

Welcome to the data sheet for Common Mythconceptions.

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This dataset is twinned with a visualisation from the book, Knowledge is Beautiful by David McCandless (out Sep 2014)

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Thanks

David

Sep 2014

NO! NO! NO! Common misconceptions	remaining text	word count	Google hits	lot of noise (i.e. myth busting) in search result	Google search	category	Source Name	source	source	source	source	source
A Fatwa is an Islamic death sentence	Fatwā means 'non-binding legal opinion'	max 20, min 5	233,000	fatwa "death sentence"		religion	BMJ	http://www.ncbi				
A gene for...	Genes code for proteins, so there are actually no genes 'for' specific characteristics, esp. not psychological ones.	5	375,000,000		https://www.google.com	science	Science and Education	http://link.springer				
A Jihad is a "holy war"	It actually translates as "struggle".	5	1,870,000	jihad is "holy war"		religion	War and Peace in the Law of Islam, by Majid Khadduri	http://books.google	http://www.kunipublishing.com			
Adding salt to water makes it boil more quickly	Adding a sprinkle of salt to fresh water makes only a negligible difference to boiling time	16	11,300,000		https://www.google.com	cooking	Southwest Research Institute	http://www.swri.edu				
Alcohol keeps you warm	Alcohol dilates warm blood vessels near the skin creating the impression of warmth but it can actually drop core body temperature.	21	18,100	y. "alcohol keeps you warm"	https://www.google.com	health	Middlesboro Daily News, About.com	http://news.google	http://firstaid.about.com			
Alcohol kills brain cells	Only in heavy users and alcoholics who rely on alcohol to get most of their calories.	16	393,000	"alcohol kills brain cells"	https://www.google.com	health	Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research, Alcohol & Alcoholism	http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com	http://atcaltc.org			
An "Autism Epidemic"	There's only been an increase in diagnoses of autism, caused by heightened awareness of the ailment, not incidence.	18	1,130,000		https://www.google.com	body	Psychological Medicine	http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov				
Antioxidants are good for us	Antioxidants don't do anything for our health, might actually be harmful. Research shows they have no effect on free-radicals in the body, don't prevent ageing.	25	30,700,000		https://www.google.com	science	Nature	http://www.nature.com				
Apple Macs can't get viruses	Yes they can - just less frequently than Windows computers	10		apple macs can't get viruses		computing	Switched, Betanews	http://www.swiit.com	http://betanews.com			
Bananas grow on trees.	Nope. Bananas actually grow on massive herbs which resemble trees.	10	55,600	y	https://www.google.com	nature	Oxford Dictionaries, Morton, J. 1987. Banana, p. 29-46. In: Fruits of warm climates. Julia F. Morton, Miami, FL.	http://oxforddictionaries.com	http://www.horticulture.com			
Bats are blind.	No. They can see AND use echolocation. Awesome!	8	81,000	y	https://www.google.com	Nature	US Fish and Wildlife	http://web.archive.org	http://www.fishbase.org			
Black belts are masters	Introduced only in 1980, in Judo, to show competency of basic techniques.	12	8,030,000	Black belts are masters - "six sigma"		sport						
Black holes absorb everything	Not really "holes" but hugely dense objects with massive gravitational pull.	11	999,000		https://www.google.com	Science	NASA	http://imagine.gsfc.nasa.gov				
Blood is blue under the skin	Blood is always red, misconception is based on diagrams showing the difference between veins and arteries and human colour perception.	20	84,800	y	https://www.google.com	science	Applied Optics, Michigan State University	https://www.optics.arizona.edu	https://www.msu.edu			
Brainwashing	Hogwash. No evidence that people's minds can be changed against their will	12	5,510,000		https://www.google.com	mind	Mythbusters	http://www.dia.ic.gov.au				
