



Totally Useless Trivia

Food Facts

- Vanilla is the extract of fermented and dried pods of orchids.
- If Jell-O is hooked up to an EEG (brain monitor), the EEG registers movements virtually identical to the brain waves of a healthy adult.
- The flavor we think of as bubblegum is a combination of wintergreen, vanilla and cassia, a form of cinnamon.
- Pineapples are classified as berries.
- The average child will eat 1,500 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches by the time he/she graduates from high school.

Strawberries contain about 200 seeds each.



- Pumpkins are fruits, not vegetables.
- A cup of candy corn has fewer calories than a cup of raisins.
- Cranberries are also called "bounceberries."
- The perfect pickle should have seven "warts" per square inch.
- When Heinz ketchup leaves the bottle, it travels at a rate of 25 miles per year.
- The average American eats 15-20 quarts of ice cream during the course of a year.
- There is an average of 178 sesame seeds on a McDonald's Big Mac bun.
- The average American eats 23 lbs. of pizza a year.
- 500,000,000 Twinkies are produced a year.
- Pepper is the top-selling spice in the world.
- Popcorn has been served in movie theaters since 1912.
- Super Bowl Sunday ranks as the third-largest occasion, behind Christmas and Thanksgiving, for Americans to consume food, according to the NFL.
- In the Czech Republic, peas are thrown at brides and grooms rather than rice.
- There are 18 animals in the popular animal crackers known as Barnum's Animals.
- At one time, Baskin Robbins made ketchup ice cream.
- The average American drinks about 600 sodas a year.
- The liquid inside young coconuts can be used as substitute for blood plasma.
- Honey is the only food that doesn't spoil.
- The average chocolate bar has 8 insects' legs in it.

Chewing gum while peeling onions will keep you from crying.

- Celery has negative calories: It takes more calories to digest a piece of celery than the celery has in it to begin with.
- The holes in Swiss cheese are called "eyes."
- Cabbage is 91% water.

- Red wine is kept in tinted bottles because it will spoil if exposed to light.
- Lettuce is a member of the sunflower family.
- Pumpkins also come in white, blue and green.
- Half of the world population's staple diet is rice.
- The average person eats almost 1,500 lbs. of food each year.
- Lemons contain more sugar than strawberries.
- Americans spend more on cat food every year than they spend on baby food.

Animal Abstracts

- A rat can last longer without water than a camel.
- A female ferret will die if it goes into heat and cannot find a mate.
- Scorpions glow under a black (ultraviolet) light.
- An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.
- Tigers have striped skin, not just striped fur.

There are more chickens than people in the world.



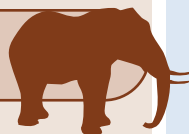
- A crocodile can't stick its tongue out.
- A goldfish ready to mate is called a twit.
- Porcupines float in water.
- On average, a hedgehog's heart beats 300 times a minute during non-hibernation months.
- Only female mosquitos suck blood.
- A hummingbird weighs less than a penny.
- Dolphins sleep with one eye open.
- A giraffe can clean its ears with its 18-inch tongue.

The penguin is the only bird that can swim but not fly.



- A mosquito has 4 knife-like tools of serrated teeth.
- Between 100 million & 1 billion birds die each year from smashing into windows.
- The original name for butterfly was "flutterby."
- A polar bear's skin is black. Its fur is actually clear, but, like snow, it appears white.
- The longest recorded flight of a chicken is thirteen seconds.
- A group of owls is called a "parliament."
- A hummingbird beats its wings 8 times per second.
- Earthworms have five hearts.
- In 1968, a lightning storm in Lapeau, France, killed all the black sheep in a flock but left the white sheep unharmed.
- Electric eels can deliver shocks up to 550 volts.
- Slugs have four noses.

An elephant's tusks can grow up to 10 ft. long.



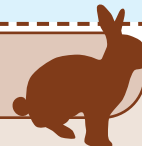
- The only bird that can fly backwards is the hummingbird.
- Honeybees have hair on their eyes.

