

TODAY'S TRULY TRIVIAL TRIFFLING TITBITS.....

to temporarily titillate
tetchy, talented tadpoles,
timidly traipsing
throughout terrifying
tearful turmoil, then
thankfully turning towards
tangible transformation.

Tangentially tied together through
David Tait

1. Lots Of 'Kitten Kuddles'

Did you know that a group of kittens is called a kindle? (*Kittens kindle kindly kinetics of adoration in us.*)

2. Getting Things Done – Eventually!

The Procrastinators Club of America sends news to its members under the masthead "Last Month's Newsletter." (*Did it contain any news?*)

3. A Health Food?

Tomato Ketchup was once used as medicine in the United States. Was sold as "Dr.Miles Compound Extract of Tomato". (*My sort of medicine!*)

4. Don't Worry About It

In the event of a major meteorite collision with the earth, your odds of dying are 1 in 20,000. Nearly 400 tons of space debris rain down on us daily, far too small an amount to detect. To date, no known big asteroid is on a collision path with Earth. However, a near miss by one in 1996 was found only four days before it passed within 280,000 miles of Earth, a hairbreadth by space standards. (*But a long way from home.*)

<p><i>MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'</i></p> <p>T O W N</p>	<p>A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!</p> <p>Answer: Page 43</p>
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5. The Ultimate Obsession

King Charles VIII of France, who ascended to the throne in 1483, was obsessed with the idea of being poisoned. As his phobia grew, the monarch ate so little that he died of malnutrition circa 1498. (*The ultimate diet!*)

6. A Living Monument To War

Built in only 16 months between 1941 and 1942, the Pentagon is only 71ft tall, yet it has 5 floors, 17.5 miles of corridors, 150 stairways, 280 restrooms, 685 drinking fountains, 7,748 windows and workers replace more than 250 light bulbs each day. (*A bureaucratic battlefield.*)

PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 1..... Why is the time of day when the traffic is slowest called the 'rush hour'?

7. A 'Muckraker'?

President Theodore Roosevelt coined the word 'muckrake' in a speech that he delivered to the Gridiron Club in Washington, DC in 1906. *(A politician looking into a mirror?)*

8. And Ne'er The Twain Shall Meet – Temporarily!

The Berlin wall that separated East from West in Berlin was 155km (96 miles) long, lasting for 28 years and 3 months until November 1989 had 302 watch towers and 20 bunkers. 77 people were killed while trying to escape over it. *(Physical walls cannot contain the restless soul.)*

9. Doll Talk

Thomas Alva Edison (of light bulb fame), not toy maker Mattel, transferred this major feminine characteristic to dolls in 1888. *(Generations of young ladies now trained in its ways!)*

10. Rarefied Atmosphere

La Paz, the capital city of Bolivia, is the world's highest city at 3600 metres above sea level. *(Wouldn't want to walk to it!)*

11. Bra-locution!

In Britain, 2 women were killed in 1999 by lightning conducted through their under-wire bras, according to the West London Coroner's Office. *(Now 'PC' to ban bras?)*

12. Burger Heaven

Americans eat 45000 burgers per minute. *(Cows don't appreciate this statistic!)*

QUESTION TIME:

If you cut an earthworm in half, will it grow into two new worms?

Answer: Page 44

13. Single Minded

An autocracy is a government by a single person having unlimited power. *(Many households however, are "cat-ocracies.")*

14. Who Invented The Lightbulb?

Edison improved the incandescent lamp in 1879, but he didn't actually invent it. Sir Humphrey Davy is reputed to be the true inventor of the electric light. He passed electricity through a platinum wire and caused an arc lamp to glow as early as 1802. However, Davy did not pursue the discovery. By the time Edison entered the scene, arc lamps had been burning for several decades, but were limited by short life spans. Edison developed a long-lasting filament light in 1877, and in 1879 produced the first long-lasting light bulb. (*Saw the light?*)

15. All Goosed up!

A group of geese on the ground is called a gaggle. But if the geese are flying, they're a skein. (*Gives rise to split personalities?*)

16. Reality Filming

The first time movie audiences were treated to the 'reality' of a flushing toilet was in Alfred Hitchcock's 1959 release 'Psycho.' (*How many viewers had an instant 'hot flush.'*)

17. Star Wars Stars Split Personality

Darth Vader was actually a composite of four people. James Earl Jones did the voice, David Prowse served as the body, while Sebastian Shaw was the face, and a fourth actor performed the heavy breathing. (*Why don't we know who it was?*)

PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 2..... Why isn't 'phonetics' spelt the way it sounds?

18. Bollywood

India's version of Hollywood produces over 800 full-length feature films every year in 14 languages. This amounts to more than 2 films every day. (*Quantity or even less quality?*)

19. Just Warming Up

The Harlem Globetrotters played their unprecedented 20,000th career basketball game on January 12, 1998. No professional sports team, including the NBA, MLB, NHL, and NFL, has ever reached this historical milestone. The Globetrotters got their start in 1926 as the "Savoy Big Five." (*Leaping into the Record Books.*)

yats---urcloseclose

Answer: Page 43

20. Amazing Amazon

The Amazon, a gigantic system of rivers and forests in South America, supplies 20% of the world's oxygen. *(For how much longer?)*

21. Multitudinous Colourful Possibilities

There are 1,929,770,126,028,800 different colour combinations possible on a Rubik's cube. *(Counted each one!)*

QUESTION TIME: How did trivia (such as this), get its name?

Answer: Page 44

22. No Escape

The famous magician and escape artist, who survived numerous death-defying stunts, died on Halloween 1926 at the age of 52. The cause of death was peritonitis, internal poisoning resulting from a ruptured appendix. Interestingly, a few months before he died, Houdini bought a bronze coffin and had himself locked into it and submerged in a hotel swimming pool for an hour and a half before the coffin was pulled up and opened to reveal a healthy Houdini. He took the coffin on tour with him and jokingly instructed his wife to use the coffin should anything happen to him while on tour. It was in that very coffin that his body was returned to New York for burial. *(And he's still in it – as far as we know!)*

23. Swan Lake

A young swan is called a "cygnet". *(Identified upon marriage by a 'cygnet ring?')*

24. Puffing People

The world's largest Employer is the Indian Railways, employing over one million people. *(Yet it works well – most of the time.)*

25. Inflation

In 1920, the average check at a diner was 28 cents. *(The 'average diner' must have been on a diet!)*

26. A Heavy load

In the late 16th century French geographer Gerhard Mercator (1512-1594) published a book of maps whose cover was a picture of Atlas holding the world on his back. Almost from then on any collection of maps has been called an atlas. *(First to carry the problems of the world on his shoulders.)*

PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 3..... Why are homes called apartments when they are all stuck together?

