



BLOOMSBURY INTERNATIONAL

Interesting Facts

About the

English Language

How many of these facts
have you heard before?



English is one of the most widely spoken languages in the world so it is not surprising that so many people want to learn how to speak English. In your [English classes](#) you no doubt learn interesting things but I'm sure you haven't heard all of these facts before:

1

'E' is the most commonly used letter in the English language. In fact, as many as one in eight of all the letters written in English is 'e'.



2

More English words begin with the letter 'S' than any other letter of the alphabet.

3

'I am.' is the shortest complete sentence in the [English](#) language.

4

The longest English word that can be spelled without repeating any letters is **'uncopyrightable'**.

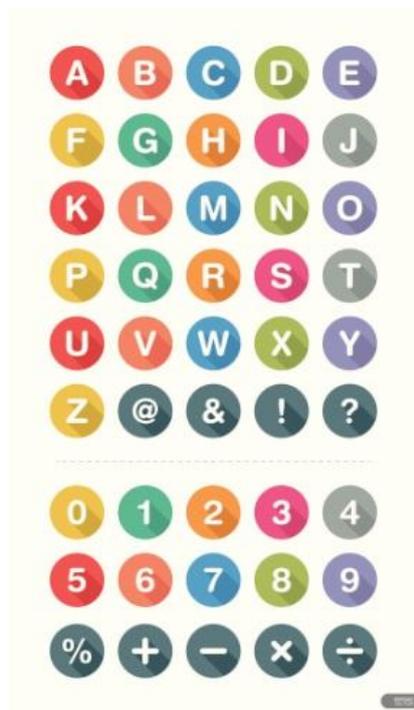
5

The following sentence contains seven different spellings of the sound "ee": 'He believed Caesar could see people seizing the seas'.



6

Do you know what is special about the following sentence? **'The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog'**. This type of sentence is called a **'pangram'** as it uses every letter in the [English](#) language.

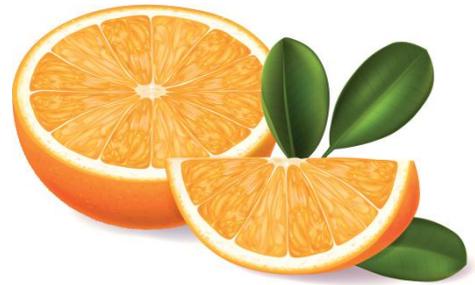


7

The longest word in English has 45 letters:
'pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanoconiosis'!
It is a type of lung disease caused by inhaling ash

8

There is no word in the [English](#) language that rhymes with month, orange, silver or purple.



9

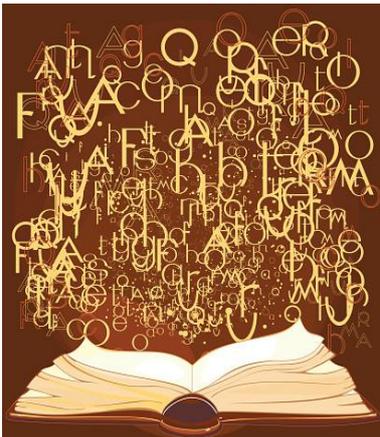
'Queueing' is the only word with five consecutive vowels (five vowels in a row). This is a great word to use when you play hangman!

10

'Pronunciation' is the word which is most mispronounced in the English language!

11

Due to a printing error, there was a word in the English dictionary from 1932 to 1940 which didn't have a meaning. The word was 'Dord' and it became known as '**ghost word**'.



12

Approximately one **new word** is added to the English language every two hours and around 4,000 new words are added to the English dictionary every year.

13

English is the official language of the **sky**! It doesn't matter which country they are from, all [pilots speak in English](#) on international flights.

14

There are nine different ways to pronounce ‘ough’ in English. This sentence contains all of them: ‘**A rough-coated, dough-faced, thoughtful ploughman strode through the streets of Scarborough; after falling into a slough, he coughed and hiccoughed.**’

You can search for these words on the Cambridge Dictionary website to listen to their pronunciation.

<http://dictionary.cambridge.org/>

15

The most difficult tongue twister in the English language is “**sixth sick sheik’s sixth sheep’s sick**”. Why not try it out on your friends and see if any of them can say it without making a mistake?



Have fun with English!

Riddles

Can you work out the answers to these fun English riddles?

1. What has a face and two hands but no arms or legs?
2. What type of cheese is made backwards?
3. Which letter of the alphabet has the most water?
4. What begins with T, ends with T and has T in it?
5. Which month has 28 days?



- Answers:**
- 1) A clock
 - 2) Edam (spell 'made' backwards)
 - 3) The C (sea)
 - 4) A teapot
 - 5) All of them!!