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Rabbits are apparently immune to the venom of black widow spiders.



- Both black and white rhinos from Africa have 2 horns, while the indian rhino has only one.
- A group of ferrets is called a "business."
- The pupils of goats & sheeps are horizontal, almost rectangular, ovals.
- There are twice as many kangaroos in Australia as there are people.
- The longest earthworm measured 22 feet.
- Toy-breed dogs live an average of seven years longer than large breeds.
- Cats have 30 permanent teeth.
- The longest snake is the Reticulated Python, averaging 20'6".
- A cockroach can live a week without its head; it dies because it can not drink water.
- An adult male ostrich, the world's largest bird, can weigh up to 345 pounds.
- Pink elephants can be found in some regions of India. Because of the red soil, elephants take on a permanent pink color. They spray dust over their bodies to protect themselves from insects.
- A grasshopper needs a minimum temperature of 62°F in order to be able to hop.
- At birth, a panda is smaller than a mouse and weighs about four ounces.
- A beaver can hold its breath for 45 minutes.
- A group of toads is a "knot."
- A "prickle" is a group of porcupines.
- A male angler fish attaches itself to a female and never lets go. Their vascular systems unite and the male becomes entirely dependent on the female's blood for nutrition.
- Cats have three eyelids
- Penguins can jump almost 6 feet into the air.
- An African ostrich egg weighs almost 30 pounds and is so strong, a 200-pound man can stand on it and not break it.

On Average

- The average person speaks 125 to 150 words per minute.
- On average, the heart beats 100,000 times daily.
- More than 50% of the people in the world have never made or received a telephone call.
- A sneeze travels from your nose/mouth at over 100 mph.
- On average, 12 newborns will be given to the wrong parents daily.
- The average person falls asleep in seven minutes.
- On average, 100 people choke to death on ballpoint pens every year.

On Average (continued)

- It takes an average of seven years to grow a Christmas tree of average retail sale height (six feet).
- Each day is 0.00000002 seconds longer than the one before because the Earth is gradually slowing down.
- Lightning strikes the Earth somewhere more than 17 million times per day, or about 200 times every second.
- The average human produces a quart of saliva a day – about 10,000 gallons in a lifetime.

Since its founding, Apple Computer has received hundreds of angry letters claiming that its logo, an apple with a bite taken out, represents original sin.



- About 96% of all American children can recognize Ronald McDonald.
- The average person laughs about 15 times a day.
- The average person is about a quarter of an inch taller at night.
- The average bank teller loses about \$250 every year.
- There is an average of 61,000 people airborne over the U.S. at any given moment.
- Only one person in two billion will live to be 116 or older.
- For every older brother a man has, his chances of being gay increase by one-third.
- During pregnancy, the uterus expands to 500 times its normal size.
- The average woman uses about 7,000 words a day. Men use around 2,000.
- It would take 517,578 dollar bills to cover a football field.
- About one-third of recorded CDs are pirated.
- The success rate of A.A. is estimated to be 5%.
- In Nevada, there are more than 209,000 slot machines normally operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- The Eiffel Tower weighs approximately 9,441 tons.
- The average water temperature of showers in the U.S. is 105°F.
- One out of four children in the U.S. is overweight.
- The base salary for a NASA astronaut is \$50,000 per year.
- The average human eye can distinguish about 500 different shades of gray.
- "E" is the most frequently used letter in the English alphabet; "Q," the least.
- A baseball has exactly 108 stitches
- There are 40,000 traffic intersections in Los Angeles.

The Statue of Liberty weighs 225 tons.

- An Oscar (Academy Award Statuette) weighs seven pounds.
- The typical person goes to the bathroom six times a day.
- The average yawn lasts six seconds.
- One million dollars in pennies (100 million coins) weighs 246 tons.