27. An Imposter?

Napolean was not born in France. He was born on the small island of Corsica. But he was born on the day when France gained control over Corsica from Italy. So he was born in France. *(Confused – I am. Maybe he was too.)*

28. The World’s Tallest Mountain?

You thought it was Mount Everest? All New Zealanders do, as it was first climbed by our favourite son Sir Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tensing Norgay, from Nepal reaching the Earth's highest point at 11:30 am on May 29, 1953. Although Mount Everest, at 29,028 feet, is often called the tallest mountain on Earth, Mauna Kea, an inactive volcano on the island of Hawaii, is actually taller. For only 13,796 feet of Mauna Kea stands above sea level, yet it is 33,465 feet tall if measured from the ocean floor to its summit. *(Difficult to climb from the bottom though!)*

29. Multi Skilled

Leonardo da Vinci invented scissors. *(A cut above the rest.)*

MISCELLANEOUS ‘MIND-A-CISE’	A CHALLENGE FOR YOU!
Mrs. Fumblefinger was working in the kitchen when a loose ring, with a big diamond on it, slipped off her finger and fell smack into some coffee. Strange to say, the diamond did not get wet. Why?	
Answer: Page 43	

30. Liquid Labour Saving Device

In the 1800’s making tomato ketchup at home was a tedious all day project, and American housewives hated the process. So when Henry J. Heinz introduced bottled ketchup in 1875, he promoted it as a labour

saving device. His first slogan was "Blessed relief for Mother and the other women of the household." (*Bottled 'woman-power!'*)

31. Natures Technology

Coconut shells can absorb more impact than most crash helmets. (*Need smaller heads though.*)

32. Minute Reign

King Louis XIX ruled France for a total of fifteen minutes. (*All good things come to an end – some more quickly than others!*)

33. A Wooden Canvas

Leonardo Da Vinci painted the Mona Lisa on a simple piece of pinewood in 1506. (*But not a wooden smile!*)

34. 'Tomato-less' Ketchup

The Chinese invented ke-tsiap - a concoction of pickled fish and spices (but no tomatoes) - in the 1690s. By the early 1700s, its popularity had spread to Malaysia, where British explorers first encountered it, and by 1740 the sauce - renamed ketchup - was an English staple. However, it wasn't until the 1790s that New England colonists first mixed tomatoes into the sauce. Until then, it was widely believed that tomatoes (a close relative of the toxic belladonna and nightshade plants) were poisonous. (*Wonder what colour it was before the tomatoes were added?*)

35. Tower Towers

The actual height of the Eiffel Tower is 984 feet. But it grows by 6 inches in summer, as metal expands. And shrinks back to normal in the winter, as metal contracts. (*What goes up must come down.*)

<p>QUESTION TIME: From where does the saying "Hobson's Choice" originate? Answer: Page 44</p>
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36. The Seven Seas

An ancient term describing what were believed to be all the seas and oceans of the world. Many people believe the seven are what we now know as the Arctic, Antarctic, North Pacific, South Pacific, North Atlantic, South Atlantic and Indian oceans. However, the phrase has no literal meaning and is used to romanticise sailing. It came into use before some

of the oceans were even known to exist. *(Nothing romantic about seasickness though!)*

37. Nothing Like Being Prepared!

The world's first landing field for UFOs was installed in Ares, France on 15th August 1976. *(No confirmed reports yet on landings.)*

38. Safe At Sea

Seals have been known to swim for as long as 8 months, and as far as 6,000 miles, without touching land. *(Sounds like a good idea some days!)*

39. A Late Bloomer

Vincent Van Gogh didn't begin drawing until he was 27 years old. *(Soon made up for it)*

MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'

A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!

s h e e t

Answer: Page 43

40. Versatile

The Tower of London has served as a fortress, a prison, a place of worship, an arsenal, the Royal Mint, the original London zoo, the Royal Armouries, the Record office, and as a residence of kings and queens. *(Never warm though, irrespective of tenants.)*

41. A Cool Summer Holiday

"The Ice Hotel" in Swedish Lapland is a large Igloo, including a restaurant, a cinema and wedding chapel. *(Cools the ardour?)*

42. What's In A Name

In the Disney movie "Fantasia," the Sorcerer's name "Yensid" is "Disney" spelled backwards. *(Still highly elbatiforp)*

43. Money for Monet

The famous Impressionist painter Claude Monet won 100,000 francs in the state lottery. The money made him financially independent. *(A rare species – a rich, living artist!)*

44. How Times Change

In England in 1880s, the description "pants" was considered to be a dirty word. (*Maybe they were more polite?*)

45. Might Is White!

An average iceberg weighs 20,000,000 tonnes, 90% below the water. (*An irresistible force?*)

46. When The Bell Tolls

Big Ben is actually the name of the largest bell inside the London clock tower, not of the clock itself. (*Presumably accompanied by 'Little Bens.'*)

PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 4..... Why do we drive in parks and park in drives?

47. Hello Halley

Chinese astronomers made the first recorded observation of Halley's Comet in 240 B.C. (*The first sky rocket?*)

48. Don't Race Your Cat

Domestic cats can actually run faster than humans, at slightly more than 30 miles per hour. (*Not very often though!*)

49. Modern Art Mystery

Henri Matisse's famous painting "Le Bateau" hung in New York's Museum of Modern Art for 47 days before someone noticed it was upside down? (*An improvement perhaps?*)

50. The Right Fit

The metal contraption shoe salesmen use to measure your feet is called the Brannock Device. (*Measures in feet and inches?*)

QUESTION TIME: Is it true that hair and nails continue to grow after death?
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Answer: Page 44

51. Healthy Eating?

McDonalds Olympic Restaurants served nearly 1.5 million sandwiches, 188 tonnes of Potatoes and 12,000 kilos of lettuce to athletes, coaches, officials and spectators during the Sydney Olympics 2000. (*McDonalds were the winners – again.*)

52. Carry Gold – It's Lighter!

It takes 490 crisp new dollar bills to weigh a single pound. *(Worth only a fraction of their weight in gold)*

53. Back East

Herbert Hoover was the first US president born west of the Mississippi. He was born 8/10/1874 in West Branch, Iowa. *(Took a while for the 'young men' who went out west, to come back to the east.)*

PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 5..... Why don't sheep shrink in the rain?

54. Peanuts Please

The original name for Charles Schulz's Peanuts comic strip was "Li'l Folks." *(Little folks, big profits!)*

55. Caught By A Cat

During the rein of Kublai Khan, the Chinese trained lions to pursue and attack big animals like bulls. *(But how did you get them to release their prey?)*

56. A Maori Mouthful

One of the many hills in the North Island of New Zealand is named "TAUMATAWHAKATANGIHANGAKOAUUAUOTAMATEATURIPUKAKAPI KLIMANGAHORONUKUPOKAIWH ENU AKITANATAHU." *(Don't worry, not many Maoris – the native people of NZ – can spell it either. I know – I live there and have asked!)*

57. High Blood Pressure

The giraffe has unusually high blood pressure. Its heart uses tremendous force to pump blood through its neck, which is about 10-12 feet long. A giraffe heart weighs about 25 pounds (11 kilos) and has walls up to three inches thick! *(Does it also suffer from 'tall poppy' syndrome?)*

58. Ice Delight

There are more than 100 words for "ice" in the Eskimo language. *(Is 'icebound' one of them?)*

59. Long Lived Big Bird

The Boeing 747 Jumbo Jet made its first flight on February 9 1969. It is most likely that later models will still be flying commercially in 2019, 50 years after its first flight. *(Not a 'fly by night' model!)*

MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'

A CHALLENGE FOR YOU!

On a conventional clock, how many times does the minute hand pass the hour hand between noon and midnight?

Answer: Page 43

60. A Hot 'Cup Of Tea' Please – Anywhere!

The noted Scottish physicist Sir James Dewar, invented the thermos flask, in 1906. *(To keep his tea hot or his whisky cold?)*

61. 'Not So Simple' Arithmetic

There are 43,560 square feet in an acre. *(No wonder the world changed to metrics – well, most of us have!)*

62. Paper Wars

Papyrus was invented by the Egyptians around 1800 BC. *(Spelling miztakes have abbounded eva sinse!)*

QUESTION TIME: What is an "inclined elevator"?

