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Flying Blind

One day at a busy airport, the passengers on a commercial airliner are seated waiting for the pilot to show up so they can get under way.

The pilot and copilot finally appear in the rear of the plane and begin walking up to the cockpit through the center aisle. Both appear to be blind; the pilot is using a white cane, bumping into passengers right and left as he stumbles down the aisle. The copilot is using a guide dog. Both have their eyes covered with sunglasses.

At first, the passengers do not react thinking that it must be some sort of practical joke. After a few minutes though, the engines start revving, and the airplane begins moving down the runway.

The passengers look at each other with some uneasiness. They start whispering among themselves and look desperately to the stewardesses for reassurance.

Yet, the plane starts accelerating rapidly, and people begin panicking. Some passengers are praying, and as the plane gets closer and closer to the end of the runway, the voices are becoming more and more hysterical.

When the plane has less than twenty feet of runway left, there is a sudden change in the pitch of the shouts as everyone screams at once. At the very last moment, the plane lifts off and is airborne.

Up in the cockpit, the copilot breathes a sigh of relief and tells the pilot: "You know, one of these days the passengers aren't going to scream, and we aren't going to know when to take off!"

Word Rebus



Edible Plates

Producing edible plates is a very good idea that seems not to have gone ahead for lack of support. Imagine you finish your meal and you have the impulse to lick your plate... How many times has that happened and you didn't do it solely out of politeness? But now imagine you could but eat your plate and savour the last of your great meal and also increase the fibre intake in your diet!

Well, nearly two decades ago, Canadian inventor David Aung, an Ontario engineer, developed an inexpensive, edible, totally biodegradable and compostable starch-based material from which he said he could manufacture hot and cold-liquid cups, bowls, plates, and other rigid containers. He found he could use any type of readily available cereal grain or bean – barley, corn, oats, rice, soy, tapioca, or wheat, to name a few – as his raw material. A cup made of the material held a hot liquid for four or more hours without deteriorating.

Sadly, his product never made it to market. While the inventor planned to commercialize the technology and began manufacturing prototype containers, in 1994 his prototype factory in Toronto closed and the project died due to lack of investment and venture capital. It seems the fast food franchises are not interested in manufacturing and commercializing this kind of product. It's a pity, for all the 'plate-lickers' and 'dishwashing-haters' that live among us would love to try it!

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Word Rebus



A London Tour

A large group of women goes to London and boards one of those big two-storey buses. They divide into two smaller groups and decide who travels upstairs, who travels downstairs.

As the tour goes on the group downstairs are partying big time and they notice the women upstairs are very quiet. One of them goes up to check on the silent group and find all the women sitting straight up terrified, eyes popped out, holding to their seats very tightly.

When asked why everyone was so tense up there while they were having a great time downstairs, one of the women on the upper floor answered "But you, dear, have a driver down there..."

What Makes Our Sky Blue

Have you ever asked yourself why is our sky blue, or why are our late afternoon sky orange-coloured? When sunlight travels through the atmosphere, it collides with gas molecules. These molecules scatter the light. The shorter the wavelength of light, the more it is scattered by the atmosphere. Because it has a shorter wavelength than the other colours, blue light is scattered more, ten times more than red light, for instance. That is why the sky is blue. And that's why the sea is blue, for it reflects the sky colours.

And light refraction is also responsible for causing the setting sun to give the sky its reddish orange appearance. When the sun is on the horizon, its light takes a longer path through the atmosphere to reach your eyes than when the sun is directly overhead. By the time the light of the setting sun reaches your eyes, most of the blue light has been scattered out. The light you finally see is reddish orange, the colour of white light minus blue.

Word Rebus



The Fastest Car

A man goes out and buys the best car available in the US or Europe, a 2009 Turbo BeepBeep. It is the best and most expensive car in the world, and it costs him \$500,000. He takes it out for a spin and, while doing so, stops for a red light. An old man on a moped, both looking about 90 years old, pulls up next to him.

The old man looks over the sleek, shiny surface of the car and asks "What kind of car ya got there, sonny?". The dude replies "A 2009 Turbo BeepBeep. They cost \$500,000."

"That's a lotta money!" says the old man, shocked. "Why does it cost so much?"

"This car can do up to 320 miles an hour!" says the cool dude proudly. The old man asks "Can I take a look inside?"