- Halloween is the biggest holiday of the year when it comes to candy sales—estimated at \$1.93 billion. (One quarter of all the candy sold each year is purchased between September 15 and November 10.)
- 90% of women who walk into a department store immediately turn to the right. No one knows why.
- The average person walks 100,000 miles by the time he/she reaches the age of 85.
- The standard blue U.S. Postal Service mailbox can hold approximately 4,000 letters at a time.
- There are 1,218 peanuts in a single 28-ounce jar of Jif peanut butter.
- Tires under-inflated by as little as five pounds can rob a car owner of as much as half-a-gallon of gas out of every 20 gallons.
- The tonsillectomy is the most common surgical procedure.
- May and June are the most popular months to get married. January is the least popular.
- When a person is wide awake, alert, and mentally active, he/she is still only 25% aware of what various parts of his/her body are doing.
- Smith is the most common last name in the United States. A little over 1% of all Americans share that last name.
- A person swallows approximately 295 times while eating dinner.
- There are approximately 550 hairs in the eyebrow.
- You breathe about 10 million times a year.
- The most sensitive finger on the human hand is the index finger.
- Your body is creating and killing 15 million red blood cells per second.
- The average American eats 35,000 cookies in his/her lifetime.
- The average popping temperature for popcorn is around 347° F.

In Haiti, only one out of every 200 people owns a car.



- One in three American men says he waits until Christmas Eve to finish his holiday shopping.
- Only 51% of South Carolina high school students graduate—the lowest of any state.
- There are about 180 million cell phone subscribers in the United States.
- Americans write about 50 billion checks each year, making it the second most frequent payment method used after cash.
- By the time you are 70, you will have drunk over 12,000 gallons of water.
- The average human dream lasts only 2 to 3 seconds.
- If all the blood vessels in your body were laid end to end, they would reach about 60,000 miles.

A cow's udder needs 345 squirts to yield a gallon of milk.



- Approximately 90% of women wash their hands, while only 75% of men do.
- Abortions are the most common surgical procedures.

Human Interest

- You're born with 300 bones, but by adulthood, you only have 206.
- 13 muscles are used to make a person smile.
- The only part of the human body that has no blood supply is the cornea, which takes its oxygen directly from the air.
- Ovaltine was originally called Ovamaltine. A clerical error forced the name to be changed when the manufacturer registered the name.

Shaquille O'Neal wears size 22 shoes.

- 14 years before the Titanic sank, novelist Morgan Robertson published a novel called *Futility*. The story was about an ocean liner that struck an iceberg on an April night. The name of the ship in his novel was *The Titan*.
- Impotence is grounds for divorce in 24 states in the United States.
- Women wear engagement and wedding rings on the third finger of the left hand because an ancient belief held that a delicate nerve runs directly from that finger to the heart.
- The original purpose of the coffin was to prevent the dearly departed from coming back and haunting the survivors.
- Dueling is legal in Paraguay as long as both parties are registered blood donors.
- In 1221, Genghis Khan killed 1,748,000 people at Nishapur in one hour.
- There are 1,943 names listed in the closing credits of *The Matrix Reloaded*.
- The youngest pope was 11 years old.
- In ancient Greece, tossing an apple to a girl was a traditional proposal of marriage. Catching it meant she accepted.
- All babies are color-blind when they are born.
- Tycoon Donald Trump has never used an ATM.
- The Pittsburgh Steelers were originally called the Pirates.
- Ancient Egyptians could be put to death for mistreating a cat, which is a sacred animal to them.
- Fidel Castro once worked as a Hollywood extra.
- The longest alphabet is Cambodian. It has 74 letters.
- In Atlanta, Georgia, it is illegal to tie a giraffe to a telephone pole or street lamp.
- The rock group U2 was originally called Feedback.
- 60% of Americans can name all Three Stooges. Just 17% can name three Supreme Court judges.
- On average, four people a day call Graceland and ask for Elvis.
- Wonder Woman's bracelets were made of a substance called "feminum."
- President James Monroe spent the last 50 years of his life with a bullet in his shoulder.
- The Three Stooges were originally called Three Lost Souls.
- Despite what many think, the day after Thanksgiving, called "Black Friday" isn't the busiest shopping day of the year: The Friday and Saturday before Christmas are the two busiest shopping days of the year.
- The 1912 Olympics was the last time gold medals were made entirely of gold.
- Dr. Seuss's famous book *Green Eggs and Ham* was the result of a bet that he could not write a book using only 50 words.