Answer: Page 45

63. More Life

In George Washington's day, average life expectancy in America for men was just 34 years and 36 years for women. A hundred years and modern medicine can make a lot of difference! *(Some things don't change though. Women still outlive men.)*

64. Cancer-less?

The Hunza, who live in Northwest Kashmir, reportedly have not experienced cancer. The group is also said to have unusual longevity. *(But would we want to eat their food?)*

PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 6..... If nothing sticks to teflon, how do they make it stick to the pan?

65. Worse Than War

The Influenza Epidemic that followed World War 1 killed 20 million people and sickened 1 billion, making it more devastating than the world's most deadly war ever itself! (*Nature, once again, greater than man.*)

66. "Four-told"

Thomas Edison's first major invention was the quadruplex telegraph. Unlike other telegraphs at the time, it could send four messages at the same time over one wire. (*Starting information overload.*)

67. Absentee Queen

Queen Berengaria, wife of Richard I of England, the Lion-Heart, never stepped foot in the country for which she served as queen. (*Afraid of entering the 'lions den'?*)

68. Ahead Of His Time

The brilliant inventor Gail Borden, Jr. invented condensed milk in the 1850's and later the Lazy Susan, but he struck out with one other invention: the poorly-received "meat biscuit." (*Before the Pet Food market evolved.*)

69. Selective Digestion

The gastric juices of a snake can digest bones and teeth — but not fur or hair. (*The fluff's too tough!*)

<i>MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'</i>	A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!
Some-Some-Some-Some	Answer: Page 43

70. Ancient Weed Killer

The primary purpose of growing rice in flooded paddies is to drown the weeds surrounding the young seedlings — rice can, in fact, be grown in drained areas. (*Is diced rice nice?*)

71. Starch Start

Englishman Orlando Jones patented that fabulous miracle food known as 'corn starch' in 1841. Today it can be found in multitudes of products including deodorants, it heals diaper (nappy) rash, and of course, thickens gravy. (*The source of the English 'stiff upper lip' perhaps?*)

72. New Vision

The Chinese invented eyeglasses. Marco Polo reported seeing many pairs worn by the Chinese as early as 1275, 500 years before lens grinding became an art in the West. *(Marco Polo had 'vision' to be there.)*

73. Not All Is As It Seems

The "black box" that houses an aeroplane's voice recorder is orange so it can be more easily detected amongst the debris of a plane crash. *(High altitude colour blindness.)*

PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 7..... Why is it for each and every action, there is an equal and greater criticism?

74. Inflationary Fame

Tickets for Frank Sinatra's first solo performance at the Paramount Theatre in New York City in 1942, sold for 35 cents each. *(And they thought it was expensive then too!)*

75. Perceptive Viewers

A colour-bar test pattern on a Los Angeles television drew higher ratings than for two competing stations' 10 p.m. newscasts. *(More restful to sleep in front of.)*

<p>QUESTION TIME: What is a Welsh rabbit?</p>
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<p>Answer: Page 45</p>

76. Theory and Practise

The 1982 National Father's Day Association's 'Father of the Year' went to jail for failing to pay child support. *(A sad dad.)*

77. Faithfulness

A Florida wedding reception was interrupted when the bride threw macaroni salad at the groom and he responded with gunfire. At the hospital, the wounded bride insisted on checking in under her new married name. *(Begin as you mean to continue!)*

78. Too Clean

A women in Royal Oak, Michigan, USA, was arrested, handcuffed, and jailed for putting her garbage cans out too early. *(Was the cell clean?)*

79. Wanting More

One of the men arrested for looting in the infamous Los Angeles riots was a \$3 million Lotto winner who receives \$120,000 a year from the state. *(How much is enough?)*

80. A Mirror Image

In 1992 a San Francisco man walked through a plate-glass storefront trying to board the cable car he saw reflected in the shiny window. *(Knew there was a good reason for not cleaning windows.)*

81. The Weather

In 1875 the Times of London became the first newspaper to print a daily weather chart. *(How accurate then - and now!)*

82. The First Car Engine

Samuel Morey of Oxford, New Hampshire patented the internal combustion engine in 1826. It was pretty much the kind of engine we still use in cars and trucks, but not as complicated and needing less maintenance than those of today. *(No longer have to have a man with a red flag walk in front of our cars though - might be a good idea!)*

83. The POP in Popcorn

A drop of water in each kernel, surrounded by starch, puts the "POP" in popcorn. When the corn is heated, the water turns into steam. Pressure builds until it explodes, and the starch inflates, inverting the kernel. *(How do we react under pressure?)*

84. The Ultimate Bathtub

The first metal-lined bathtub was constructed by Adam Thompson of Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1840 and weighed nearly a ton. *(Strong floor a necessity)*

85. 'Who Are You?'

Female koel birds of India have a shriek that sounds exactly like, "Who are you?" *(David - I think!)*

PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 8..... If fire fighters fight fires and crime fighters fight crime, what do freedom fighters fight?

soon soon
tell tell

Answer: Page 43

86. Musical Cactus

The hedgehog cactus of Mexico is pleated like an accordion so that it can expand with water in preparation for periods of drought. (*Fast, fast, sloooow*)

87. Sea Angel

The sea angel is a snail with wings. (*But can it fly?*)

88. Presidential Prophecy

Here in New Zealand, the Presidential Highway links the towns of Gore and Clinton. These towns existed long before the said gentlemen were a twinkle in their mother's eyes. Gore is also known as the Brown Trout Capital of the World and is New Zealand's country music capital. (*And both towns will still be there, long after the presidential team fades away.*)

89. Goldfish See Better Than Us

Goldfish have four colour receptors in their eyes compared to our three - the mantis shrimp has ten color receptors. (*See in Quadrosonic!*)

90. Honeybees See

Honeybees navigate using the sun as a compass, even when it is hidden behind clouds - they find it via the polarization of ultraviolet light from areas of blue sky. (*Stay in the warm on rainy days.*)

91. A Smelly Business

George Ellery Hale's 100-inch lens built in the early 1900s was the largest solid piece of glass made until then. The lens was made by a French specialist who poured the equivalent of ten thousand melted champagne bottles into a mould packed with heat maintaining manure so that the glass would cool slowly and not crack. (*Champagne and manure - oops, caviar - for all*)

QUESTION TIME: Where did the term "private eye" originate?

Answer: Page 45

92. From Pasta Pan into the Fire

Before beginning his movie career - Keanu Reeves managed a pasta shop in Toronto, Canada. (*Was it a promotion?*)

93. Are You a 'Will-o'-the-Wisp'?

Will-o'-the-wisps are fleeting lights, blue or white, that move mysteriously in the night. They are also known in Wales as "corpse candles" because they are often seen in graveyards, as well as in bogs and marshes. Such lights do exist and can still be seen, but are not supernatural, as was once believed. (Some people believed that to see one was to be forewarned of your own death.) The lights are most likely caused by the ignition of gases produced by the decay of plant or animal matter. (*All move mysteriously in graveyards, bogs and marshes at night.*)

94. St. Elmo's Fire

St. Elmo's fire is a luminous electric discharge that appears on sharp projections such as steeples and mastheads of ships during intense storms. Sailors have a superstitious dread of it, but it is actually an explainable natural phenomenon. Mediterranean sailors named it for their patron saint, St. Elmo. (*A saintly halo?*)

PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 9..... If a service station never closes, why do they still have locks on the door?