"Sure" replies the owner. So the old man pokes his head in the window and looks around. Leaning back on his moped, the old man says "That's a pretty nice car, alright!"

Just then the light changes, so the guy decides to show the old man what his car can do. He floors it, and within 30 seconds the speedometer reads 320. Suddenly, the guy notices a dot in his rear view mirror. It seems to be getting closer!

Whhhooooooooooooosssshhhhh! Something whips by him! Going maybe three times as fast! The guy wonders "what on earth could be going faster than my Turbo BeepBeep?" Then, ahead of him, he sees a dot coming toward him.

Whooooooooooooosh! It goes by again! And, it almost looked like the old man on the moped! Couldn't be thinks the guy. How could a moped outrun a Turbo BeepBeep? Again, he sees a dot in his rearview mirror!

WhoooooooooshhhhhhhKa-BbbblaaaaMMMM! It plows into the back of his car, demolishing the rear end. The guy jumps out and discovers it is the old man! Of course, the moped and the old man are hurting for certain. The guy runs up to the dying old man and asks "You're hurt bad! Is there anything I can do for you?"

The old man replies "Yeah. Unhook my suspenders from the side-view mirror on your car!"

Laugh... And, Then, Think!

Nearly everybody has heard about the Nobel Prize, awarded to the biggest achievers of the year in many of the science, social and humanistic areas. What few people know is about its parody award, called Ig Nobel Prize.

The Ig Nobel Prize are given each year in early October – around the time the recipients of the genuine Nobel Prizes are announced – for ten achievements that "first make people laugh, and then make them think." Organized by the scientific humor magazine Annals of Improbable Research (AIR), they are presented by a group that includes genuine Nobel Laureates at a ceremony at Harvard University's Sanders Theater.

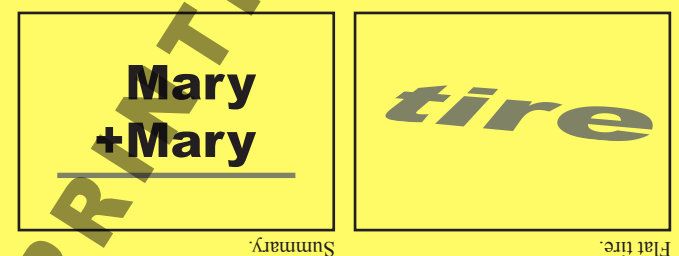
Jillian Clarke, intern of the University of Illinois, received the 2004 Ig Nobel Prize in public health for this work on the five-second rule. The five-second rule is a World-wide belief that if you pick up a piece of food that has fallen on the floor before five seconds is up, no bacteria will get on it.

In 2003, Clarke found in a survey that 56% of the men and 70% of the women surveyed were familiar with the five-second rule, and determined that a variety of foods were significantly contaminated by even brief exposure to a tile inoculated with E.coli; on the other hand, Clarke also found no significant evidence of contamination on public flooring.

There are many variations on the rule. Sometimes the time limit is modified so that it is known variously as the "three-second rule", "seven-second rule", "the five-minute rule" etc. In some variations, the person picking up the food arbitrarily extends the time limit based on the actual amount of time required to retrieve the food. This also can vary based on the surface on which the food was dropped. In Russia the rule is formulated as simple as "Promptly picked up is not considered fallen".

Discovery Channel series MythBusters also approached the "five-second rule" on episode 39. The series' hosts found no significant difference in the number of bacteria collected from 2 seconds exposure as there was from 6 seconds exposure. The moisture, surface geometry and the location where the food item was dropped on did however affect the number of bacteria. So they stated the subject as 'mythbusted', which means it wasn't confirmed on their scientific approach. So, from now on, if you decide to use the five-second law, do it at your own peril!

Word Rebus



Wife Was Mad At Me

Two deaf men were in a coffee shop discussing their wives. One signs to the other, "Boy was my wife mad at me last night! She went on and on and wouldn't stop!"

His buddy says "When my wife goes off on me I just don't listen".

"How do you do that?" asks the other.

"It's easy! I turn off the light!"

At a Grocery Store

A man observed a woman in the grocery store with a three year old girl in her basket. As they passed the cookie section, the little girl asked for cookies and her mother told her, "No." The little girl immediately began to whine and fuss, and the mother said quietly, "Now Monica, we just have half of the aisles left to go through – don't be upset. It won't be long now."

