

Did You Know

Some Interesting Facts About the English Language

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English is a West Germanic Language that was first spoken in early medieval England and is now a global language. It is an official language of many sovereign states. It is the third most common native language in the world. It is widely learned as a second language and is an official language of the United Nations, of the European Union, and of many other world and regional international organisations. English has been playing a major role in many sectors. In today's global world, the importance of English cannot be denied or ignored since English is the most common language spoken all around the world.



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Here are some interesting facts about English language –

- A sentence that contains all 26 letters of the alphabet is called a pangram.
- A palindrome is a word, phrase, number, or other sentence of characters which reads the same backward or forward. Allowances may be made for adjustments to capital letters, punctuation, and word dividers. For example- Malayalam, Nitin.
- There is no word in the English language that rhymes with month, orange, silver, purple, angel and bulb.
- Only two English words in current use end in “-gry”. They are “angry” and “hungry”.
- If you were to write out every number name in full (*one, two, three, four...*), you wouldn't use a single letter B until you reached one billion.
- Letters ‘a’, ‘b’, ‘c’ & ‘d’ do not appear anywhere in the spellings of 1 to 99

(Letter 'd' comes for the first time in Hundred)

- Letters 'a', 'b' & 'c' do not appear anywhere in the spellings of 1 to 999 (Letter 'a' comes for the first time in Thousand)
- Letter 'c' does not appear anywhere in the spellings of entire English Counting.
- The longest English word with its letters in reverse alphabetical order is *spoonfeed*.
- Here is a very simple sentence which uses every letter of the alphabet:
• 'The quick brown fox jumps over a lazy dog'!
- Challenge your friends! Ask them to find rhyming words for any of these five words - Orange, Month, Silver, Angel & Bulb! You will be surprised to try that these five words don't have any rhyming word!
- Do you there are few words in English language, which only exist in plural form? Here are few -glasses, scissors, trousers, jeans, pants etc.
- Here is a strange fact about September. The word 'September' originates from Latin word for 'seven' i.e. septem. Then why it is ninth month? September used to be seventh month in original Roman calendar, new year started in April in this calendar thus making September as seventh month. But another Roman emperor, Julius Caesar shifted the start of new Year back two months. It resulted in September being ninth month!

- Same is true about October & November. These words originated from Latin words octo & novem, meaning eight & nine, since these were the eighth & ninth months in old Roman calendar.
- Posing a question and then immediately answering it yourself is called sermocination.
- The longest English word without a vowel is - rhythm!
- There are only four words in the English language which end in "dous": tremendous, horrendous, stupendous, and hazardous!
- "I am." is the shortest complete sentence in the English language!
- The dot over the i or j is called a tittle.
- There are fourteen punctuation marks in English grammar: Period, comma, colon, semicolon, dash, hyphen, apostrophe, question mark, exclamation point, quotation marks, brackets, parenthesis, braces, and ellipses.
- We pronounce the combination "ough" in 9 different ways. The following sentence contains them all: "A rough-coated, dough-faced, thoughtful ploughman strode through the streets of Scarborough; after falling into a slough, he coughed and hiccoughed."

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