Bulls hate red.	Bulls are colour-blind. They actually react to motion as a perceived threat.	12	7,120	y. "bulls hate the color red"	https://www.google.com	Nature	University of Tennessee	http://wayback.archive.is				
Caffeine dehydrates you	Not really. The diuretic effect of caffeine is offset by the amount of water in the caffeinated drinks.	18	29,400		https://www.google.com	health	Journal of Human Nutrition and Dietetics, Exercise and Sports Science Review	http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com	http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov			
Catching warts from toads	Warts are unique to humans. Toads don't have them.	9	121,000	warts from toads		disease	Burke Museum	http://www.burke.museum				
Chastity Belts	Not used to prevent a wife's adultery in medieval times. Instead invented by 19th century prudish to prevent 'dangerous' masturbation.	20	35,100		https://www.google.com	history	BBC	http://news.bbc.co.uk				
Chemical Imbalance	Simplistic. Thank pharma for the idea that major depression is caused by an imbalance of neurotransmitters like serotonin.	17	1,580,000		https://www.google.com	mind	Society	http://link.springer.com				
Chewing gum takes 7 years to digest	It is indigestible, but passes straight through.	7	46,300	y. "chewing gum" "7 years to digest"	https://www.google.com	health	Scientific American	http://www.sciencemag.org				
Cooking removes alcohol	Partly true. But studies show not all burns off.	9	16,300		https://www.google.com	Cooking	NY Times	http://dinersjournal.com				
Different parts of the tongue taste different tastes	There is no 'map', and there are 5 primary tastes: bitter, sour, salty, sweet and umami (savoury/meaty).	17	268,000	y	https://www.google.com	science	Nature, Geoffrey Campbell-Platt "Food Science and Technology"	http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov	http://books.google.com			
Dogs sweat by salivating	They regulate temperature through panting but sweat through footpads.	9	1,280,000		https://www.google.com	Nature	BMJ (Disproved in 1899!)	http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov				
Don't touch baby birds!	Birds have a limited sense of smell. Probably more harmful to leave them to the cats but it's all relative.	20	154,000		https://www.google.com	nature	Knox News, Snopes, Scientific American	http://www.knoxnews.com	http://www.snopes.com	http://www.sciencemag.org		
Drink 8 glasses of water a day!	Not necessary for everyone, subjective and dependent on individual weight, environment, what you're wearing and more.	16	2,420,000		https://www.google.com	health	NPR, Die Zeit	http://www.npr.org	http://www.zeitung.de			
Dropping a penny from a tall building could kill someone	Terminal velocity is 30-50mph which isn't fast enough. It would hurt though.	12	1,870,000	drop penny kill someone		physics	ABC	http://www.abc.com	http://abcnews.com			
Eating before swimming is dangerous	Doesn't increase risk of cramps; alcohol is the biggest increase in risk.	12	7,460,000	y. "...eating before swimming" cramps or dangerous	https://www.google.com	health	NY Times	http://www.nytimes.com				
Edison invented the lightbulb	He made the first practical lightbulb, but it was obsolete within a year. England's Joseph Swan patented a design before him.	21	1,510,000	edison invented light bulb		technology - inventions	Smithsonian Institution	http://americanhistory.si.edu				
Einstein failed maths	Nope. He failed an entrance exam for a school, two years early, and still excelled in maths.	17	2,130,000	y	https://www.google.com	history	TIME	http://content.time.com				
Elementary My Dear Watson	Not in the original stories. First used in the 1929 film.	11	329,000	"elementary my dear watson"		literature	Agnieszka Jasnowska: Elementary, My Dear Watson: The Case of Masculinity in the Sherlock Holmes Stories	http://leeds.ac.uk	http://www.snopes.com			
Evolution is always creating more complex organisms	Not always a simple to complex progression; sometimes a smaller genome will be evolved, but 'devolution' is a misnomer.	19	10,200	evolution "towards complexity"		science/nature	Scientific American, Cell	http://www.sciencemag.org	http://www.cell.com			