Soon, they came to the candy aisle and the little girl began to shout for candy. When told she couldn't have any, she began to cry. The mother said, "There, there, Monica, don't cry – only two more aisles to go and then we'll be checking out." When they got to the checkout stand, the little girl immediately began to clamor for gum and burst into a terrible tantrum upon discovering there'd be no gum purchased. The mother said serenely, "Monica, we'll be through this check out stand in 5 minutes and then you can go home and have a nice nap."

The man followed them out to the parking lot and stopped the woman to compliment her. "I couldn't help noticing how patient you were with little Monica," he began. The mother replied, "I'm Monica - my little girl's name is Tammy."

Safety First...

On this particular flight the pilot had hammered his ship into the runway really hard. The airline had a policy which required the first officer to stand at the door while the passengers exited, smile, and give them a "Thanks for flying XYZ airline." In light of his bad landing, he had a hard time looking the passengers in the eye, thinking that someone would have a smart comment. Finally everyone had gotten off except for this little old lady walking with a cane. She said, "Sonny, mind if I ask you a question?" "Why no Ma'am," said the pilot, "what is it?" The little old lady asked, "Did we land or were we shot down?"

Of the Reticence of Rats

The sixteenth-century French lawyer Bartholomew Chassannée made his name defending rats accused of eating grain. When the rats were summoned to appear in court but never showed up, he invoked the right exercised by human beings to refuse to obey a summons to a place where they are in danger. The rats could justifiably fear for their lives when were they to make the trip to court, since all along the way lurked cats wanting to pounce. Go figure...

Pet Changes in the UK

It seems that the number of reptiles and amphibians kept as pets in the U.K. is probably greater than the number of dogs and is soon going to outnumber the cats as the Britain's most popular pets (8.5 million to about 6 million, with cats at 9 million).

Reptiles like snakes, geckos and bearded dragons are relatively cheap to buy and to keep. They require less time from their owners being then more suitable to the modern lifestyle.

The booming sales of reptile food, such as frozen rodents and crickets, was taken as basic grounds for the research.

The Trouble Tree

The other day I came across to this very interesting story on how we **balance** our troubled days with our family life. It's one of those millions of e-mails we're always finding in our Inboxes sent by some friend so the author to this is **unknown** but it's worth thinking about.

This man was a **carpenter** that was on his first day on this particular job. He was having a very **bad** day from the very beginning... He had a flat tire that delayed the start of his day. When he finally was set to start his work, his electric saw quit. Finally, to close his day, his pickup truck just gave up on him.

Being driven **home** by his boss he had the longest face and was as muted and circumspect as a stone. Arriving at home he invited his boss in to meet his family. As they walked toward the front door the carpenter made a quick **stop** at a small **tree** and touched it with both hands.

To the boss's amazement, the carpenter entered his home as a totally **different** person from the long-faced man sitting in his car. He was all smiles and brightness, **tenderly** hugging and kissing his **children** and wife.

On the way back to his car, the boss was curious what triggered such a **transformation**. When asked, here is what the carpenter said: "Did you notice my brief stop by that tree? That's my **trouble** tree". To his boss's **unasked** question he kept going with his explanation: "I know I can't help having troubles on the job, but one thing for sure, troubles don't belong in the house with my **wife** and the children. So I just hang them up on the tree every night when I come home. Then in the **morning** I pick them up again."

"Funny thing is," he smiled, "when I come out in the morning to pick them up, there ain't nearly as many as I remember **hanging** up the night before."

Cranium Crackers - 1

Word Search

Find the highlighted words from the article "A Race Towards Preservation" in the box below. The words might have been written in any direction: up, down and in a 45 degrees angle.

R	I	C	W	C	I	O	S	N	W	O	N	K	N	U
X	F	C	Y	S	G	G	O	J	S	H	Q	O	V	T
S	G	N	H	L	N	N	R	X	C	W	I	F	E	S
L	Y	M	M	I	R	D	I	U	C	T	B	K	K	X
G	T	S	G	K	L	E	C	N	A	L	A	B	O	L
Y	U	N	T	G	L	D	D	M	R	Z	D	Q	T	D
K	A	W	G	Y	U	N	R	N	P	O	T	S	D	E
H	U	W	N	P	H	O	M	E	E	B	M	U	L	K
K	X	D	I	F	F	E	R	E	N	T	R	B	P	S
A	F	S	N	S	A	B	U	R	T	M	U	L	V	A
Y	E	S	N	J	Q	L	I	T	E	O	X	J	G	N
R	Q	A	I	G	D	F	Z	A	R	I	K	J	C	U
L	R	R	G	A	P	J	P	T	U	Q	E	N	L	Z
T	W	O	E	E	H	B	Z	X	I	F	Y	U	Z	N
U	C	J	B	J	X	J	A	C	L	I	G	T	Q	X

