

# THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2107/210701-guinness-world-record.html>

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: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2021/06/28/man-breaks-guinness-world-record-tallest-stack-m-ms/5371006001/>  
<https://www.guinnessworldrecords.com/news/2021/6/tallest-stack-of-mms-record-broken-by-brit-662361>  
<https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/midlands-news/guinness-world-record-tallest-ever-20864812>

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

## Paragraph 1

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 1. feat      | a. Avert or delay something bad or dangerous.                          |
| 2. stack     | b. Improve on or surpass an existing or previous level or achievement. |
| 3. defying   | c. An achievement that requires great courage, skill, or strength.     |
| 4. stave off | d. An action or quality being almost impossible to do.                 |
| 5. cooped up | e. A pile of objects, usually one that is neatly arranged.             |
| 6. dose      | f. Confined in a small space.  |
| 7. better    | g. An amount or quantity of something.                                 |

## Paragraph 2

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| 8. ambition       | h. Eating or drinking something.   |
| 9. partaking (of) | i. A dish or delicious thing made with sweet ingredients.  |
| 10. confection    | j. Move along steadily and continuously.   |
| 11. curious       | k. A strong desire to do or to achieve something, typically requiring determination and hard work.       |
| 12. inspired      | l. Firmness in wanting to do something.  |
| 13. flow          | m. Filled someone with the urge or ability to do or feel something, especially to do something creative. |
| 14. determination | n. Eager to know or learn something.   |

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2107/210701-guinness-world-record.html>

## 1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

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**

## 2. SYNONYM MATCH: (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

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

## 3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- |                               |                            |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 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         |

# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2107/210701-guinness-world-record.html>

1. What does the article say there is for everything these days?
2. What is the job of the guy who broke the record?
3. What did the guy try to stave off while attempting the record?
4. What colours were the M&Ms in the record pile?
5. What did the record holder challenge people to do?
6. What was the guy's lifelong ambition?
7. How often did the guy buy the Guinness Book of Records?
8. Where had the guy hoped to see his name?
9. What did the guy want to let flow?
10. What else did the guy want to see?



# WORLD RECORDS DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'world record'?
3. What do you think of an M&M stacking world record?
4. How hard is it to stack five M&Ms?
5. What world record would you like to break?
6. Why are people so interested in world records?
7. Do you need engineering skills to break the M&M stacking record?
8. What does a civil engineer do?
9. What do you know about physics?
10. What do you think of M&Ms?

*Man breaks M&M stacking world record – 1st July, 2021*  
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# WORLD RECORDS DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'engineer'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What is your lifelong ambition?
15. Which book would you like to see your name in?
16. What are your favourite chocolaty things?
17. Do you always stick at things?
18. How important are our creative juices?
19. How determined are you to succeed in the things you do?
20. What questions would you like to ask Mr Cutbill?