

Man breaks M&M stacking world record

1st July, 2021



There seems to be a record-breaking feat for just about everything these days. Who knew there was a world record for making the tallest stack of M&Ms? Well, there is, and the record has been broken.

British civil engineer

Will Cutbill, 23, attempted the balance-defying challenge while trying to stave off the boredom of being cooped up during a COVID lockdown. He used all his architectural and design skills, with a dose of physics know-how, to stack a pile of the multi-colored button-shaped chocolates five M&Ms high. Many people might think that is a beatable record but Mr Cutbill challenged anybody to try and better his balancing accomplishment.

Mr Cutbill spoke about why he set out to break the M&M stacking record. He said: "I've had a lifelong ambition to break a Guinness World Records title. I've always wanted one. I've bought the book every year and have always dreamed of one day reading my name in it." He said he got the idea while he was partaking of his favourite chocolaty confection during the lockdown. He was curious to know how many of the chocolates he could put on top of each other. He said: "It takes time, but if you stick at it, you will find a way to do it." He added: "This has inspired me. I want to let my creative juices flow and see what else I may be good at and then attack it with the same determination I did here."

Sources: [usatoday.com](https://www.usatoday.com) / [guinnessworldrecords.com](https://www.guinnessworldrecords.com) / [birminghammail.co.uk](https://www.birminghammail.co.uk)

Writing

It is important to try to beat world records. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

record / feat / civil / engineer / balance / challenge / design / skills / chocolates / try / ambition / book / every year / idea / curious / inspired / creative / juices / be good at

True / False

- 1) The article says everyone knows about the M&Ms world record. T / F
- 2) The man who broke the M&Ms world record is an engineer. T / F
- 3) The man used his skills in physics and design to break the record. T / F
- 4) The man challenged people to better his record. T / F
- 5) The man bought a Guinness World Records book every year. T / F
- 6) The record holder's favourite chocolate is actually a Snickers bar. T / F
- 7) The man got the idea for the record from looking at a juice carton. T / F
- 8) The man wants to find other things he is good at. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| 1. feat | a. intrigued |
| 2. stack | b. measure |
| 3. cooped up | c. sweet |
| 4. dose | d. pile |
| 5. challenged | e. aspiration |
| 6. ambition | f. artistic |
| 7. confection | g. achievement |
| 8. curious | h. resolve |
| 9. creative | i. confined |
| 10. determination | j. dared |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What is your lifelong ambition?
- c) Which book would you like to see your name in?
- d) What are your favourite chocolaty things?
- e) Do you always stick at things?
- f) How important are our creative juices?
- g) How determined are you to succeed in the things you do?
- h) What questions would you like to ask Mr Cutbill?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. a record-breaking | a. during a COVID lockdown |
| 2. civil | b. juices flow |
| 3. stave | c. record |
| 4. being cooped up | d. chocolaty confection |
| 5. that is a beatable | e. engineer |
| 6. I've had a lifelong | f. inspired me |
| 7. partaking of his favourite | g. feat |
| 8. He was curious | h. ambition |
| 9. This has | i. to know how many |
| 10. let my creative | j. off the boredom |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of an M&M stacking world record?
- How hard is it to stack five M&Ms?
- What world record would you like to break?
- Why are people so interested in world records?
- Do you need engineering skills to break the M&M stacking record?
- What does a civil engineer do?
- What do you know about physics?
- What do you think of M&Ms?

Spelling

- a record-breaking tfea
- British civil enineger
- the balance-inedfyg challenge
- boredom of being dpoec up
- crateacuitrlh and design skills
- his balancing antmemclhspioc
- I've had a lifelong amintbio
- he got the idea while he was rkptaigan
- his favourite chocolaty ocenncifto
- This has sinreipd me
- irectav juices
- with the same nttaiimdneeor

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. d	3. i	4. b	5. j
6. e	7. c	8. a	9. f	10. h

Role Play

Role A – Running 100 Metres

You think being the fastest runner over 100 metres is the best record to have. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their records. Also, tell the others which is the least desirable of these (and why): the most travelled, having the biggest vocabulary or being the fastest reader.

Role B – Most Travelled

You think being the most travelled is the best record to have. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their records. Also, tell the others which is the least desirable of these (and why): the fastest runner over 100 metres, having the biggest vocabulary or being the fastest reader.

Role C – Biggest Vocabulary

You think having the biggest vocabulary is the best record to have. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their records. Also, tell the others which is the least desirable of these (and why): the most travelled, the fastest runner over 100 metres or being the fastest reader.

Role D – Fastest Reader

You think being the fastest reader is the best record to have. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their records. Also, tell the others which is the least desirable of these (and why): the most travelled, having the biggest vocabulary or the fastest runner over 100 metres.

Speaking – Record Holder

Rank these with your partner. Put the best record holder at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| • Highest IQ | • Running 100 metres |
| • Fastest at typing | • Tallest person |
| • Longest hair | • Most travelled |
| • Fastest reader | • Biggest vocabulary |

Answers – True False

1 F	2 T	3 T	4 T	5 T	6 F	7 F	8 T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.