A Race Towards Preservation

Have you ever **imagined** watching a **soccer** game where the actual players are elephants? Have you ever wished to watch an elephant **race**? Well, that's what you may do if you go to Nepal at the end of the year. The *Chitwan National Park* has been holding such a festival once a year since 2004 and they claim this is all for the sake of their population of Asian Elephants.

The great **Asian** Elephant, the biggest mammal on earth, is practically at the verge of **extinction**, so the people of Saurha, at the main gateway of *Chitwan National Park*, decided to create the **festival** in order to draw the **attention** of the "Animal lovers and ecologically conscious intellectuals of the world, about this unhappy situation". It is estimated that from around 1911 to now, the population of Asian **Elephant** in Nepal dwindled from more than two thousand to about 200 – with only about 36% of this population yet living in the **wild**. They have counted that 164 elephants are living in the Elephant Breeding Center and in the tourist centre stables or other private stables as domesticated and trained animals.

There are basically 2 species of elephants found in the world – **African** and Asian. The African elephants, with bigger fan-like ears, are extremely difficult to domesticate and train. On the other hand, the average bigger black-gray and dwarf white species of Asian elephants are very easy to **domesticate** and **train**. They are normally 10-to-11 feet tall at shoulder level, weigh about four tons and can live up to a hundred years! They have very high degree of consciousness and **sensitivity** towards their babies, their families or herds. Their mating lasts for three-to-four-days and the pregnancy lasts for 22 to 24 months.

Especially in India, Sri Lanka and Thailand, the trained elephants are used mostly by lumber and forest product based industries. But in **Nepal**, they are used mostly in the **Tourism** Industry and, to some extent, for private use. Previously the elephants were used in Nepal for hunting **tigers** and **rhinos**, they now have been also useful to the National Park's fight against the extinction of the very same animals. It seems the proper time to look towards these great mammals preservation, and the Festival is the way they found to draw international attention to their cause. Therefore, finding a way to better grow the elephants' food materials, providing them with clean and healthy water and searching for greater knowledge about their biology and control of their diseases, appears to be the right way to do it. And this trully is a race towards **preservation**.

Cranium Crackers - 2

Word Search

Find the highlighted words from the article "A Race Towards Preservation" in the box below. The words might have been written in any direction: up, down and in a 45 degrees angle.

V	I	S	R	E	G	I	T	N	A	H	P	E	L	E
C	B	H	G	C	D	O	D	Y	A	R	A	T	X	M
C	E	E	N	A	U	O	O	I	E	T	I	L	T	R
X	W	G	T	R	U	A	M	S	X	N	L	C	R	L
V	V	I	I	A	U	A	E	W	O	M	Q	H	A	K
U	C	S	C	S	G	R	S	I	Z	X	I	P	I	N
X	M	Y	T	I	V	I	T	I	S	N	E	S	N	Z
T	C	W	N	A	W	N	I	W	O	N	O	R	P	H
Q	Y	E	T	N	E	J	C	S	C	Z	M	S	Y	Y
T	D	I	W	T	R	O	A	N	C	L	M	Y	D	G
N	O	I	T	C	N	I	T	X	E	J	Z	R	K	X
N	L	A	V	I	T	S	E	F	R	M	H	C	M	F
D	H	E	R	O	F	Q	B	T	G	I	B	C	C	E

Afraid to Speak

A really huge muscular guy with a bad stutter goes to a counter in a department store and asks, "W-w-w-where's the m-m-m-men's dep-p-p-partment?"

The clerk just looks at him and says nothing.

The man repeats himself many times: "W-w-w-where's the m-m-m-men's dep-p-p-partment?" And the clerk just seems to ignore him. Finally, the guy is angry and storms off.

The customer who was waiting in line behind the guy asks the clerk, "Why wouldn't you answer that guy's question?"

The clerk answers, "D-d-d-do you th-th-th-think I w-w-w-want to get b-b-b-beat up?!"

