

A piece of advice from 'The Rules of Dancing', a book from 1529 about dance etiquette: 'Never fart when you are dancing: grit your teeth and compel your arse to hold back the fart.'

In Japan people are increasingly eating crisps and other snacks with chopsticks, so that they don't get grease on their smartphones.

One of the things that let us know when people started making clothes is the fact that between 80,000 and 100,000 years ago head and body lice became two separate species.

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In the 1960s, an exhibition in Sweden displayed paintings by an unknown French avant-garde artist called Pierre Brassau. Critics were impressed, with one saying "Pierre is an artist who performs with the delicacy of a ballet dancer". It was later revealed that Pierre was a chimp.

During WW2 the US developed a bat bomb: a casing that contained 1,000 hibernating bats, each one attached to a tiny, timed incendiary bomb. The plan was for the shell to be released over Japanese cities, where the bats would fly out, take roost in buildings and set them on fire.

So dumb he can't fart and chew gum at the same time. LYNDON JOHNSON on Gerald Ford.

In the 18th century, there was a secret Catholic society called 'Order of the Pug'. Members had to wear dog collars and scratch at the door to be let in.

Colour television was initially developed as a tool to demonstrate operations to medical students. One of the inventors remarked that they measured the quality of the picture by how many of the audience fainted.

Have you ever noticed that anybody driving slower than you is an idiot, and anyone going faster than you is a maniac? GEORGE CARLIN

A million plastic drinks bottles are bought every minute.

Some 17th-century doctors recommended farting in a jar and smelling it to cure the plague.

A study has shown that age-related changes to the brain occur more slowly in women than in men. This means women's brains tend to be more youthful than men's.

In the late 17th century, the librarian of the Vatican wrote a treatise on how Jesus' foreskin ascended to become the rings of Saturn.

In New Zealand, McDonald's Happy Meals no longer come with a toy; instead, the chain is handing out abridged versions of Roald Dahl classics.

Word of the day: ABSQUATULATE - to leave abruptly or in a hurry.

In 16th-century France, women were forbidden from eating artichokes because they were believed to be aphrodisiacs.

The currency of Costa Rica is the colón.

Psychological placebos work as well as pharmaceutical ones: the colour green has been shown to increase people's feelings of well-being, but only if they've previously been told that the colour green will increase their feelings of well-being.

Since 2015, the magnetic north pole has moved toward Siberia at a pace of more than 30 miles (48 kilometres) per year.

Watching videos of either left- or right-asymmetric tail wagging produces different emotional responses in dogs, suggesting that how a dog wags its tail is a form of communication.

In Cameroon there are around 21,000 native speakers of the Bum language.

Humans cannot burp in space.