Evolution is just a "theory"	In science, the word theory means something more than a conjecture	11	899,000	y	https://www.google.com	science/nature	University of Montana, American Institute of Biological Sciences, University of California - Berkeley	http://evolved.drb.org	http://www.msu.edu	http://evolution.berkeley.edu		
Flushed water rotates the otherway in the Southern Hemisphere	The Coriolis effect, induced by the Earth's rotation, does not affect the small amounts of water in toilets, bathtubs.	19	1,850,000	flushed water southern hemisphere		physics	The Library of Congress	https://www.loc.gov	http://www.straightdope.com	http://memory.loc.gov		
George Washington smoked cannabis	He grew hemp to make rope and clothes but there's no evidence to suggest he smoked a fatty most nights.	20	1,460,000		https://www.google.com	drugs	The Straight Dope, George Washington Diaries	http://www.straightdope.com	http://memory.loc.gov			
Get "Closure"	No evidence this mythical 'emotional end state is ever' achieved by victims of trauma, bereavement or loss.	17	33,400,000		https://www.google.com	mind	The International Journal of Transitional Justice	http://ijl.oxfordjournals.org				
Glass is a liquid	Has both solid and liquid properties. "This is why stained glass windows are thicker at the bottom" Not true though. Bad manufacturing process is the cause.	26	1,060,000	y. "glass is a liquid"	https://www.google.com	science	NY Times, American Journal of Physics	http://www.nytimes.com	http://www.ajph.org			
Goldfish memory span	While not the smartest in the animal kingdom, Goldfish do boast a better memory than most politicians.	17	38,700	y. "goldfish" "short memory"	https://www.google.com	nature	ABC, The Times	http://www.abc.com	http://www.thetimes.co.uk			
Great Wall of China visible from Space	Myth.	1	1,110,000	y	https://www.google.com	Science	NASA	http://www.nasa.gov				
Hair & fingernails grow after death	The skin dries and shrinks away, giving the appearance of growth	11	9,850	y	https://www.google.com	health	Graham-Brown, Robin; Tony Burns (2007). Lecture Notes on Dermatology. Blackwell, p.6	http://books.google.com	http://www.cbc.ca	http://www.qlac.com		
Hair products can "repair" your hair	Nothing can fix split ends or damaged hair. They can prevent damage and make hair look better though.	18	1,800,000		https://www.google.com	health	Cold Spring Harbour Laboratory	http://www.cshl.org				
Hard-wired	The brain is actually inebriably fluid & plastic. So virtually no psychological capacities are 'hard-wired' from birth.	17	23,400,000		https://www.google.com	mind		https://www.dna.com				
Henry Ford invented the car	He just improved the design, mostly by supporting the work of his employees.	13	2,870,000		https://www.google.com	technology - inventions	My Forty Years with Ford by Charles E. Sorenson	http://books.google.com	http://ccn.ny.gov			
Houseflies live for 24 hours	Average lifespan is actually about a month. Maggots hatch within 24 hours.	12	55,600		https://www.google.com	nature	Forest Preserve District of Cook County, North Carolina Pest Management Program	http://www.ncsu.edu	http://ipm.ncsu.edu			
Human brains are special because they're huge	There might be other reasons why human brains are unique, but focusing on size ignores important possibilities.	17	34,500,000		https://www.google.com	science	Nature	http://www.nature.com				
Humans and dinosaurs co-existed	Despite 59% of US adults thinking they did, we actually missed each other by ~63 million years.	17	259,000	y	https://www.google.com	science/nature	Science Daily	http://www.sciencedaily.com				
Humans evolved from chimpanzees	No - they are our closest living genetic relatives, along with bonobos. A shared ancestor last lived 5-8 million years ago.	21	300,000		https://www.google.com	science/nature	PBS, National Geographic, Wilson & Reeder's Mammal Species of the World (3rd ed.)	http://www.pbs.org	http://news.natlgeog.com	http://www.bbc.com	http://news.sciencemag.org	
If you've used LSD, you're legally insane.	Urban myth	2	898,000		https://www.google.com	drugs	DEA, Erowid, Snopes.com	http://www.justice.gov	http://www.erowid.org	http://www.snopes.com		