95. Ball Lightning?

Imagine seeing a strange glowing sphere that moves through the air. Experts cannot explain what 'ball lightning' is, but it occurs during lightning storms and may be an ordinary bolt of lightning. Witnesses who have observed this rare phenomenon typically report the ball of light is about the size of a grapefruit (but it may be much larger or smaller) and that it survives for only a few seconds. Some also report a bad smell. (*Reported as UFO sightings too?*)

96. 'JAWS' True or Make-Believe?

Believe it or not, JAWS author Peter Benchley based his story about a rogue man-eating shark on a real series of shark attacks that occurred along the New Jersey shore in 1916. At that time a single shark attacked five people, and killed four of them. The shark swam up the New Jersey coast, terrorizing beach goers, and actually entered Mattawan Creek where it killed a young boy and the man who dived down to retrieve his

body. Just like in the movie, resort owners were loathe to publicize the attacks (the first one received hardly a mention in the local press). A retired seaman who saw the shark when it first swam into the creek wasn't taken seriously. Shortly after the attacks, two fishermen killed a Great White shark with human remains inside its belly. Interested in learning more? Check out Michael Capuzzo's book, 'Close to Shore', which vividly recreates the summer of 1916 and the rogue shark that terrorized New Jersey, USA. *(Could also, of course, have been about Hollywood itself!)*

97. 'Bird-servation'

The Wright Brothers spent time observing the flight of the buzzard to help them solve the mystery of flight. They realized that the bird retained balance in the air by twisting the tips of its wings. By creating a wing warping method based upon this observation, the brothers were able to obtain a remarkable degree of manoeuvrability. *(Today they look to the eagle)*

MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'

A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!

My own heart a person

Answer: Page 43

98. Are you a Quidnunc?

A "quidnunc" is a person who is eager to know the latest news and gossip — in other words, a busybody. *(The 'full quid' - misused)*

99. 'Bus-ted'

In the movie "Speed"(1994) twelve buses were used, including two which exploded; one for the freeway jump; one for high-speed scenes; and one used solely for 'under bus' shots. *(Quite a bus-iness)*

100. 'Peer-sing'

Young songbirds appear to learn singing from their parents or adult birds of the same species. If separated from their species at a young age, the birds do not develop normal song patterns and may simply produce odd warbles. *(Fortunately I didn't learn to sing from my father!)*

101. In the Vee

Migrating geese fly in a "V" pattern to conserve energy. When flying, the bird's wings churn the air and leave an air current behind. By flying in a "V" pattern, each goose is positioned to get a lift from the air current left by the bird in front of him. (*V*ery clever.)

QUESTION TIME: Who wrote the first detective novel?

Answer: Page 45

102. Bird Calls

Birds can learn the songs of other birds and when they do, they can pass the "foreign" songs onto their offspring. (*Conbirds!*)

103. Hot Lightning

The typical bolt of lightning heats the atmosphere to 50,000 degrees Fahrenheit. (*Best not to be there.*)

104. Scrabble

An unemployed architect, Alfred Mosher Butts, created the game that would become Scrabble, in the early 1930s. He called it Lexiko, then Criss Cross Words and then sold the rights to James Brunot. In 1948 it was renamed Scrabble and was manufactured in a converted schoolhouse in Connecticut. Bruno sold the game to Selchow and Righter, who were bought out by Coleco in 1987, and in 1989 Milton Bradley bought it. More than 100 million Scrabble games have been sold worldwide. (*A scramble for scrabble!*)

PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 10..... Do vegetarians eat animal biscuits?**105. The Pacific is a Deep Paradise**

The deepest spot in any ocean is found in the Pacific. The Challenger Deep in the Marianas Trench, near Guam, extends about 36,000 feet below the surface. To compare, Mount Everest is 29,000 feet high. The average depth of the Pacific is about 13,000 feet.

The Pacific provides more than half the world's annual seafood catch, about 57 million tons. (*Tastes great too.*)

106. Ring of Fire

The "Ring of Fire" is a string of about 300 active volcanoes that rims the Pacific, going from the tip of South America north to Alaska, west to Asia through Japan, then south to the Philippines, Indonesia, and New Zealand. (*My home.*)

MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'

A WORDPUZZLE FOR YOU!

NEFRIENDED

Answer: Page 43

107. The Bare Bones Of It

Bones are actually not brittle or even solid. They are living tissues - extremely porous, and pulsating with blood. They are soft, light, and sort of spongy on the inside.

Human bones have four layers: a core of marrow (where white blood cells are produced); an area of thick, spongy material full of blood vessels; a wall of hard, calcified material; and a thin area of skinlike tissue on top.

Bones really aren't all white at all. They actually range in colour from beige to light brown. The bones you see in museum displays have been boiled and cleaned. (*Except for Ezekiel's vision of the Valley of Dry Bones in the Bible*)

108. Navigate by the Birds!

The Vikings would release ravens as they sailed. They knew that the direction the birds flew would lead them to land. (*Bird watch.*)

109. Unsentimental

A female magpie whose mate has died is courted immediately by other males who assemble promptly near the body of the dead magpie. (*Victory to the swift!*)

110. Insect Trap

The plant *Pinguicula vulgaris*, catches insects by imprisoning them with its leaves. (*Can't 'leaf' them alone.*)

111. God Cares

The church of Renaison in France, while crowded with 200 worshippers, was set afire by a bolt of lightning and destroyed; yet, although every person in the church was injured, not a single parishioner was killed. And all were discharged from the hospital 2 months later on the same day in June 1760. (*A bolt from the blue!*)

QUESTION TIME: Why do pigs like to wallow in mud?

Answer: Page 45

112. A Healthy Diet!

According to a December BOSTON GLOBE report from Xi'an, China, the Three Brothers Scorpion Restaurant claims to be the first in the country to reintroduce the 18th-century fascination with the scorpion into domestic cuisine, based on the health benefits. Scorpion venom, reduced in potency by a six-month process of preparation, is believed to aid against fever, chills, skin problems, immune disorders, bad kidneys, and possibly tumors. Other favorite dishes of Three Brothers are silkworm larvae, cicadas on sticks, and poisonous tree ants. (*The cure worse than the problem?*)

113. Redneck Heaven

You name it; Americans will turn it into a contest. At the annual Redneck Games in East Dublin, GA, contestants compete at seed spitting, bobbing for pigs' feet, and mud pit belly-flopping, to name just a few of the unique events. (*More than red necks after this lot!*)

114. All by Chance?

The epidermis, the outermost layer of the skin, sheds itself at a rate of about a million cells every 40 minutes. In the second it takes to turn the page of a book, you will lose about 3 million red blood cells. During that same second, your bone marrow will have produced the same number of new ones. The average square inch of skin holds 650 sweat glands, 20 blood vessels, 60,000 melanocytes (pigment cells), and more than a thousand nerve endings. (*Not all by chance!*)

PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 11..... How come an iron has a setting for 'permanent press'?