Human Interest (continued)

- The gold earrings once worn by pirates and sailors actually served a practical purpose: They covered the cost of a proper burial.
- The Supremes started out as a quartet known as the Primettes.
- A "quinquagenarian" is someone in his/her fifties.
- Robert E. Lee was offered the opportunity to command either side during the Civil War.
- The Incas measured time by how long it took a potato to cook.
- Marilyn Monroe's real name was Norma Jean Mortenson.
- The term "the whole nine yards" came from WWII fighter pilots in the South Pacific. When arming their airplanes on the ground, the .50-caliber machine gun ammo belts measured exactly 27 feet before being loaded into the fuselage. If the pilots fired all their ammo at a target, it got "the whole nine yards."
- The most common name in the world is Mohammed.
- Charles Lindbergh took only four sandwiches with him on his famous transatlantic flight.
- The tool doctors wrap around a patient's arm to measure blood pressure is called a sphygmomanometer.
- If Barbie were life-size, her measurements would be 39-23-33. She would stand seven feet, two inches tall and have a neck twice the length of a normal human's neck.
- Abraham Lincoln's ghost is said to haunt the White House.
- The strongest muscle in the human body is the tongue.

The sound you hear when you put a seashell next to your ear is not the ocean, but blood flowing through your head.



- You share your birthday with at least 9 million other people in the world.
- American Airlines saved \$40,000 in 1987 by taking out an olive from First Class salads.
- The three wealthiest families in the world have more assets than the combined wealth of the 48 poorest nations.
- In high school, Robin Williams was voted "Least Likely to Succeed."
- Leonardo da Vinci spent 12 years painting the lips of the *Mona Lisa*.
- Actor Tommy Lee Jones and former Vice President Al Gore were freshman roommates at Harvard.
- The human thigh bone is stronger than concrete.
- Women blink nearly twice as much as men.
- One individual organ transplant donor can provide organs, bone and tissue for 50 or more people in need.
- The sentence "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog" uses every letter in the English language.
- "Typewriter" is the longest word that can be typed using letters from the same row of keys.
- After the U.S. Civil War, Iowa was the first state to give the vote to African-Americans.
- The electric chair was invented by a dentist.

- The first owner of the Marlboro Company died of lung cancer.

Your foot is nearly the same length as your forearm (measured from the inside of your elbow to wrist).



- Mosquito repellents don't repel: They hide you. The spray blocks the mosquito's sensors so they don't know you're there.
- Dentists have recommended that a toothbrush be kept at least six feet away from a toilet to avoid airborne particles resulting from the flush.
- You burn more calories sleeping than you do watching television.
- Bruce Lee was so fast that they actually had to SLOW a film down so that you could see his moves. That's opposite of the norm.
- Your stomach has to produce a new layer of mucus every two weeks; otherwise, it'll digest itself.
- All cheerleaders were male in 1898. Now, only about 3% are male.
- The cigarette lighter was invented before the match.
- When Play-Doh was first introduced, in 1956, the only color available was off-white.
- Technically speaking, World War II isn't over: There was never a formal peace treaty between Germany and the now-dissolved Soviet Union.
- The original American Express card was purple.
- The colors yellow, red and orange are used in fast-food restaurants because those are the same colors that stimulate a hunger response.
- The adult human brain weighs about 3 pounds.
- The world's youngest parents were 8 and 9 and lived in China in 1910.
- The women of the Tiwi tribe in the South Pacific are married at birth.
- Julius Caesar wore a laurel wreath to cover the onset of baldness.

