TOP 15 FACTS THAT ARE ACTUALLY FICTION

Contrary to popular belief, Ostriches don't bury their heads in sand

Shaving makes hair grow back thicker
Hair is dead tissue so shaving cannot have any effect on the shape or size of the follicles from which the hair grows. If this deceived wisdom were true bald men would shave their heads regularly in order to remedy their lack of cranial hirsuteness.

Water goes down the plughole anticlockwise in the northern hemisphere
The Coriolis effect is a force caused by the rotation of the Earth which turns anticlockwise as you look down on it with the North Pole at the "top". Water drains down plugholes too quickly and over too short a distance for the Coriolis effect to influence the direction of the flow. Experiments have shown that the shape of the sink or bath, together with any initial swirling control, is what determines the direction of flow down the plughole and the flow can be in either direction in either hemisphere.

Eating cheese before bedtime won't

Reading by dim light will permanently damage your eyesight
Reading in dim light might cause eye strain, make you feel tired or cause your eyes to feel dry because you will blink less. This will overload the sensory nerve of your eyes, or the retina, to compensate for the lack of light.

Vertigo is a fear of heights
Despite the visual assertions of the eponymous Hitchcock movie, vertigo is not a fear of heights. It is a form of dizziness in which suffers experience a feeling of movement even when entirely stationary. It is usually caused by a problem with the balance centres of the inner ear and can cause both nausea and vomiting in sufferers.

Hair and fingernails continue to grow after you die
Hair and fingernails require there to be living cells in the hair follicles and in the bed of the fingernails if they are to grow. As with all the other cells in a corpse, these cells die when the person dies. For several days after death the skin and tissues of a body dry out and shrink so that largely dead tissues such as hair and nails may appear to protrude more from the follicles and fingers but this process is not actual growth.

You need less sleep as you get older
Unfortunately this is not the case. You need as much sleep as you need and that does not gel less as you get older. But what often happens is that you begin to suffer from insomnia or aches and pains that prevent you from falling into a deep sleep. Staying up late and rising early is a common way of avoiding a restless and uncomfortable night rather than an indication that you no longer need the same amount of sleep.

Eating cheese before bedtime gives you nightmares
It is often said that eating cheese before bedtime will lead to a flatulence prone full of bad dreams. Although this is not the case, cheese can cause constipation, which can lead to a restless night.
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It is often said that eating cheese before bedtime will lead to a night's sleep full of good dreams. In 2005 the British Cheese Board attempted to overturn this by giving 200 willing volunteers different cheeses to eat and asking them to report on whether they then had nightmares. The volunteers reported weird and colourful dreams but no nightmares. Slightly more independent research suggests that the amino acid tryptophan present in milk proteins in small quantities actually improves sleep though the amount present in cheese is far less than in meat. So choose before bedtime - while not likely to cause nightmares, won’t help you to sleep any better than other foods.

Swallow chewing gum and it will get stuck in your gut for seven years
Thankfully not. Gum will pass through the gut just as quickly as any other indigestible foodstuff. While chewing gum and bubblegum may seem like fairy modern inventions humans have been chewing the rubbery, resinous latex sap from certain species of tree for thousands of years and although modern gum often uses synthetic rubber it will still pass through you if you accidentally swallow it. There is a small risk of compacted chewing gum building up in the gastrointestinal tract - which has been seen in small children who have swallowed five or six pieces of gum every day for many weeks or months but this occurrence is extremely rare.

Lightning never strikes the same spot twice
The maintenance team at the Empire State Building in New York will testify that their building is struck by lightning at least 25 times each year. Other high points on the landscape suffer an equally discouraging succession of bolts from the skies and there are several reports of people who have survived multiple strikes. Worldwide there are about 30 lightning strikes that reach the ground every second. It is perhaps therefore not surprising that lightning strikes the same place more than twice relatively frequently.

Creams can banish cellulite
There are plenty of lotions and potions that are marketed as being useful for getting rid of cellulite. Sadly for those who part with their hard-earned cash to buy them these products do not work.

Cellulite is not actually a substance in the body and is not even fat. It is simply dimpling of the skin caused by the irregularities in the fat lying underneath, the so-called subcutaneous fat. It arises in the same way that depressions appear in a damp cotton handkerchief when draped over a cauliflower.

Goldfish have a 30-second memory
This has been debunked on several occasions by scientists and others who have trained goldfish to swim through mazes, push levers to obtain food and carry out other tasks. If their memory lasted only a few seconds they simply wouldn’t remember the route or what to do to get the food.