115. The Ultimate Motherly Sacrifice

The cecidomyian gall midge, a fly, can reproduce either by laying eggs or by parthenogenesis (reproduction without a male). In the latter method, the female's offspring develop within her tissues and when the time for their birth arrives, they eat the mother from inside. (*The male still comes in handy!*)

116. Favourite Cookies

Since its first appearance in 1912, OREO Chocolate Sandwich Cookies have reigned supreme as being the number one selling cookie in America. The basic design of the cookie has not changed for more than 50 years. Today's version is a neat 1 3/4 inches across. (*That's one, two or three bites - depending on how big your bite is!*)

117. Spider Power

If you suffer from arachnophobia (fear of spiders), beware the countryside. An average of 50,000 spiders roam round every acre of land. Spiders reduce the number of other insects, annually killing a hundred times their number. (*A web of intrigue.*)

MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'	A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!
give give give give & get get get get	Answer: Page 43

118. Inbred

The Bombyx mori, a silkworm moth, has been so cultivated by humans that it can no longer fly and needs human care to survive. (*Humans cultivating insects!*)

119. First Underground

The world's first underground railway, between Paddington (Bishop's Road) and Farringdon Street - with trains hauled by steam engines - was opened by the Metropolitan Railway on January 10th 1863. The initial section was six km (nearly four miles) in length, and provided both a new commuter rail service and an onward rail link for passengers arriving at Paddington, Euston and King's Cross main line stations to the City of London. (*Pity about the view though!*)

QUESTION TIME:

What is the only bone in the body that does not connect to other bones?

Answer: Page 45

120. The Americas' First University

The Americas' oldest university is not in the United States but in the Dominican Republic. It is the University of Santo Domingo, established in 1538. (*The first brain drain?*)

121. Not Poker!

The word "karate" means "empty hand." (*Don't need anything else!*)

122. Let Not Death Us Do Part - For a While!

After Frank Lahainer died in March 1995 in Palm Beach, Florida, his widow Gianna had him embalmed and stored for 40 days at a funeral home. It seemed that Frank, worth \$300 million, died at an inconvenient time – in the middle of Palm Beach's social season. Gianna didn't want to miss any of the parties. (*A party animal?*)

123. Space Junk

The Apollo astronauts left behind "Camelot" the gold-plated 33-rpm record on the moon. (*Did they leave a record player with it?*)

124. Pinocchio and Big Ears

A person's nose and ears continue to grow throughout his or her life. Our senses of smell and hearing, however, both decrease. (*Life's not fair!*)

125. The Oldest.....

The oldest stained-glass window in the world is in the Cathedral of Augsburg, Germany, depicting the Prophets. It dates from the second half of the eleventh century. (*An extreme 'window of opportunity.'*)

MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'

A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!

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Answer: Page 43

126. A Language of Few Words

The language of Taki, spoken in parts of French Guinea, consists of only 340 words. (*Makes spelling easier.*)

127. Mr Juliet

Men and boys originally acted all of the roles in Shakespeare's plays. In England at that time, it wasn't proper for females to appear on stage. (*Lord and Lord Macbeth?*)

128. That Sinking Feeling

Mexico City is sinking at a rate of 6 to 8 inches a year because it's built on top of an underground reservoir. Wells are drawing out more and more water for the city's growing population of more than 15 million people. (*A tragedy in the making.*)

PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 12..... If Barbie (the doll of course) is so popular, why do you need to buy her friends?

129. Cinema on TV

The 1st Academy Awards ceremony to be telecast was the 25th, in 1953. (*Big screen drama - small screen publicity.*)

130. Tying the Knot

A poem written to celebrate a wedding is called an epithalamium. (*Poetic (marriage) license perhaps?*)

131. Coke is the Real Thing!

A single share of Coca-Cola stock, purchased in 1919, when the company went public, would have been worth \$92,500 in 1997. (*A bubbly investment.*)

132. In The Limelight

Limelight was how we lit the stage before electricity was invented. Basically, illumination was produced by heating blocks of lime until they glowed. That is why we say actors and actresses are in the limelight. (*Famous and infamous people too.*)

133. Chinese Aluminium

The Chinese were using aluminum to make things as early as 300 AD. Western civilization didn't rediscover aluminum until 1827. (*Nothing's new - except the American spelling of aluminum.*)

PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 13..... What's another word for 'Thesaurus'?

134. Gaseous Nitrogen

The air we breathe is 78% nitrogen, 21.5% oxygen, .5% argon and other gases. *(Including pollutants!)*

135. De-Ice

Ten per cent of the salt mined in the world each year is used to de-ice the roads in America. *(But rusts the cars.)*

136. Heavy Water

Not atomic, but sea water, which loaded with mineral salts, weighs about a pound and a half more per cubic foot than fresh water at the same temperature. *(Heavier but you float easier!)*

QUESTION TIME: Is there really such a thing as a flea circus?

Answer: Page 46

137. Prussian Prussic Acid

Prussic acid, in a crystalline powder called Zyklon B, was used to kill in Germany's gas chambers. The gas would paralyze the victim's lungs, causing them to suffocate. *(May it never happen again.)*

138. A Smelly Tale

Natural gas has no odour. The smell is added artificially so that leaks can be detected. *(Is it still natural?)*

139. Molten Metal

Mercury is the only metallic element that is liquid at room temperature. Many alloys though, have lower melting points, the most common and important being NaK, pronounced 'nack', which is a mixture of sodium and potassium. *(Mix 'n match metals!)*

140. Hollywood's Here

The 'Hollywood' sign was first erected in 1923. Conceived as a real estate ad, it originally read 'Hollywoodland'. The sign stands 50 feet tall, stretches 450 feet across, weighs 450,000 pounds. *(Not nearly as big as some of the salaries.)*

PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 14..... If you had everything in the world, where would you put it?

141. Low Snowfall

It only snows about 2 inches per year over most of Antarctica. The coldest temperature ever recorded on Earth was in Antarctica: - 128.6 degrees Fahrenheit. (*It rains but it never thaws!*)

142. In God We Trust

The U.S. two-cent coin was minted between 1864 and 1873 and was the first coin to bear the motto "In God We Trust". The motto was omitted from the new gold coins issued in 1907, causing a storm of public criticism. As a result, legislation passed in May 1908 made "In God We Trust" mandatory on all coins on which it had previously appeared. Legislation approved July 11, 1955, made the appearance of "In God We Trust" mandatory on all coins and paper currency of the United States. By Act of July 30, 1956, "In God We Trust" became the national motto of the United States. (*Is it true though?*)

<i>MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'</i>	A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!
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	Answer: Page 43

143. A Web of Strength

Spider silk is an extremely strong material and its on-weight basis has been proven to be stronger than steel. Experts suggest that a pencil-thick strand of silk could stop a Boeing 747 in flight. (*One strand stops a fly!*)

144. Hump This

The Bactrian camel is the only land-based mammal that can survive on salt water. (*Salt that away in your memory of useful trivia.*)

145. A Market For X-ray Proof Underwear

When the X-ray machine was first developed in 1895, it (like almost any new technology) was a bit feared. One of the fears was that the machine would be used primarily by "peeping Toms" to look through people's clothes. Thus, London merchants sold "X-ray" proof underwear to the more anxious segment of the population. (*One fashion colour - 'leaden grey.'*)

QUESTION TIME: Do sword swallows really swallow the sword?

Answer: Page 46

146. How Often Do You Say Them?

Top 10 Most Common Words In The English Language Are

	<u>Spoken</u>	<u>Written</u>
1.	the	the
2.	and	of
3.	I	to
4.	to	in
5.	of	and
6.	a	a
7.	you	for
8.	that	was
9.	in	is
10.	it	that

Various surveys have been conducted to establish the most common words in spoken English of various types, from telephone conversations to broadcast commentaries. Many other words such as yes and well, also appear with far greater frequency in everyday speech than in the comparative list of the most common words in written English, which is based on a survey of newspaper usages. (*Easy to spell too!*)

PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 15..... After they make styrofoam, what do they ship it in?

147. Too Old?

So you think you're too old? Well, here's 20 reasons, why you're never too old to accomplish your dreams.

At age 40, Hank Aaron hit his 715th home run, more than anyone had ever hit.