Numbers

- A 2 x 4 is actually 1 1/2" by 3 1/2".
- It takes 3,000 cows to supply the NFL with enough leather for a year's supply of footballs.
- 315 entries in Webster's 1996 dictionary were misspelled.
- The total amount of money in a standard Monopoly game is \$15,140.
- The numbers on opposite sides of a die add up to seven.
- A bowling pin needs to tilt only 7.5 degrees to fall.
- There are four cars and 11 light posts on the back of a \$10 bill.
- If you have three quarters, four dimes, and four pennies, you have \$1.19 - the largest amount of money in coins without being able to make change for a dollar.
- No piece of paper can be folded in half consecutively more than seven times (doubling factor; you end up folding 2⁷ = 128 sheets of paper).
- A Boeing 747's wingspan is longer than the Wright brothers' first flight.
- A dime has 118 ridges around the edge.
- There are 336 dimples on a regulation golf ball.

- In 10 minutes, a hurricane can expend more energy than all the nuclear weapons in the world combined.
- Measuring 78 feet, Spider-Man is the longest hot-air balloon floating at Macy's Annual Thanksgiving Day Parade.
- If the number 111,111,111 is multiplied by itself, the result is all the digits in ascending to descending order, or 12,345,678,987,654,321.
- If you counted 24 hours a day, it would take you 31,688 years to reach one trillion.
- A "jiffy" is the scientific name for 1/100 of a second.
- If you received all the gifts in the song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas," you'd get 364 presents.
- There are 412 doors in the White House.
- It's estimated that every day, Las Vegas casinos give away \$3 million of freebies (more than \$1 billion per year) just to get customers through their doors.
- The Pentagon has 284 restrooms.
- Halloween costume sales are estimated at \$1.5 billion.



There were 11 tail feathers on the original NBC peacock.

- There are more than 40,000 characters in Chinese script.
- The Eiffel Tower has 1,792 steps.
- There are 31,536,000 seconds in a year.
- From a 52-card deck, it is possible to deal 2,598,960 different five-card poker hands.
- According to the film's animators, you'll see 6,469,952 black spots every time you watch *101 Dalmatians*.
- The number 2,520 can be divided by 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 without having a fractional leftover.
- The moon weighs 81 billion tons.
- Of the 25 highest mountains on earth, 19 are in the Himalayas.
- On a bingo card of 90 numbers, there are approximately 44 million possible ways to make bingo.
- There are 10,000,000 bricks in the Empire State Building.
- You could walk from New York to Boston in less than one million steps.

Word Play

- The dot over the "i" is called a "tittle."
- There are no words in the dictionary that rhyme with the words orange, purple, silver and month.
- Maine is the only state whose name is one syllable.
- The longest one-syllable word in the English language is "screched."
- "Stewardesses" is the longest word typed with only the left hand.
- "Arithmophobia" is the fear of numbers.
- "Alma mater" means "bountiful mother."
- The black lines on a basketball are called the "channels."
- A tune that gets stuck in your head is called an "earworm."
- The name Jeep came from the military abbreviation GP, short for the army's General Purpose Vehicle.
- The space between your eyebrows is called the "Glabella."
- "The sixth sick sheik's sixth sheep's sick" is said to be the toughest tongue twister in English.
- The bumps on a basketball are called "pebbling."
- The only U.S. city that can be spelled entirely with vowels is Aiea, Hawaii.

Word Play, (continued)

- The name of the horse in the timeless holiday song "Jingle Bells" is Bobtail. Hence the line: "Bells on Bobtail ring, making spirits bright."
- Magenta, the red-purple dye and color, was created shortly after the battle of Magenta in northern Italy. The conflict was so bloody that French chemists synthesized the color shortly after the battle and named it after the city because it resembled the color of blood.
- The word "million" didn't exist until around 1300. Until then, the largest number word was "myriad," which was Greek for 10,000.
- "Q" is the only letter that does not appear in the name of any state
- "Unprosperousness" is the longest word in which every letter occurs at least twice.
- Officially, the term "boulder" is applied only to stones larger than 10 inches in diameter.
- All the world's main alphabets have developed from an alphabet invented 3,600 years ago in the Middle East, known as the North Semitic Alphabet.
- "SWIMS" is the longest word with 180-degree rotational symmetry (if you were to view it upside-down, it would still be the same word, and perfectly legible).