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		max 20, min 5										
Immaculate Conception means Virgin Birth	Separate ideas. Immaculate conception means Mary was not subject to original sin. Virgin birth means Mary miraculously conceived. Never were medieval torture devices. But 18th century fakes created for sensational circuses.	18	118,000	"immaculate conception" NEAR "virgin birth"		religion	BBC	http://www.bbc.com				
Iron Maidens	Never were medieval torture devices. But 18th century fakes created for sensational circuses.	13	414,000		https://www.google.co.uk	history	Graff, Klaus.	http://web.archive.org				
Islamic matryrs receive 72 virgins	Nowhere in the Qur'an, but is reported elsewhere, but is a matter of debate.	14	2,270,000	72 virgins		religion	Guardian	http://www.guardian.co.uk				
Jesus was born on December 25th	December 25 was declared official celebration date in 350CE. Could be guesstimate based on conception, or winter solstice, or Yule.	20	8,230,000	Jesus born 25th December		religion	BBC	http://www.bbc.com				
Lie detector	No such machine. A polygraph test detects arousal, not lies. And can be easily faked.	15	3,510,000		https://www.google.co.uk	law	American Psychological Association	http://psynet.org				
Lightning never strikes twice	No reason why it wouldn't. The Empire State building gets struck about 100 times per year.	16	945,000	"lightning never strikes twice"		physics	The National Severe Storms Laboratory	http://www.nssl.noaa.gov				
Lincoln freed all slaves	He instigated the process but full abolition didn't occur until three years later after the Emancipation Proclamation.	17	4,080,000	y	https://www.google.co.uk	history	Time Magazine	http://www.time.com				
LSD stays in the spinal fluid for years	LSD is eliminated by the body in under 10 hours.	10	39,000	LSD spinal fluid		drugs	Erowid, Medscape, PubMed	http://www.erowid.org	http://emedicine.medscape.com	http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov		
Marijuana is a gateway drug	Most pot users don't go on to harder drugs. Those who do are probably influenced by social and other factors. It's not been measured. But is greatly exaggerated.	20	767,000		https://www.google.co.uk	drugs	UK Govt., Substance Use and Misuse	http://www.drugscotland.gov.uk	http://www.land.gov.uk			
Men think about sex every 7 seconds	In most people, just a placebo effect. There's no need to avoid dairy if you have a cold.	8	309,000	y, "men think about sex every 7 seconds"	https://www.google.co.uk	sex	LiveScience, The Times	http://www.livescience.com	http://www.thetimes.co.uk			
Milk increases mucous	In most people, just a placebo effect. There's no need to avoid dairy if you have a cold.	18	10,100	dairy "increases mucus"		disease	The American Review of Respiratory Disease	http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov				
Missing Persons Reports	Police do not demand a 24 hour period before they accept a missing persons report, especially if violence is involved.	20	634,000	y	https://www.google.co.uk	Law	Augusta Chronicle, UK Govt., AU Govt., Canadian Centre for Child Protection, Canadian Centre for Information on Missing Adults	http://chronicle.com	http://www.gov.au	http://www.missing.gov.au	https://missing.gov.uk	http://missing.gov.au
Most body heat is lost through the head	Only in infants. Or if the head is the only uncovered part of the body.	15	434,000	What % is normally lost through the head under normal conditions?	https://www.google.co.uk	health	Anesthesiology, The Guardian, BMJ	http://journals.lww.com	http://www.guardian.co.uk	http://adc.bmj.com		
MSG causes headaches	Correction: new research has shown MSG might indeed cause headaches.	10	1,850,000		https://www.google.co.uk	Science	Tarasoff L, Monosodium L-glutamate: A double-blind study and review	http://www.sciencedirect.com				
Mussolini's trains ran on time	Fascist propaganda. They did run on time but only because of work done before his reign.	16	141,000	y	https://www.google.co.uk	history	The Independent	http://www.independent.co.uk				