You can see the Great Wall of China from the Moon
You can see the Great Wall, motorways and even office blocks from low-earth orbit. Astronauts have taken photos to prove it. However the Moon is about 370,000 kilometres from the Earth. It does not matter how long the wall is. At that distance a structure as narrow as the Great Wall (a mere five metres at its widest) is well below the resolution of the human eye. Even with the most powerful telescope, five metres is too small to discern from here on Earth.

Your fingers go ‘pruney’ after a long bath because they absorb water
Until recently it was assumed that the reason your fingers and toes wrinkle up when you are in the bath or go swimming is that water is absorbed by the skin and this causes the different skin layers to buckle. However since 1935 scientists have known that the fingers of people with damage to the median nerve do not go pruney.

Researcher Mark Changizi has put forward a theory that the wrinkled theory effect is a reaction by the brain to our being wet which makes us fingers and feet wrinkle up to get a better grip on surfaces.

The children’s nursery rhyme Ring-a-ring O’ Roses refers to the symptoms of the Black Death and dates from the 14th century

The symptoms of the bubonic plague are neither sneezing nor rosie patches on the skin but bubes. There is no evidence that children were singing the rhyme until the middle of the 16th century.

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At first I thought this was another one of Camilla Tomneys cut and pastes.
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Useless Facts WWW

Just think how you can amaze your friends with knowledge of the insane!
Rubber bands last longer when refrigerated.
The national anthem of Greece has 158 verses. No one in Greece has memorized all 159 verses.
There are 233 ways to make change for a dollar.
The average secretary's left hand does 56% of the typing.
A shark is the only fish that can blink with both eyes.
There are more chickens than people in the world (at least before that chicken flu thing).
Two-thirds of the world's eggplant is grown in New Jersey.
The longest unbreakable word in the English language is "pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanoconiosis."
All of the clocks in the movie "Pulp Fiction" are stuck on 4:20.
No word in the English language rhymes with "month, orange, silver or purple."
"Dreamt" is the only English word that ends in the letters "mt.
All 50 states are listed across the top of the Lincoln Memorial on the back of the $5 bill.
Almonds are members of the peach family.
Winston Churchill was born in a ladies' room during a dance.
Mane is the only state whose name is just one syllable.
There are only four words in the English language which end in "dous": tremendous, horrendous, stupendous, and hazardous.
Los Angeles' full name is "El Pueblo de Nuestra Señora La Reina de los Ángeles de Porciúncula." And can be abbreviated to 3.63% of its size, "LA."
A cat has 32 muscles in each ear.
An ostrich's eye is bigger than it's brain.
Tigers have striped skin, not just striped fur.
In most advertisements, including newspapers, the time displayed on a watch is 10:10.
At Capone's business card said he was a used furniture dealer.
The only real person to be a Poe head was Betty Ross.
When the University of Nebraska Cornhuskers play football at home, the stadium becomes the state's third largest city.
The characters Bert and Ernie on Sesame Street were named after Bert the cop and Ernie the taxi driver in Frank Capra's "It's A Wonderful Life."
A dragonfly has a lifespan of three seconds.
A dime has 118 ridges around the edge.
An American one-dollar bill, there is an owl in the upper left-hand corner of the "1" engraved in the "shild" and a spider hidden in the front upper right-hand corner.
It's impossible to sneeze with your eyes open.
The giant squid has the largest eyes in the world.
Who's that playing the piano on the "Mac About You" theme? Paul Reiser himself.
The male gypsy moth can "smell" the virgin female gypsy moth from 1.8 miles away (pretty good trick).
In England, the Speaker of the House is not allowed to speak.
The name for Oz in the "Wizard of Oz" was thought up when the creator, Frank Baum, looked at his filing cabinet and saw A, N, and O, hence "Oz."
The microwave was invented after a researcher walked by a radar tube and a chocolate bar melted in his pocket.
Mr. Rogers is an ordained minister.
John Lennon's first girlfriend was named Thelma Pickles,
The average person falls asleep in seven minutes.
There are 336 dimples on a regulation golf ball.
"Sclerosis" is the longest word that is typed with only the left hand.
The "sound" key on your keyboard (a) is called an octotroth.
The only domestic animal not mentioned in the Bible is the cat.
The "dot" over the letter "I" is called a titlo.
Table tennis balls have been known to travel off the paddle at speeds up to 160 kph.
Rice originally contained pepsin, thus the name.
The original story from "Tales of 1001 Arabian Nights" begins, "Aladdin was a little Chinese boy."
Nutmeg is extremely poisonous if injected intravenously.
Honey is the only natural food that is made without destroying any kind of life. What about milk you say? A cow has to eat grass to produce milk and grass is living.
The most common name in the world is Mohammed.
Michael Jordan makes more money from NKE annually than all of the Nike Factory workers in Malaysia combined.
The volume of the Earth's moon is the same as the volume of the Pacific.
Ocean, Cephalocaudal recapitulation is the reason our extremities develop faster than the rest of us.

