

Discumgalligumfricated is an old American word which means very greatly astonished but pleased

In 1987, the NASDAQ stock market went offline for 82 minutes because of a power outage, losing them roughly 20 million potential trades. The cause? A single squirrel.

Measuring the distance to the Moon is done by bouncing light off a mirror that was placed there in 1969. It is so accurate it is as precise as measuring the distance from New York City to Los Angeles to the nearest 0.25mm.

The first album to receive a 'parental advisory' sticker was Serge Gainsbourg's 'Love on the Beat' (1986). The sticker warned that the album contained 'explicit French lyrics'.

In World War II, Bletchley Park scientists sometimes asked the RAF to lay mines in a specific area. They'd then look out for the name of that area in the ensuing encrypted messages that would inevitably be sent by the Germans, thereby helping them crack the Enigma code.

The Kent town of Sandwich is 2.5 miles from a place called Ham.

A pin-head kept at the same temperature as the centre of the sun would be hot enough to kill humans within a 1000 mile radius.

"We are stuck with technology when what we really want is just stuff that works." DOUGLAS ADAMS

In the 1880s and 1890s, 'dude' was another word for 'dandy'. In 1888, the 'Battle of the Dudes' was won by the New Yorker socialite Evander Berry Wall, 'King of the Dudes', who owned 5,000 neckties and once changed his clothes 40 times between breakfast and dinner.

Word of the day: REALSATIRE (German) - a real event that seems like it should be satire

Word of the day (Japanese): TSUNDOKU - the practice of buying a pile of books and then not getting around to reading them.

In Greek, the phrase "it's all Greek to me" is "Αυτά μου φαίνονται κινέζικα" - "this strikes me as Chinese". In Persian, the language referred to is Japanese, in Slovak it's Spanish, and in Yiddish, it's Turkish.

The fax machine was invented before the telephone.

Each school of clownfish only has one female, who is generally the largest and most dominant fish. When she dies, the most dominant male changes sex to become female and takes her place.

Two terms for one of those afternoons: niffle-naffle: to work in a half-hearted, trifling way.  
spuddle: to make the most trivial task look really important so as not to be caught niffle-naffling.  
(Susie Dent)

In the absence of visual clues (lost in a desert or a forest), people walk in circles as tight as 20m in diameter, believing they are walking in a straight line, nobody knows why.

The most trusted politician in Australia is the Prime Minister of New Zealand, Jacinda Ardern.

It's only when you look at an ant through a magnifying glass on a sunny day that you realize how often they burst into flames. HARRY HILL

Word of the day: FOGGY-TODDLERS (Scots) – bumblebees.

Word of the day: BUMFUZZLE — to confuse and perplex.

The Boring Conference is an annual event held in London to celebrate the mundane and uninteresting. Topics discussed this year included shipping containers, postcards of Battersea Park and tomato ketchup.