Napoleon was short	A tall tale. At 5'7", he was actually above average height for a Frenchman of the time.	17	33,400,000		https://www.google.co.uk	history	Napoleon Foundation	http://www.napoleon.org				
Oil stops pasta sticking	Does not prevent sticking. But it can stop the water foaming or boiling over.	14	5,200,000		https://www.google.co.uk	Cooking	Fine Cooking	http://www.finecooking.com				
Pilgrims wore all black	Nope. They sported late Elizabethan in-colours: reds, yellows, purples and greens. And no buckle hats!	15	1,490,000	y	https://www.google.co.uk	history	Plimoth Plantation Museum	http://www.plimoth.com				
Planes dump toilet waste at high altitude	They're emptied on ground. Blue ice is caused accidentally. Trains used to dump on the tracks, though. Dirty trains.	19	3,700,000	plane dump toilet		transportation	HowStuffWorks, WSJ	http://science.howstuffworks.com	http://blogs.wsj.com			
Refreezing Food = Bad	Whether raw or cooked, as long as the food was thawed and hasn't spoiled, it's okay to refreeze.	24	111,000		https://www.google.co.uk	food	NY Times	http://well.blogs.nytimes.com				
Rule of thumb	Exception: defrosted raw meat or fish. Not from a law allowing a man to hit his wife with a stick no thicker than his thumb.	19	1,040,000	y, "Rule of thumb" beating women	https://www.google.co.uk	Etymology	Jennifer Freyd and JQ Johnson, University of Oregon	http://dynamic.uoregon.edu				
Sailer vs Mozart	They were friends with a little rivalry. Nothing more.	9	5,230		https://www.google.co.uk	history	NY Times	http://www.nytimes.com				
Satan rules Hell	Doesn't say this anywhere in the Bible.	7	36,600,000	Satan hell		religion	Jehovah's Witnesses	http://www.jw.org				
Schizophrenia is multiple personalities	Etymologically, it means "split-mind", but dissociative "multiple personality" disorders are different.	11	80	schizophrenia "multiple personalities"	https://www.google.co.uk	psychology	National Alliance on Mental Illness	http://www.nami.org				
Scientific Proof	Proof is incompatible with science which is, by its nature, provisional and self-correcting. Only Maths has proofs.	17	243,000,000		https://www.google.co.uk	science	School Science and Mathematics	http://online.litlibrary.com				
Searing meat seals in moisture.	Nope. It's for flavour.	4	19,100	y	https://www.google.co.uk	Cooking	Guardian	http://www.guardian.co.uk				
Seasons are caused by the Earth's distance from the Sun.	They're actually related to the 23 degree tilt of the Earth's axis.	12	5,070	y	https://www.google.co.uk	Science	NASA	http://ftp.gssc.nasa.gov				
Sex reduces athletic performance	No physiological basis to this, could even help male athletes because of increased testosterone.	14	27,400	sex "before athletic performance"		sex	Nature, National Geographic	http://www.nature.com	http://news.nationalgeographic.com			
Sharks don't get cancer.	Oh yes they do. Particularly skin cancer.	7	121,000	y	https://www.google.co.uk	nature	Cancer Research	http://cancerres.org				
Shaving your hair makes it thicker	Regrown hair isn't thicker, coarser, or darker, it just appears so because it's no longer tapered.	16	43,500	y	https://www.google.co.uk	beauty	Snopes, Mayoclinic	http://snopes.com	http://www.mayoclinic.org			
Single genes exist for different personality traits	Gross oversimplification; there is no 'gay gene' etc.	8	388,000	"the gene for" personality traits	https://www.google.co.uk	genetics	The Year in Cognitive Neuroscience, Guardian, BBC News	http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov	http://www.guardian.co.uk	http://www.bbc.com	http://news.bbc.com	
Sleeping with an electric fan can be deadly	Big myth in Korea. Very unlikely.	6	159,000	y	https://www.google.co.uk	science	Korea Consumer Protection Board, JoongAng Daily, Esquire	http://web.archive.org	http://web.archive.org	http://www.esquire.com		
Some people have a photographic memory	No hard scientific evidence, but memory that mimics a camera is unlikely. Some people just have great memories	18	1,700,000	"photographic memory"		psychology	Indianpublicmedia.org, Slate	http://indianpublicmedia.org	http://www.slate.com			