Late to work

Tom had this problem of getting up late in the morning and was always late for work. His boss was mad at him and threatened to fire him if he didn't do something about it. So Tom went to his doctor who gave him a pill and told him to take it before he went to bed. Tom slept well and in fact beat the alarm in the morning by almost two hours. He had a leisurely breakfast and drove cheerfully to work.

"Boss", he said, "The pill actually worked!"

"That's all fine" said the boss, "But where were you yesterday?"

Did you know?

Right handed people live, on average, nine years longer than left-handed people.

One quarter of the bones in your body are in your feet!

The first known transfusion of blood was performed as early as 1667, when Jean-Baptiste, transfused two pints of blood from a sheep to a young man.

Fingernails grow nearly 4 times faster than toenails!

Most dust particles in your house are made from dead skin!

The present population of 5 billion plus people of the world is predicted to become 15 billion by 2080.

The Family of Tomatoes

A family of three tomatoes were walking downtown one day when the little baby tomato started lagging behind. The big father tomato walks back to the baby tomato, stomps on her, squashing her into a red paste, and says, "Ketchup!"

The Hero Within

We are strange folks. Usually **people** look around, maybe looking for heroes or **role-models** and one doesn't really seem to know what to look for. More likely to be fooled by the old 'mask-and-cape' fashion, we keep missing the ordinary day-to-day examples of heroes that we represent to our little ones. Even more, sometimes we tend to feel ashamed of ourselves as examples of **godness** and perseverance because we think so little of ourselves.

Being made a role model by one of these accidents of life, **Gabrielle** Andersen-Scheiss still feels a little embarrassed by her role in history – one of the most remarkable images ever produced in sports; an image that translates the real meaning of competition, determination and **fortitude**.

The year is 1984, the city is Los Angeles and it was the first time ever that Olympic spectators would witness a women's marathon in Olympic Games. They were **thrilled** to see the American marathoner Joan Benoit break into the Coliseum and finish first at home ground with a time that would have won 13 of the previous 20 men's marathons in Olympic **history**. But much stronger emotions awaited those people inside the stadium...

Twenty minutes after the first female marathon **Olympic** Champion crossed the final line the crowd would be see the one moment that would be history itself! It was Gabrielle Andersen-Scheiss, entering the Coliseum staggering onto the track, suffering from heat exhaustion. The crowd gasped in horror while the long-distance **runner** limped through the groove. Last to arrive, she waved away medical personnel while **attempting** to reach the finish line, to avoid being aided and, consequently, disqualified from the race. In her mind, she spoke to herself "I'm gonna try to finish, no matter what – it's the Olympics, my only chance!"

And finish she did! Her time of 2:48:45 would have won her **gold** medal in the first five Olympic (men's) marathons and she was making history even if **unaware** of it. She is today much more remembered than the Olympic Champions themselves. Ask an ordinary person who is old enough to have watched the 1984 Olympic Games and surely they will remember this image-symbol of perseverance. Interviewed 20 years later, Andersen-Scheiss still was unable to face her last-spot achievement without feeling a little **embarrassed!** That's because she had higher expectations for herself. She had previously registered marks which, if repeated, would get her coming in around tenth place – not 37th.

Truth is: usually the very same thing happens to us! We make **wonders** without even realizing it! We play role models for many people that silently **admire** us, not to mention our little ones... And we don't value ourselves as we should! Don't be afraid of admiring yourself! No matter what you do, if you do it with dignity... if you rest your head at night with no regrets... you can be proud of being a **hero** yourself.

Cranium Crackers - 3

Word Search

Find the highlighted words from the article "The Hero Within" in the box below. The words might have been written in any direction: up, down and in a 45 degrees angle.

A	H	E	R	O	Z	U	Y	F	Q	T	U	D	D	V
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P	T	B	E	H	T	Q	B	P	W	F	G	J	W	I
V	R	E	M	M	Q	I	D	P	M	A	D	L	O	G
A	V	I	B	I	P	Q	T	U	B	Y	R	P	N	K
J	O	D	D	M	M	T	H	R	I	L	L	E	D	Z
R	K	Y	R	O	T	S	I	H	O	X	M	O	E	H
H	W	H	W	D	E	E	B	N	Y	F	V	P	R	J
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Z	U	O	U	D	E	S	S	A	R	R	A	B	M	E
A	S	R	Y	C	C	S	Q	Y	R	O	L	S	P	O