

According to Mario Puzo, he didn't know what he was doing when he adapted his novel into screenplays for The Godfather I & II. After winning two Oscars he decided to learn the trade properly and bought a book about screenwriting. The first chapter said 'Study Godfather I'.

The University of Glasgow found that the Scots have 421 different words for snow.

'Dirt' was originally 'drit'. By a process known as metathesis the 'i' and 'r' were transposed. The same thing happened to bird (bird), hros (horse) and waps (wasp).

A typical acre of soil contains 400 kg of earthworms, 1000 kg of fungi, 680 kg of bacteria and 400 kg of insects.

From 1946 to 2000, the USA intervened in more than twice as many foreign elections as Russia or the Soviet Union.

In 18th-century America bribing potential voters with free booze was known as 'swilling the planters with bumbo'.

Escalators transport people most efficiently when everybody on them is stood still.

Parrots are able to consume plants and seeds poisonous enough to kill an adult human by eating soil to neutralise the toxins.

Word of the day: ACOSMIST - someone who denies the existence of the universe.

Word of the day: ÍSBÍLTÚR – An Icelandic pastime that involves hopping in your car and buying an ice cream. Literally 'ice-cream road trip'.

I have often wished I had time to cultivate modesty... But I am too busy thinking about myself.
EDITH SITWELL

A federal appeals court in the US has decreed that giving the middle finger to a police officer is protected under the first amendment.

To speed things up at the tills in Britain's first branch of Aldi in 1990, cashiers memorised the price of all 600 items for sale.

I have always been fond of the West African proverb "Speak softly and carry a big stick; you will go far." THEODORE ROOSEVELT

In 1931 it would take workers three days to unload 13,000 cases of unpalleted goods off a ship. With pallets, this same task took four hours

The longer you stay in formal education longer, the longer you're likely to live.

Word of the day: AGREXOPHRENIA – the inability to perform sexually due to the fear of being overheard.

Someone who uses both an Android and an iPhone is a 'bitechsual'.

Since medieval times, people in Scotland had 'porridge drawers' in their kitchen dressers: leftover porridge was poured there, allowed to cool, and could be later cut into slices when cold and eaten over several days.

Last year, Companies House banned 87 company names from becoming registered in the UK for being profane. However, examples that have been accepted in the past include 'Poo Tang Crisps', 'Wankie Properties Ltd' and 'Alan Twatt Potatoes'.

In the 1970s, futurist Herman Kahn predicted that by the year 2000 there would be chest consoles with levers connected to the brain's pleasure centre. He added that you shouldn't play with your own console because that would be depraved.

In the 1970s, Salvador Dali was offered the role of the emperor of the galaxy in a film based on Frank Herbert's 'Dune'. Dali agreed only when promised a salary of \$100,000 per hour, which would have made him the highest-paid actor in Hollywood history. The film never got made.

Some puppies are born green in colour. This happens due to chemicals in the placenta staining the fur.

WORD OF THE DAY: IPSEDIXITISM - a dogmatic assertion; a statement presented as fact without any supporting evidence.