

# Trivia

The longest cells in the human body are the motor neurons. They can be up to 4½ feet long and run from the lower spinal cord to the big toe.

Investor, entrepreneur, and philanthropist Warren Buffett began his illustrious career by collecting and selling lost golf balls.

The Bible contains 32 references to dogs. There are no references to cats.

The official motto of New Hampshire, *Live Free or Die*, is printed on its license plates which are made at the state prison.

The human body has enough fat to produce seven bars of soap.

The word "nerd" comes from Dr. Seuss, who first used the term in his 1950's book *If I Ran the Zoo*.

A racehorse from the early 1900's named Lolly Pop provided the inspiration for the lollipop candy name.

Before becoming a dictator, Fidel Castro was a baseball pitcher for the University of Havana law school.

The cucumber is considered a fruit, not a vegetable.

The brain requires more than 25% of the oxygen used by the human body.

Fish sometimes cough underwater.

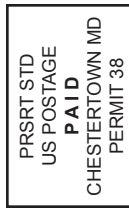
Chicago O'Hare Airport is abbreviated ORD because it was once called Orchard Field and the shorthand stuck.

One in four people has more than 1,000 taste buds per square centimeter.

Leo Tolstoy, author of *War and Peace*, left all his possessions to the stump of a tree.

It took 1,700 years to build the Great Wall of China.

*(The Book of Bizarre Truths)*



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## Dates in History

- 1565** The first Catholic settlement in America was founded by Spaniard Don Pedro Menendez de Aviles at St. Augustine, Florida on September 8, 1565.
- 1698** Charles Francois de Cisternay DuFay, born September 14, 1698, was a French chemist who studied the force of repulsion and noted that most things could be electrified just by rubbing them, and that materials conduct better when wet.
- 1715** King Louis XIV, the "Sun King of France," who came to the throne at age 4, died September 1, 1715 after a reign of 72 years - the longest of any major European monarch.
- 1810** Chilean Creole leaders, sick of poor Spanish government and the French takeover of Spain, declared a provisional independence. Count Mateo de Toro y Zambrano was elected to serve as the head of a ruling junta. September 18 is celebrated in Chile as Independence Day.
- 1859** On September 13, 1859, California senator David Broderick established a record that is unlikely to ever be broken - or repeated, for that matter: He became the only sitting senator to be killed in a duel.
- 1947** With the implementation of the National Security Act of 1947, the Army Air Forces became the United States Air Force as a separate and equal element of the United States Armed Forces on September 18.
- 2001** The worst terrorist attack in U.S. history occurred as four large passenger jets were hijacked then crashed, killing nearly 3,000. Four separate teams of Mideast terrorists, operating from inside the U.S., boarded the morning flights posing as passengers, then forcibly commandeered the aircraft.

(Book of Bizarre Truths, [thoughtco.com](http://thoughtco.com) and [historyplace.com](http://historyplace.com))

## On the Lighter Side

6:30 is the best time on a clock... hands down.

Did you hear about the mathematician who was afraid of negative numbers? He'd stop at nothing to avoid them.

I was teaching a life-skills class to my high school students one day, and we were discussing the various terms one might encounter in a restaurant. I asked, "What does the phrase 'à la carte' mean?" "It means," a student said, "you're in the wrong restaurant."

What starts with a P, ends with an E, and has thousands of letters? The Post Office.

How many seconds are there in one year? Twelve: January 2nd, February 2nd, March 2nd, April 2nd, May 2nd, June 2nd, July 2nd, August 2nd, September 2nd, October 2nd, November 2nd, December 2nd.

I put all my spare cash into an origami business. It folded.

Flummoxed by his true-false final exam, a student decides to toss a coin up in the air. Heads means true; tails, false. Thirty minutes later, he's done, well before the rest of the class. But then the student starts flipping the coin again. And soon he's swearing and sweating over each question.

"What's wrong?" asks the concerned teacher.

"I'm rechecking my answers," says the student.

Students in a Harvard English 101 class were asked to write a concise essay containing four elements: religion, royalty, sex and mystery. The only A+ in the class read: "My God," said the Queen, "I'm pregnant! I wonder who did it."

A friend of mine tried to annoy me with bird puns, but I soon realized that toucan play at that game.

(rd.com)