Spiral staircases in medieval castles are running clockwise. This is because all knights used to be right-handed. When the invading army would climb the stairs they would not be able to use their right hand which was holding the sword because of the difficulties of climbing the stairs. Left-handed knights would have had no troubles, except left-handed people could never become knights because it was assumed that they were descendants of the devil.

Ham radio operators got the term “ham” coined from the expression “ham fisted operators,” a term used to describe early radio users who sent Morse code (i.e., pounded their fist).

The slogan on New Hampshire license plates is “Live Free or Die.” These license plates are manufactured by prisoners in the state prison in Concord.

Chinese Crested dogs can get acne.

Hydrogen gas is the least dense substance in the world, at 0.000898g/cc.

Hydrogen oil is the most dense substance in the world, at 70.8g/cc.

Each year there is one ton of cement poured for each man, woman and child in the world.

The house fly hums in the middle octave key of F.

The only capital letter in the Roman alphabet with exactly one end point is P.

The giant red star Betelgeuse has a diameter larger than that of the Earth’s orbit around the sun.

The longest place name still in use is: Taumatawhakatangihangakoauauotamateaarikiarahiri - New Zealand.

Only 530,000,000 wolves alive today are 115 or older.

According to Einstein’s Special Theory of Relativity, it is possible to go slower than light and faster than light, but it is impossible to go the speed of light. Also, there is a particle called tachyon which is supposed to go faster than light. This means if you fire a tachyon beam, it travels before you fire it.

When you tie a noose, the rope is wrapped twelve times around because it’s the same length as a person’s head.

Hummingbirds are the only animal that can fly backwards.

A cat’s paw cannot move sideways.

The sentence, “The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog,” uses every letter in the alphabet.

Average life span of a major league baseball: 7 pitches.

The reason firehouses have circular stairways is from the days of yore when the engines were pulled by horses. The horses were stalled on the ground floor and figured out how to walk up straight staircases.

The airplane Budy Holly died in was the “American Pie” (Thus the name of the Don McLean song).

When oppossums are playing possum, they are not “playing.” They actually pass out from sheer terror.

The Main Library at Indiana University sinks over an inch every year because when it was built, engineers failed to take into account the weight of all the books that would occupy the building.

If a statue in the park of a person on a horse has both front legs in the air, the person died in battle. If the horse has one front leg in the air, the person died as a result of wounds received in battle. If the horse has all four legs on the ground, the person died of natural causes.

Clams of long ago that wanted to get rid of their unwedded people without killing them used to burn their houses down – hence the expression “to get fired.”

The term “the whole 9 yards” came from WWII fighter pilots in the Pacific. When arming their airplanes on the ground, the .50 calibre machine gun ammo bolts measured exactly 27 feet, before being loaded into the fuselage. If the pilots fired all their ammo at a target, it got “the whole 9 yards.”

Hershey’s Kisses are called that because the machine that makes them looks like it’s kissing the conveyor belt.

The phrase “rule of thumb” is derived from an old English law which stated that you couldn’t beat your wife with anything wider than your thumb.

The name Jeep came from the abbreviation used in the army for the “General Purpose” vehicle, G.P.

The cruise liner, Queen Elizabeth II, moves only six inches for each gallon of diesel that it burns.

The name Wendy was made up for the book “Peter Pan.”

In Cleveland, Ohio, it’s illegal to catch mice without a hunting license. It takes 3,000 cows to supply the NFL with enough leather for a year’s supply of footballs.

Thirty-five percent of the people who use personal ads for dating are already married.

There are an average of 178 sesame seeds on a McDonald’s Big Mac bun.

The world’s termites outweigh the world’s humans 10 to 1.

Pound for pound, hamburgers cost more than new cars.

The 3 most valuable brand names on earth: Marlboro, Coca-Cola, and Budweiser, in that order.

When Heinz ketchup leaves the bottle, it travels at a rate of 25 miles per year.

Elephants can’t jump. Every other mammal can.

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