At age 41, Christopher Columbus landed in the New World.

At age 44, Marie Curie won the Nobel Prize in chemistry.

At age 49, Mario Puzo published, The Godfather.

At age 52, Ludwig Van Beethoven composed the Ninth Symphony.

At age 53, Margaret Thatcher was elected Prime Minister of Britain - the first woman to hold that office.

At age 55, Alex Haley published Roots.

At age 57, Annie Peck climbed Mount Huascarán in the Andes. She was the first person to reach the top.

At age 59, Clara Barton founded the Red Cross.

At age 63, Francis Galton revealed to the world that no two people have the same fingerprints and revolutionized crime fighting in the process.

At age 64, John Pierpont Morgan formed U.S. Steel, the world's first billion dollar corporation.

At age 65, Laura Ingalls published Little House In the Big Woods, the first story in the popular "Little House on the Prairie," series.

At age 68, Clifford Batt swam the English Channel.

At age 69, Mother Teresa won the Nobel Peace Prize.

At age 78, Grandma Moses began taking painting seriously. Soon afterward, her career took off.

At age 79, Benjamin Franklin invented the bifocals.

At age 92, George Burns starred in the movie, Eighteen Again.

At age 94, Leopold Stokowski signed a six-year contract to conduct music.

At age 95, Mother Jones, Union Organizer, wrote her famed biography.

At age 100, Ichijirou Araya climbed Mount Fuji.

(Goodbye excuses!)

Tahc

Answer: Page 43

148. Lung Power

Because of their extreme elasticity, human lungs are 100 times easier to blow up than a child's toy balloon. (*Wonder how they proved it?*)

149. Look After This Lot!

The female king crab incubates as many as 400,000 young for 11 months in a brood pouch under her abdomen. (*Wouldn't like to have to name them all.*)

150. Plant an Egg?

The eggplant has many names worldwide. In addition to "eggplant," it is called aubergine, brinjal, melanzana, garden egg, and patlican. (*Doesn't improve the taste though.*)

151. Not to Worry

The odds of you being hit by a celestial stone, that is, a meteorite, are 10 trillion to one – against! (*some things are just not worth worrying about. Nothing is - according to the Jesus!*)

152. Sesame Street

There are an average of 178 sesame seeds on a McDonald's Big Mac hamburger bun. (*Check it out by the bite*)

153. An Age Old Rule

Football (Soccer) was played in the 12th Century without any rules. (*Sometimes today too!*)

PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 16..... When you see a microwave, do you wave back?**154. Longevity**

If heart disease, cancer and diabetes were eliminated, life expectancy for both men and women would increase to 99.2 years. (*Of course, if death were eliminated.....*)

155. Speediest

The land speed record for birds is held by the Australian emu who rocket along at about 50 kilometres per hour. *(Still, they do have a big country to cover)*

156. To Drown Yet Live?

This is theoretically possible, as technically drowning refers to the process of taking water into the lungs, not to the death caused by the process. *(Called splitting hairs!)*

157. Colour Fast!

If you feed mice on coloured crayons, they're droppings will be the same colour as the crayon they were fed upon. *(mix and match?)*

QUESTION TIME: In terms of chemical composition, what substance does human blood most closely resemble?

Answer: Page 46

158. One At a Time

The mythological Phoenix is a very lonely bird as only one can exist at a time. A mythical symbol of resurrection and immortality the beautiful Phoenix lived for 1000 years (according to Pliny) before building a nest of aromatic herbs which it sits on until the sun ignites and cremates it. Out of the ashes crawls a worm which grows into the new, but still lonely, Phoenix. *(But my Jesus is real!)*

159. Russian Roulette Without the Gun

Ten percent of all Russian government revenue comes from a tax on vodka. *(Unfortunately earned more through the amount consumed than by an excessive tax rate.)*

160. Cow-sense

It is possible to lead a cow upstairs, but if you do, you will have to carry it down again, as it will not go by itself. *(Disproves the truism that what goes up, must come down!)*

PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 17..... Why does 'slow down' and 'slow up' mean the same thing?

PERFORMANCE
PERFORMANCE

Answer: Page 43

161. A Lethal Dose

You would only have to drink 100 cups of coffee in 4 hours to get the fatal 10 gram dose of caffeine poisoning! (*Drowning would of course be a more likely outcome*)

162. Muscular Headship

The average garden caterpillar has 248 muscles in its head. (*Leaving little room for a brain! Who counted them?*)

PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 18..... Why is experience something you don't get until just after you need it?**163. We all Knew it**

On an average day a man will speak a mere 2000 words while a woman will speak 7000 words during the same time. (*A man expresses himself succinctly or has little worthwhile to say depending upon the 'point of words' you come from.*)

164. Ultimate in Masculinity?

The common old barnacle has a penis 40 times the length of its body! (*No comment!*)

165. Planning for the Future

German chemists have made a replica of the Soccer World Cup that is the size of a single molecule – less than 100-millionth the size of the original. (*Saves on building a larger Trophy Case*)

166. What a Handle!

The longest, known officially used persons name is, 'Adolph Blaine Charles David Earl Frederick Gerald Hubert Irvin John Kenneth Lloyd Martin Nero Oliver Paul Quincy Randolph Sherman Thomas Uncas Victor William Xerxes Yancy Zeus Wolfeschlegelsteinhausenbergerdorft Sr.' (*Wouldn't really want to be called 'Adolph' for short, would you?*)

167. A Woman's Dream?

In the magic world of seahorses it is the male who gets pregnant and has the babies. (*The ultimate in Woman's Liberation or the ultimate lost experience?*)

168. One For the Birds

Ancient Romans believed that birds mated on 14th February each year to produce Spring babies. Of course, this date matches our celebration of Valentines Day. (*Is there a link? In New Zealand, females are sometimes referred to as 'birds'.*)

169. What Means Everything but Nothing?

The universally recognised distress signal 'SOS' doesn't mean 'Save Our Ship.' Actually it doesn't stand for words at all. It's just a coincidence that the three dots, three dashes, and three dots, used to signal for help in Morse code, form the acronym 'SOS.' (*Presumably devised for ease of signalling and memorising – a very definite problem for me with Morse Code*)

<p>QUESTION TIME: Which Roman emperor succumbed to smallpox?</p>

<p>Answer: Page 46</p>

170. Avoiding the Blues?

Is not a good idea if you wish to feel good, for the colour blue has a calming effect upon people. Depending upon the shade, the brain may send up to 11 tranquillising chemicals around your body when it sees blue. (*How about jazz 'blues'?*)

PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 19..... Why is the severity of an itch inversely proportional to your ability to reach it?

171. After Death?

The letters 'AD' appearing after a date do not, as many believe, mean 'After Death', in reference to the death of Jesus Christ. the initials actually stand for "Anno Domini," a Latin phrase meaning "in the year of the Lord. 'A.D.' refers to dates occurring after the birth of Christ. (*A vital 33 year difference when considering the possible return of Christ after 2000 years.*)

172. A Better Mousetrap

The average cat's meal is equivalent to eating 5 mice. (*Stop feeding cats to catch more mice?*)

173. More Brain Power

Did you know that canaries are able to grow new brain cells? (*Anyone for a 'bird- brain' transplant now?*)

174. Mule Power

The United States has never lost a war in which it used mules. (*Nor nuclear warheads – yet!*)

175. Donald Who?

Donald Duck's original name was Donald Drake. (*Walt Disney was playing 'ducks and drakes' here*)

176. Doing it the Hard Way

The Australian Koala never drinks water. It gets its fluids –slowly – from the Eucalyptus leaves it eats. (*Many Australians are similar – their fluid comes from beer – but not so slowly!*)

MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'

A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!

