

At In Quito, Ecuador, there is a group of vigilantes that wanders the streets at night and corrects any incorrect grammar in graffiti around the city.

Most of us are consuming about 5 grams of plastic in our food and drink every week. That's a credit card's worth of plastic.

In Victorian slang, a man of athletic build might be called a 'double-breasted water-butt smasher'.

in 1974, Liza Minnelli married Jack Haley Jr. - Minnelli's mother was Judy Garland, who played Dorothy in The Wizard of Oz, and Haley's father was Jack Haley, who played the Tin Man.

In 1860 a single order placed by a London 'fine feather' dealer included 6,000 bird of paradise feathers, 40,000 hummingbird feathers and 360,000 feathers from 'various East Indian species'.

The RSPB began in 1889 as a protest organised by the middle-class women of Didsbury against the trade in feathers for fashionable hats.

Always do sober what you said you'd do drunk. That will teach you to keep your mouth shut!  
ERNEST HEMINGWAY

Less than 1% of the population own half the land in England.

Books have the same enemies as people: fire, humidity, animals, weather, and their own content.  
PAUL VALÉRY

'Gruntling' was a 17th century term used for a young pig (as was 'pig' - adult pigs were usually 'swine' until the 19th century).

The frequency of a pig's grunts reveal its personality.

"If you are allergic to a thing, it is best not to put that thing in your mouth, particularly if the thing is cats." LEMONY SNICKET

8,000 years ago, Britain had so many trees that a squirrel could go from John O'Groats to Land's End without touching the ground.

the end of 2018, for the first time in human history, the number of people over the age of 65 surpassed the number of people under 5.

"The years don't make people wise, they just make them old." LADINO PROVERB

No man born in the 1990s has won a men's tennis Grand Slam singles title.

In a 1961 exhibition, the New York Museum of Modern Art accidentally hung a Matisse upside down. No one noticed for 47 days.

Word of the day: SAUCY-HUNGRY (19th century) - not really hungry, but if the food looks good enough, you'll definitely have some...

From 1971 to 2007, the twin towns of Naco, Arizona and Naco, Mexico had a yearly volleyball game over the US-Mexico border fence.

Medieval doctor Ali ibn Isa al-Kahhal suggested that the best cure for migraines was tying a dead mole to one's head.

The bus from Heathrow to Woking is the 'Woking 925'.

In the last 250 years twice as many plant species have gone extinct as bird, mammal, and amphibian species combined.

A study in Washington State found 15% of drivers were 'strongly opposed' to the idea of roundabouts. The most commonly cited reason is 'fear of the unknown'.

Because female sanitary products in Germany are taxed as luxury goods at 19% and books only at 7%, earlier this month a local company protested against the luxury tax by publishing a book about menstruation with 15 tampons inside.

A NASA-funded study has suggested that life on Mars is likely to resemble pasta.

In South Korea, any men who win an Olympic medal are exempt from two years of compulsory military service.

There is enough water in Lake Superior to flood the entire landmass of North and South America to a depth of 30cm.

In the 19th-century, Cuban cigar factory workers paid for 'lectors' to sit and read newspapers, novels and political philosophy to them while they were working.

In the mid 19th-century, the average life expectancy of a textile worker in Bradford was 18 years.

In 1989 the cash-strapped Soviet Union paid Pepsi with 17 submarines and 3 war ships. Pepsi sold these for scrap, but the deal briefly made them owners of the sixth largest military submarine fleet in the world.

In the Middle Ages 'road' or 'way' only meant the direction of travel. A built road was called a street – a Roman word from the same root as 'stretch'