Steep Learning Curve	Actually means a skill that is easy and quick to learn. Think about it. The curve judges up and up.	18	7,770,000		https://www.google.co.uk	mind	Postgraduate Medical Journal	http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov				
Sugar makes children hyperactive	Studies have disproved this. ADHD still occurs in children with sugar-free diets.	12	4,400	y	https://www.google.co.uk	health	BMJ, Fullerton-Smith, Jill (2007). The Truth About Food. Bloomsbury. pp. 115–117.	http://www.bmj.com	http://books.google.com			
Sushi is raw fish	Lost in translation. Sushi means 'sour rice' and does not always feature fish. Sashimi means 'raw' - but isn't just fish.	21	63,100	difficult accurate search	https://www.google.co.uk	Cooking	Baltimore Sun, Japan Guide	http://articles.baltimoresun.com	http://www.japan-guide.com			
The 'Dark Ages'	The period between the decline of the Roman Empire and the Renaissance was not that dark or backward. An historical cliché.	21	5,940,000		https://www.google.co.uk	history	National Review	http://www.nationalreview.com				
The 5 Second Rule	Amount of bacteria transferred to fallen food depends on how contaminated the floor is, not how long the food stays there.	18	96,000,000		https://www.google.co.uk	food	Journal of Applied Microbiology	http://online.litlibrary.com				
The First Thanksgiving	Celebrations were recorded 50 years before the first Thanksgiving at Plymouth Colony.	12	1,160,000		https://www.google.co.uk	history	NY Times	http://www.nytimes.com	http://www.history.com			
The Left and right brains have different capabilities	No solid functional division; some functions activate some areas more than others. Left brain can learn "right brain" functions and vice-versa.	21	2,600,000	"left brain" "right brain" different		brain	Neuroscience Nature reviews	http://www.nature.com	http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov			
The Oceans are blue because they reflect the sky	Nope. Absorption and scattering of light causes blue colour	9	644	oceans blue "reflect sky"		physics	Journal of Chemical Education, Physics Today	http://inside.mtu.edu	http://www.phy.uconn.edu			
The Vomitorium	Not a room Romans used during Bacchanalian binges but the name for the entrance to a stadium. Vomiting was not a regular part of Roman dining customs.	27	14,800		https://www.google.co.uk	history	McKown, J.C. (2010). A Cabinet of Roman Curiosities: Strange Tales and Surprising Facts from the World's Greatest Empire	http://books.google.com				
There is no gravity on the International Space Station	Gravity is everywhere. Earth's gravity is pretty strong on the ISS - NASA says a person who weighs 100lb on earth still weighs 90lb there.	25	1,540,000		https://www.google.co.uk	science	NASA	http://www.nasa.gov				
Thomas Crapper invented "crap"	Actually it's Latin for chaff.	5	40,400	y	https://www.google.co.uk	Etymology	Online Etymology Dictionary	http://www.etymonline.com				
Three Wise Men visited Jesus	Nowhere in the Bible does it specify this. A mash up of Matthew 2 and Isaiah 60:1-3. "The wise men visited Jesus as a child, in a house".	28	1,250,000	"Three wise men" in Bible		religion	Snopes	http://www.snopes.com	http://en.wikipedia.org			
Tongue-rolling is genetic	A famous 1940 paper claimed tongue rolling was at least partially genetic. Another famous 1975 paper refuted this. The debate still hasn't been settled.	24	60,600		https://www.google.co.uk	body	The Journal of Heredity	http://hered.oxfordjournals.org				
US Constitution written on hemp	Written on parchment, despite the best efforts of stoner revisionists to convince you otherwise.	14	417,000		https://www.google.co.uk	history	Library of Congress (Quoted)	http://philosophy.libraries.org				
Vaccines causes autism	Fraudulent research that's been shown as manipulated.	7	213,000	"vaccines and autism"		brain	BMJ	http://www.bmj.com				

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		max 20, min 5										
