

Weird Trivia

This is another part in our mini-series on strange facts. Whoever thought the world was so **awe-inspiring**?

The word "listen" contains the same letters as the word "silent". Coincidence, or what?

All the planets in our solar system **rotate** in an anti-clockwise direction except Venus. It's the only planet that rotates in a clockwise direction. There's always at least one exception to every rule, as you know from studying English.



The only two animals that can see behind themselves without turning their heads are the rabbit and the parrot. Very useful.

Reindeer like to eat bananas.

The longest word in the English language with all the letters in alphabetical order is "almost". Surprise your English teacher with this piece of useful information.

Twenty-four-carat gold is not pure gold since there is a small amount of **copper** in it. Absolutely pure gold is so soft that it can be **moulded** with the hands.



A piece of paper cannot be **folded** more than nine times. Try it!



A hippopotamus can run faster than a man, although not **with such grace**.

The town of Whitby (population 116,000) in Canada has more doughnut shops per capita than any other place in the world. We're sure it's also pretty high on obesity levels, but we can't confirm that.

Canada imports approximately 822 Russian-made hockey sticks... every day!

The **revolving door** was invented in 1888.

The king of hearts is the only king without a **moustache**.

The object that Americans most often **choke on** is the **toothpick**.

A snail can sleep for 3 years. Lucky snail!



The Main Library at Indiana University **sinks** over two and a half centimetres every year. Why? Well, when it was built, engineers **failed to take into account** the weight of all the books. There's always something, isn't there?

And lastly, an interesting question: Is a zebra white with black stripes, or black with white **stripes**? Many zoologists would say that a zebra is white because its stripes end towards the belly and the **belly** is mostly white. However, others would say that a zebra is black because if you shaved all the fur off a zebra the skin is mostly black. So it really depends on how you want to look at it, but we're sure the zebra doesn't really care 🌟

GLOSSARY

- awe-inspiring** *adj* amazing, incredible
- to rotate** *vb* to turn in circles
- a reindeer** *n* an animal that lives in forests in northern Europe. Rudolph is a red-nosed one
- copper** *n* a type of metal used to make coins and wires
- to mould** *vb* if you "mould" a soft substance, you use your hands to make shapes with it
- to fold** *vb* if you "fold" a piece of paper, you bend it so that one part covers another part
- with such grace** *exp* with such smooth, controlled movements
- a revolving door** *n* a door that turns round and round in circles. They are often found in hotel entrances
- a moustache** *n* a line of hair above the mouth and below the nose on the face
- to choke on something** *exp* if you "choke on" something, you cannot breathe because that thing is blocking your throat
- a toothpick** *n* a thin piece of wood used to clean your teeth. Often found in restaurants
- to sink** *vb* to disappear slowly below the surface
- to fail to take X into account** *exp* to forget to consider X
- a stripe** *n* a line of colour different to the main background colour
- a belly** *n* the area in the centre of your stomach

