

Useless Facts

- The first car ever to be stolen was a Peugeot (in 1896)
- The White House is painted white to cover the scorch marks left when the British army set fire to it during the war of 1812
- The speed of light is 1,802,617,500,000 furlongs per fortnight
- 5780 stars are visible to the naked eye under ideal Earth-based viewing conditions
- Empress Marie-Theresa of Austria was 4'11" tall and weighed 21 stone
- In the US, the 'on' position for light switches is 'up'
- Queen Anne was buried in a square coffin
- According to ancient Chinese astrologers, 70% of omens were bad
- The word 'haywire' is not the legacy of an early and futile experiment in the transmission of electricity
- The 3,000,000,000th decimal digit of Pi is an 8
- On Pitcairn island it is a criminal offense to shout "Ship Ahoy" when there is in fact no ship in sight
- Icelandic phone books are listed by given name rather than surname
- The population of Outer Mongolia have recently been issued with surnames
- Polar bears are the only mammals with hair on the soles of their feet
- All polar bears are left-handed
- Earth worms are hermaphrodites
- There is no single word in the English language for the back of the knee
- The word 'set' has more distinct meanings than any other word in the English language
- Japan is the only country ever to have changed its capital to a city whose name is an anagram of the name of the previous capital (Tokyo and Kyoto)
- Kansas's state song is "Home On The Range."
- The 1905 treaty ending the Russo-Japanese war was signed in New Hampshire.
- On Tahiti, high tides occur every day at noon and midnight, regardless of where the moon is.
- The whip is the first man-made invention to break the sound barrier.
- Cranberries' skins are so tight that they actually bounce and may be dribbled like basketballs.
- "Flammable" and "inflammable" are synonyms. So are "ebriate" and "inebriate."
- Raymond Burr was once a professional nightclub singer.
- More Americans die at 9 a.m. on Monday morning than at any time during the week.
- "Racecar" is the longest single-word palindrome in the English language.
- Sharks are immune to cancer.
- In New Jersey, it's illegal to have sex with the lights on.
- At least ten million people are having a birthday today.
- In Oklahoma, it is against the law to get a fish drunk.
- Of the many thousands of mammal species in the world, 1/4 are bats.
- Some combinations of smells are odorless; for example, the smells of gardenia and orange blossom will cancel each other out.
- No NFL team that lost a regular season game to the N.Y. Jets has won the Super Bowl at the end of that season.
- Goldfish kept in dark rooms often turn white.
- The snow carnival scheduled for May 1, 1953, in Sheridan, Wyoming, was canceled because of too much snow.
- If a frog's mouth is held open too long, it will suffocate.
- Spanish word "esposa" means both "wife" and "handcuff".
- After the Bible, the most translated book in the world is Cervantes' Don Quixote.
- Fetuses can get the hiccups.
- The octopus's testes are located in its head.
- The only animal with a straight backbone is the camel.
- Dog saliva is an antiseptic and can help to heal wounds.
- The kangaroo cannot jump if its tail is lifted off the ground.
- Malaysians protect their babies from disease by washing them in beer.
- The Chinese character for "thunder", which contains 52 strokes, is pronounced "ping".
- Pennies are not legal tender in amounts over twenty-five, unless the recipient chooses to accept them. IOW, if a debtor owes you more than twenty-five cents and spitefully tries to pay you in pennies, you can legally refuse to accept them, without affecting the debt.
- You can tell a turtle's sex by its sound. Males grunt, females hiss.
- King Louis XIX ruled France for a total of fifteen minutes.
- Coca-cola was originally green.
- Every day more money is printed for Monopoly than for the US Treasury.
- Smartest dogs: 1) border collie; 2) poodle; 3) golden retriever;
- Dumbest dog--afghan
- Hawaiian alphabet has 12 letters.
- Men can read smaller print than women; women can hear better.
- Chances that an American lives within 50 miles of where they grew up: 1 in 2
- Amount American Airlines saved in 1987 by eliminating one olive from each salad served first class: \$40,000
- City with the most Rolls Royce's per capita: Hong Kong
- State with the highest percentage of people who walk to work: Alaska
- Chances of a white Christmas in New York: 1 in 4
- Portion of US annual rainfall that falls in April: 1/12
- Percentage of Africa that is wilderness: 28
- Percentage of North America that is wilderness: 38
- Estimated percentage of American adults who go on a diet each year: 44
- Barbie's measurements if she were life size: 39-23-33
- Average number of days a West German goes without washing his underwear: 7
- Percentage of Americans who say that God has spoken to them: 36
- Percentage of Americans who regularly attend religious services: 43
- City with the highest per capita viewer-ship of television evangelists: Washington DC
- Percentage of American men who say they would marry the same woman if they had it to do all over again: 80
- Percentage of American women who say they would marry the same man: 50
- Percentage of men who say they are happier after their divorce or separation: 58
- Percentage of women who say they are happier: 85
- Number of different family relationships for which Hallmark makes cards: 105
- Cost of raising a medium-size dog to the age of eleven: \$6,400
- Average number of people airborne over the US any given hour: 61,000.
- Percentage of Americans who have visited Disneyland or Disney World: 70
- Average life span of a major league baseball: 7 pitches.
- Portion of ice cream sold that is vanilla: 1/3
- Portion of potatoes sold that are French fried: 1/3
- Percentage of Americans that eat at McDonalds each day: 7
- Percentage of bird species that are monogamous: 90
- Percentage of mammal species that are: 3
- Number of US states that claim test scores in their elementary schools are above national average: 50
- Portion of Harvard students who graduate with honors: 4/5
- Chances that a burglary in the US will be solved: 1 in 7.
- Portion of land in the US owned by the government: 1/3
- Only President to remain a bachelor: James Buchanan
- Only first lady to carry a loaded revolver: Eleanor Roosevelt
- Only President to win a Pulitzer: John F. Kennedy for Profiles in Courage
- Only President awarded a patent: Abe Lincoln, for a system of buoying vessels over shoals
- Only food that does not spoil: honey
- Only person to win \$64,000 Challenge and \$64,000 Question: Dr. Joyce Brothers (subject is boxing)

- Only bird that can fly backwards:
Hummingbird
- Only continent without reptiles or snakes:
Antartica
- Only animal besides human that can get
sunburn: pig
- Ostriches stick their heads in the sand to
look for water.
- An eagle can kill a young deer and fly away
with it.
- In the Caribbean there are oysters that can
climb trees.
- Polar bears are left-handed.
- Intelligent people have more zinc and
copper in their hair.
- Eskimos never gamble.
- The world's youngest parents were 8 and 9
and lived in China in 1910.
- The youngest pope was 11 years old.
- Mark Twain didn't graduate from elementary
school.
- Proportional to their weight, men are
stronger than horses.
- Pilgrims ate popcorn at the first
Thanksgiving dinner.
- Your nose and ears never stop growing.
- Jupiter is bigger than all the other planets in
our solar system combined.
- Hot water is heavier than cold.
- The parachute was invented by da Vinci in
1515.
- They have square watermelons in
Japan...they stack better.
- Cream does not weigh as much as milk.
- Starfish have eight eyes--one at the end of
each leg.
- Iceland consumes more Coca-cola per
capita than any other nation.
- First novel ever written on a typewriter was
Tom Sawyer.
- There are more collect calls on Father's Day
than any other day of the year.
- Heinz Catsup leaving the bottle travels at 25
miles per year.
- It is possible to lead a cow upstairs but not
downstairs.
- Men get hiccups more often than woman.
- Armadillos can be housebroken