Vegetarians can't get enough protein	Protein in eggs, beans, vegetables is easily enough. Vegans need B-12 supplements though.	13	215,000	y, "vegetarians" can't get enough protein	https://www.google.co	health	Today's Dietician, Physician's Committee for Responsible Medicine, American Council on Exercise	http://www.todai	http://www.pcm	http://www.ace		
Viking's Horned Helmets	Created by a costume designer for a 19th century Wagner opera.	11	36,800		https://www.google.co	history	Frank, Roberta. The Invention of the Viking Horned Helmet	http://www.scrib				
Waking sleepwalkers is dangerous	No, but they'll be really confused. Sleepwalkers are more likely to hurt themselves if they're not awoken.	17	941,000	y	https://www.google.co	health	MedicineNet, National Sleep Foundation	http://www.med	http://www.slee			
Washington's wooden teeth	A much more hygienic mix of gold, ivory, lead and horse and donkey teeth. No wood.	16	41,400	y	https://www.google.co	history	MSNBC/Smithsonian	http://www.msn				
Water conducts electricity	Water itself is actually an insulator. It's also a great solvent. The substances it dissolves (salt etc.) contain ions, which do conduct electricity.	23	28,400,000		https://www.google.co	science	The USGS Water Science School	http://water.usgs				
We have 5 senses	We actually have close to 20 including balance, pain, movement, hunger, thirst, etc.	13	507,000		https://www.google.co	science	Discovery Health, Harvard	http://ic.howstu	http://hms.harv			
We only use 10% of our brains	Metaphor that's been misunderstood; not all neurons are always firing, but inactive cells are still important.	16	123,000	"10% of our brain"		brain	Skeptical Inquirer	http://www.csic				
You can get high from banana peel	A hoax, perpetuated through the Internet.	6	3,390,000		https://www.google.co	drugs	NY Times, Straight Dope	http://eastvillag	http://www.stra			
You have to say if you're a cop	US Police working entrapment law do not have to identify themselves. A hollywood-induced myth.	14	436,000		https://www.google.co	Law	National Criminal Justice Review, Law Blog, Snopes	https://www.ncj	http://www.snop	http://lawblog.i		
Birth order has an effect on personality	Correction: a black hole "is" a hole in the metric of space time from which light cannot escape. But it is not a portal to another dimension. Thanks to Martin Vasmataz.	31	2,270,000		https://www.google.co	science	Mainz and Leipzig universities					
Using your cellphone on a plane is dangerous	Birth order has a minor effect on intelligence, but not on personality traits.	13	629,000		https://www.google.co	science	Forbes	https://www.untl				
Cellphones at gas stations could trigger explosions	Handheld devices have no impact on planes' communication & navigation equipment.	11	1,150,000		https://www.google.co	science	Federal Communications Commission	http://www.forbe				
Your eyes will pop out if you sneeze with them open	Scientific testing has discovered no link between cellphones and gas station explosions.	12	95,300		https://www.google.co	science	Penn State	https://www.fcc				
Killer brace position	There is no mechanism that would allow a sneeze to push your eyeballs out.	14	90,800		https://www.google.co	science	Telegraph	https://sites.psu				
Pre-workout stretching	The brace position really is your best chance at surviving an air crash.	13	183,000	"pre-workout stretching"	https://www.google.co	body	Cochrane Review	http://www.telsg				
Drink 8 glasses of water daily	Won't stop you from aching later & could actually make your workout less effective	14	447,000	"8 glasses of water"	https://www.google.co	body	British Journal of Nutrition, Clinical Dermatology, Nephrology Dialysis Transplantation	http://onlinelibra	http://onlinelibr			
Can't refreeze raw meat	Drinking that much doesn't make healthy people any healthier.	9	220,000		https://www.google.co	food	USDA	https://academic	https://www.ncj	https://www.nc		
Waving your phone in the air gets you a better signal	It's fine as long as it was thawed in the fridge	11			https://www.google.co	science	The Verge	http://www.usda				
	Does not improve your phone signal. In fact it makes it worse, and makes you look like an idiot.	19						https://www.they				