are suddenly more expensive or if the workers making it are paid higher wages.

5 Higher taxes can also cause inflation. When items are taxed, people who produce goods don't want to see their profits go down. Instead, they raise their prices. This is called "transferring the burden to the consumer." It means that producers make the same in profits, and the people buying the products are the ones who suffer.

6 Inflation is complicated. Track the prices of some goods you are interested in, and see if you can understand why they've changed over time.



- _____ 4. According to this article, which of the following might cause the price of corn to increase?.....♦Inference♦
- A** A farm technology breakthrough. **B** An increase in seed prices.
C A sudden drop in inflation. **D** Less money circulating in the country.
- _____ 5. Which of the following words is closest in meaning to **across the board** in the second paragraph?.....♦Words in Context♦
- A** Most. **B** Something. **C** Everything. **D** Few.
- _____ 6. What is the information in this article presented as?.....♦Clarifying Devices♦
- A** A narrative with a beginning, middle, and end.
B A biography.
C A personal essay.
D A list of causes and effects.

05



▶ Shohei Ohtani (1994-) cc by All-Pro Reels from District of Columbia, USA

Pitcher, Hitter, Legend!

1 Shohei Ohtani, born on July 5, 1994, is a **renowned** Japanese baseball player known for his skills as both a pitcher and a hitter. As of 2024, he plays for the Los Angeles Dodgers.

2 Ohtani displayed great talent from a young age. At 17, he could throw as fast as 159 km per hour. In 2012, at age 18, he joined the Hokkaido Nippon-Ham Fighters. He had originally planned to move to the United States to play. However, US teams wanted him only as a pitcher, while Ohtani wanted to play as both a pitcher and a hitter. The Fighters, though, agreed to let him play both positions.

3 Over the next few years, Ohtani worked hard on his hitting skills. He started to gain more muscle and developed real hitting power. Before long he was able to hit amazing home runs in addition to striking out players with his high-speed pitches.

4 In 2017, Ohtani finally signed with an American team, the Los Angeles

Questions

- _____ 1. What is the main point of the article? ♦Main Idea♦
- A** Shohei Ohtani is a famous Japanese baseball player who now plays in the United States.
 - B** Shohei Ohtani is a rare kind of baseball player who has achieved huge success.
 - C** Shohei Ohtani joined the Los Angeles Dodgers in 2024 for a large sum of money.
 - D** Shohei Ohtani showed talent for baseball from a young age.

- _____ 2. What does the article focus on? ♦Subject Matter♦
- A** Ohtani's career.
 - B** Ohtani's youth.
 - C** Ohtani's fans.
 - D** Ohtani's pitching.

- _____ 3. What happened to Ohtani a year after moving to the United States? ♦Supporting Details♦
- A** He became an All-Star.
 - B** He injured his elbow.
 - C** He signed to the Los Angeles Angels.
 - D** He caused 156 strikeouts.



▲ Shohei Ohtani on an advertisement in Japan



▲ Shohei Ohtani signed to the Los Angeles Dodgers in 2023.

Angels, and made the move to the United States. But after a good first year, Ohtani injured his elbow and had to take a break from pitching for the 2019 season. In 2020, he returned to pitching but was still off his game.

5 By the 2021 season, however, Ohtani had fully recovered and was playing better than ever before. As a hitter he hit 49 home runs, and as a pitcher he had 156 strikeouts. He also made history by being selected to the All-Star game as both a pitcher and a hitter. In 2023, following another two great seasons, he signed to the Los Angeles Dodgers for a sum of US\$700 million.

6 By 2025, Ohtani had helped lead the Dodgers to back-to-back World Series championships. In Game 3 of the 2025 World Series, he became the first player in postseason history to reach base seven times in a single game.

7 Due to his many incredible achievements as a pitcher and hitter, Ohtani is recognized as one of the best all-round players of the last hundred years. His legacy in the history of baseball is firmly established.

15
20
25
30
35

Week 1
Day 5
Pitcher, Hitter, Legend!

4. What would probably have happened if Ohtani had signed to a US team in 2012?

.....◆Inferences◆

- A He would have quit baseball for good soon after.
- B He would never have become a great hitter.
- C He would never have hurt his elbow.
- D He would have returned to Japan after a year.

5. What does the word **renowned** in the first paragraph most likely mean?

.....◆Words in Context◆

- A Talked about by many people.
- B Laughed at by many people.
- C Ignored by many people.
- D Criticized by many people.

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6. Where would you most likely see this type of article?◆Text Form◆

- A A history textbook.
- B A lifestyle magazine.
- C An encyclopedia.
- D A storybook.