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Answer: Page 43

QUESTION TIME: How long was the world's longest prayer meeting?

Answer Page 47

177. Sleepless Nights?

Did you know that giraffes only sleep for 5 minutes a day? (*Lying down would be an effort, wouldn't it?*)

178. Makes You Think

There is a very negative attitude towards Life Insurance in Spain as it is considered to be wrong to profit from a spouse's death. (*The attitude towards Life Insurance Salesmen though, is the same universally?*)

179. You Always wanted to Know...

That the word 'Laser' stands for Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation. *(Already knew that?)*

180. The Ultimate Achievement – Selling Your Shadow

Peter Schlemiel, a character dreamt up by French author Adelbert von Chamisso, sells his shadow in the 1814 classic novella "Peter Schlemiel: The Man Who Sold His Shadow". The sale makes him a rich man, but ruins his life, causing others to despise and fear him and resulting in the loss of his true love, Mina. *(Became a mere shadow of his former self?)*

181. You Know Times Have Changed...

When in 1994 the average age of top General Motors executives 49.8 years and the average age of the Rolling Stones was 50.6. *(And it only gets worse – some may say – like the Stones!)*

182. Joining in the Action

It takes the skins of 3,000 cows to supply the NFL with enough leather for a year's supply of footballs. *(Presumably why cows 'steer' away from football. Never know when they might become part of the game.)*

183. A Small Catch

In Cleveland, Ohio, it's illegal to catch mice without a hunting license. *(Are mousetrap sales legal?)*

PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 20..... Why is change inevitable, except from vending machines?

184. What is a Scapegoat?

The term is now used to refer to a person who is inappropriately blamed for the sins or behaviour of a group of people. But in the Bible, in Leviticus 16, it refers specifically to the practice of presenting two goats at the Altar of the Tabernacle of Moses. The casting of lots determined which goat was sacrificed to the Lord and which was set aside. The high priest would then transfer the sins of the people onto this unfortunate 'scapegoat' and send it into the wilderness where it died of thirst. *(Death - the ultimate price of all sin)*

185. Will Take Your Word For It

There are apparently 1792 steps to the top of the Eiffel Tower. *(Haven't checked it out for myself - yet!)*

186. A Sign of the Times

Artificial Christmas trees have outsold real ones every year since 1991. *(Real trees being lost as well as the real meaning of Christmas?)*

187. 60 Quintillion Legs!

Belong to the estimated 10 quintillion or 80% of the 800,000 species of world's animals that are insects. *(Fortunately they don't need to wear shoes)*

188. A Bit Late Taking Flight!

The longest recorded chicken flight was 'undertaken' by a headless chicken. *(Lacked a sense of direction though!)*

189. Unprepared?

Ethelred the Unready, an English king of the 10th century, had the dubious distinction of spending his wedding night in bed with his wife and his mother-in-law. *(Would never have been ready for that!)*

MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'

A CHALLENGE FOR YOU!

Why do Christians say 'amen' and not 'awomen'?

Answer: Page 43

PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 21..... Why do bills travel through the mail at twice the speed of cheques?

190. True Royalty?

Lobsters have blue blood. *(Thick skinned, crusty, sunburned aristocracy when boiled)*

191. Prophetic?

If you add up all the number on a roulette wheel, that is 1 through 36, you get 666, the biblical number of fallen man. *(And who said the Bible was outdated?)*

192. Cat Power

When your cat rubs up against your legs you may assume it to be a sign of affection. However, the reality is that it is merely marking its territory or property. *(It really is a cats world)*

193. Paperthin?

No matter the size or thickness of a piece of paper, it cannot be folded in half more than 7 times. *(Is a 'paperthin majority' less than 7 then?)*

194. Bat Attack

The bat is the only mammal in the world that can fly without the assistance of an aeroplane. *(The original batmobile)*

195. Super Human Effort

In perhaps the greatest athletic feat of all time, in 1935 Jesse Owens broke 4 world records in the space of 45 minutes. *(Didn't include the marathon though!)*

QUESTION TIME:

Is it true that it takes more muscles to frown than it does to smile?

Answer: Page 47

196. Enjoy it While You Can

Snails mate only once in their lifetime – but it can last for up to 12 hours! *(Memories, memories)*

197. A Gentle Reminder?

Peter the Great was not so great in his wife's eyes when he had the head of her lover cut off and put in a jar of preserving alcohol which he then ordered to be placed by her bed. *(In summary - a pickled head by the bed)*

198. Lateral thinking

It is not unknown for Eskimos to use fridges to keep their food from freezing. *(Wouldn't need to use the Icebox however.)*

199. By 'Geep!'

The 'geep' is the offspring of a sheep and a goat. *(Could equally well be a shoat)*

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WORDS WORDS

Answer: Page 43

200. By 'Jeep-ers!'

The name Jeep came from the abbreviation used in the army for the "General Purpose" vehicle, G.P. (*serviced by doctors or mechanics?*)

201. And Then There Were 1000!

The Red Sponge, a sea animal, can be broken into a 1000 pieces and still reconstruct itself. (*ancient genetic engineering?*)

202. An Inappropriate Name

A group of goldfish is called a 'troubling.' (*Surely can't be anything less troublesome than a group of goldfish*)

203. A Useless Invention?

Alexander Graham Bell, who invented the telephone, could not phone the two most important women in his life, his wife and his mother, as they were both deaf. (*Successive generations of women have more than made up for this!*)

204. Non Compulsory Fast

The South European Tarantula Spider is able to survive for up to 2 _ years without food. In Southern Italy, it was formerly thought to cause a dancing mania in those lucky or unlucky enough to be bitten by it. (*Could go for a long time between drinks!*)

PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 22..... Why is the 3rd hand on the watch called the second hand?

205. Owl Stealth

The primary feathers of some types of owl are fringed to enable silent flight. This isn't to stop the prey hearing the owl, but rather to enable the owl to hear its prey. (*Then time for the prey to pray!*)

206. Punishing Push-ups

On 24 April 1993, Charles Servizio unbelievably managed to compete 46,001 push-ups in a 24 hour period, or one every 1.8741865 seconds. *(Give or take a millisecond or two!)*

207. Anyone For Cricket?

The first recorded reference to the glorious game of cricket dates way back to 1272AD. *(Has given 22 generations (i.e. 2 teams) of administrators' ample time to complicate the rules so much so that only a few of those who play can understand them. And not the umpires of course! Still the world's most glorious game, however.)*

QUESTION TIME: Why do scientists describe cancer cells as "immortal"?

Answer: Page 47

208. Need a Real Tooth Fairy

The tooth is the only part of the human body that cannot heal itself. *(Ironically the part that most often needs replacing too!)*

209. We Still Have to Talk

About two thirds of the world's population have no regular contact with newspapers, television, radio or telephones. *(And the other third often wish they hadn't!)*

210. Earthquake Prevention

Elephants can't jump. Every other mammal can. *(A 'trunk-ated' disability)*

211. The Last Shall be First

The cigarette lighter was invented before the match. *(Took a bright spark to come up with it!)*

212. How Insignificant is Man!

In 10 minutes, a hurricane releases more energy than all the world's nuclear weapons combined. *(Puts the wind up me!)*

213. The Price of Sin

Now, only one person in two billion will live to be 116 or older. *(Adam managed to live to 930years (Genesis 5:5) but it's all been downhill from there!)*

PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 23..... *If a word is misspelled in the dictionary, how would we ever know?*

214. The Ultimate in Woman's Liberation

In parts of Malaysia the women keep harems of men. (*What for? To get the undone jobs around the house done?*)

215. Mouthwatering & Munchie

Q. What does "M&M" stand for?

A. Those addictive little candies are named for the two big bosses at M&M Candies in the 1940s – Victor Mars and his partner Mr. Merrie.