Sunbeams that shine down through the clouds at twilight are called "crepuscular" rays.



- Syzygy is the term referring to when the moon is in a direct line with the Earth and the sun. The average person knows this time to be a full or new moon.
- On average, about 500 meteorites strike the surface of the Earth each year. The calculated risk of being struck by a meteorite in the United States is once every 9,300 years.

A new star is born in our galaxy every 18 days.



- The deepest land point on Earth is the area around the Dead Sea in Israel. The Dead Sea is located 1,312 feet below sea level.
- Our sun has an expected lifetime of about 11 billion years.
- According to an old English system of time units, a moment is one-and-a-half minutes.
- The first chimpanzee to travel into space was named Ham. He got the name from the lab he was raised in, the Holloman AeroMedical Laboratory in Alamogordo, NM. Ham flew in a Mercury space capsule in 1961. His trip also proved that space travel was safe for humans.
- For the first two billion years of its existence, the Earth had no life on it whatsoever.
- The Great Red Spot on Jupiter is a hurricane-like storm system. It is large enough that two Earths could fit across it. The Red Spot has been around since at least the early 1600s when it was first detected shortly after the invention of the telescope.
- If you could drive to the sun, at 55 miles per hour, it would take about 193 years.
- A cosmic year is about 225 million years; this is the amount of time it takes the sun to revolve around the center of the Milky Way.
- It takes the Earth exactly 365.24219 days to orbit the sun – and that is why every four years, we need a leap year.
- The first transistor was the size of a golfball. Today, millions can be packed into the size of a postage stamp.
- The oldest rocks collected on the moon during the Apollo program were approximately 4.4 billion years old.

- The microwave was invented after a researcher walked by a radar tube and a chocolate bar melted in his pocket.
- Velcro was invented by a Swiss man who was inspired by the way burrs attached to clothing.
- Sound travels about four times faster in water than in air.
- The average person has 100,000 hairs on his/her head. Each hair grows about 5 inches (12.7 cm) every year.
- The longest cells in the human body are the motor neurons. They can be up to 4.5 feet (1.37 meters) long and run from the lower spinal cord to the big toe.
- A newborn blue whale measures 20-26 feet (6.0 - 7.9 meters) long and weighs up to 6,614 pounds.
- The stegosaurus dinosaur measured up to 30 feet (9.1 meters) long, but had a brain the size of a walnut.
- Just 20 seconds worth of fuel remained when Apollo 11's lunar module landed on the moon.
- Hawaii is moving toward Japan 4 inches every year.
- If you could drive your car straight up, you would arrive in space in just over an hour.
- There are more living organisms on the skin of each human than there are humans on the surface of the Earth.
- Every hour, the universe expands by a billion miles in all directions.
- The International Space Station weighs about 500 tons and is the same size as a football field.
- A dog's sense of smell is 1,000 times more sensitive than a human's.
- Neutron stars are so dense that a teaspoonful would weigh more than all the people on Earth.
- An individual blood cell takes about 60 seconds to make a complete circuit of the body.
- Astronauts cannot belch in space – there is no gravity to separate liquid from gas in their stomachs.
- It takes eight minutes and 17 seconds for light to travel from the sun's surface to the Earth.

"Seizure Alert" dogs can alert their owners up to an hour before the onset of an epileptic seizure.



- When a flea jumps, the rate of acceleration is 20 times that of the space shuttle during launch.
- The longest recorded span for uninterrupted hiccuping is 68 years.
- The oceans contain enough salt to cover all the continents to a depth of nearly 500 feet.

Space/Science

- The planet Saturn has a lower density than water, which means it could float.
- The outside temperature can be determined by counting the number of cricket chirps in 14 seconds and adding 40.
- The moon is one million times drier than the Gobi Desert.
- The space shuttle travels at approximately five miles per second (17,500 miles/hour).
- A dog, brine shrimp and jellyfish have all flown in space.
- Venus rotates so slowly that its typical day lasts approximately 244 Earth days (5,856 hours).

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