

A Non-Mathematical (but logical) Puzzle For Today

The following line is a legal sentence in the English language, if it is punctuated properly. No rearrangements of the words is necessary, they are in the proper order.

“John while James had had had had had had had had had had a better effect on the teacher”

Yes it is possible to have the word “had” eleven times in a row and the sentence make sense. I’ll give you one hint, one of the punctuation marks is a period within the sentence, so in fact there are two sentences there. That means that one of the words that currently starts with a lower case letter will have to be changed to an upper case letter. Have fun....

Answers to last week’s puzzles:

Nim: the strategy is to write each number out in base 2 (binary). Make sure the 4’s columns, the 2’s column and the unit’s columns are all underneath each other. Total the columns. This shouldn’t be hard, as they are all 1’s and 0’s. Take away the number of squares, just from one row, that leaves those totals with even numbers in all columns after your move. So using last weeks game of six rows with 3, 5, 6, 4, 3, and 5 in each row, the game could go like this.

	Number in row (decimal)	Binary, Fours	Binary, Two’s	Binary, Units One’s	
Row 1	3	0	1	1	Beginning
Row 2	5	1	0	1	Beginning
Row 3	6	1	1	0	Beginning
Row 4	4	1	0	0	Beginning
Row 5	3	0	1	1	Beginning
Row 6	5	1	0	1	Beginning
	Total	4	3	4	Beginning
Player A move	Player B move				Total After move
Row 1, Take 2		4	2	4	Player A (all even)
	Row 3, Take 4	3	2	4	Player B
Row 6, Take 4		2	2	4	Player A (all even)
	Row 5, Take 3	2	1	3	Player B
Row 3, Take 1		2	0	4	Player A (all even)
	Row 1, Take 1	2	0	3	Player B
Row 6, Take 1		2	0	2	Player A (all even)
	Row 4, Take 3	1	0	3	Player B
Row 2, Take 5		0	0	2	Player A (all even)
	Row 3, Take 1	0	0	1	Player B
Row 4, Take 1		0	0	0	Player A (all even)

Thus, Player A wins by taking the last square. The numbers in red are the column totals after the move, when the number of remaining squares in each row is written in base 2. The first player to move does not automatically win, the player that follows the “leave an even total in each column” strategy wins.

Balance Beam Puzzle:

The answer to this one is coming, soon.