Q. Why were red M&Ms discontinued in the 1970s?

A. They're back now, but in the mid '70s, red M&Ms were discontinued due to fears that they contained Red Dye No. 2, a substance that is carcinogenic (cancer-causing). They never did contain the dye, but to assuage the fears of the public, the red M&Ms were simply dropped for awhile.

Q. Which colour M&M do most people prefer?

A. Surprisingly, it's the brown M&M (perhaps because it looks most like chocolate?) Market research conducted by the company that makes the candy has determined that brown is the favourite, so that's what each bag contains the most of. (Much of our 'tastebuds' is in our eyes!)

MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'

A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!

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Answer: Page 43

216. Anyone For Tennis? Again and Again and

The oldest competitor to have appeared at The Championships (Wimbledon) was J.R. Borota (FRA) who was 65 years, 317 days when he played in the Gentlemen's Doubles in 1964. (*'Service' above and beyond duty!*)

QUESTION TIME:

What bird migrates from the Arctic to the Antarctic each year?

Answer: Page 48

217. $(3 \times (30+30)) = 1,000,000,000!$?

Such is the amazing progress of computer chip miniaturisation that in 1960 a single chip held 3 circuits, while 30 years later in 1990 the total was 30 million. It is estimated that in 2020, thirty years later again, the total will rise to at least 1 billion per chip. (*Anyone offering to do a manual check?*)

218. On the Straight and Wide

The Eisenhower interstate system requires that one mile in every five must be straight. These straight sections are usable as airstrips in times of war or other emergencies. (*Unfortunately no-one realised that the interstate is also a 'moving parking lot.' Where would the cars park to let the planes land?*)

219. Who Takes the Credit for This?

There are two credit cards for every person in the United States. (*Why are credit cards always in debit?*)

220. Chicken Wingpower

The longest recorded flight of a chicken is thirteen seconds. (*Why did the chicken fly across the road? To get to the other side without dirtying its feet.*)

221. Where is The World's Largest Village?

Canada is an Indian word meaning 'Big Village'. (*Description by a Texan Indian?*)

PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 24..... If Webster wrote the first dictionary, where did he find the words?

222. I Wish 'Eyed' Got a Bigger Brain

An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain. (*I have 'ostrich-like' days too!*)

223. Getting The Hint!

Clans of long ago that wanted to get rid of their unwanted people without killing them used to burn their houses down - hence the expression 'to get fired.' (*Now simply called euthanasia – mercy(!) killing*)

224. **No Crime, No Rhyme** (Sorry its meaningless, but rhyming with rhyme is difficult too!)
No word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver, and purple. (*Poets beware, take care, or these words, they will you snare.*)

MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'

A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!

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Answer: Page 43

225. Under the Thumb

The phrase "rule of thumb" is derived from an old English law that stated you couldn't beat your wife with anything wider than your thumb.
(*Farmers wives were at a disadvantage!*)

226. Having a Ball!

Ballroom dancing is a major at Brigham Young University. (*Mr Fox trotted in with Miss Gay Gordon.*)

227. Sweet Kisses

Hershey's Kisses are called that because the machine that makes them looks like it's kissing the conveyor belt. (*Who would have thought that even 'kissing' could be mechanised!*)

228. Horse Sense

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. (*However we don't know the fate of the horse!*)

229. The Dogfight

The term "the whole 9 yards" came from WWII fighter pilots in the Pacific. When arming their aeroplanes on the ground, the .50 calibre machine gun ammo belts 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." (*Unfortunately most ended up 6 feet {2 yards} under.*)

PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 25..... Why do we say something is 'out of whack'? What is a whack?

230. A Different Perspective

Rene Descartes came up with the theory of co-ordinate geometry by looking at a fly walk across a tiled ceiling. *(No wonder I couldn't understand it – for the fly has now flown away!)*

231. Illiterate?

The term 'the 3 R's' (for reading, writing and arithmetic) was coined by Sir William Curtis, who was illiterate. *(Naturally, he couldn't spell either!)*

232. A Show of Independence?

Only two people signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4th, John Hancock and Charles Thomson. Most of the rest signed on August 2, but the last signature wasn't added until 5 years later. *(An independent spirit dies hard – look at America today!)*

233. Tuneless

About half the pianos in England are thought to be out of tune. *(explains the quality of singing at their football matches!)*

234. Been Fired?

Clans of long ago that wanted to get rid of their unwanted people without killing them used to burn their houses down - hence the expression "to get fired." *(And probably "to come to a fiery end.")*

QUESTION TIME: What controversy involving Pluto occurred in 1999?

Answer: Page 48

235. Let There be War No More

Monaco's National Orchestra is bigger than its army. *('Tis music to the ears!)*

236. Check it out - Longhand

$111,111,111 \times 111,111,111 = 12,345,678,987,654,321$ *(What goes up, must come down!)*

237. Dangerous Occupations

In 1996 more people died on the job working in advertising than in the petroleum refining industry. *(A fact not well advertised!)*

238. 'Kingly Kards'

Each king in a deck of playing cards represents a great king from history. The French say Spades - King David; Clubs - Alexander the Great; Hearts -Charlemagne; and Diamonds - Julius Caesar. Alternatively, the King of clubs may have represented the arms of the Pope; spades, king of France; diamonds, king of Spain; and hearts, England. *(They all dug with spades, swung clubs, won hearts and collected diamonds!)*

239. Cold Comfort

You are more likely to be struck by lightening than to be eaten by a shark. On the other hand (if you still have one), you are less likely to be struck by lightening than be infected by flesh-eating bacteria. *(Youzzzzz Takes Your Choice!)*

MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'

A CHALLENGE FOR YOU!

What three manmade items are in heaven?

Answer: Page 43

240. Circuitous Logic

The reason firehouses have circular stairways is from the days of yore when the engines were pulled by horses. The horses were stabled on the ground floor and figured out how to walk up straight staircases. *(What about the horses on merry-go-rounds?)*

241. It's a Plastic World

There is a Tupperware Party held somewhere in the world every 2 seconds. *(Simply cannot contain(er) my excitement!)*

242. Unrepeatable?

The only 15 letter word that can be spelled without repeating a letter is uncopyrightable. *(Copyrighted for sure!)*

243. Rats to you, too!

Rats are such rampant breeders that in 18 months, two rats could have over a million descendants. *(Hence the 'Rat Attack')*

244. Why do we say Quack-Quack?

When a duck's quack doesn't echo, and no one knows why. *(A quacker of a mystery!)*

245. Animal Activity

Right now as you are reading this, more than 100,000 creatures are swimming, feeding, reproducing and depositing waste inside your mouth. *(It's no wonder then that so much drivel comes out!)*

246. Planned Obsolescence?

The average life span of a major league baseball: 7 pitches. *(Presumably only 1 if it is hit – my pitching would be expensive!)*

247. Coconut Killers

More people are killed each year by coconuts than sharks. *(It is safer to look heavenward than earthward if you are worried about this – is best too, even if you aren't!)*

248. Subliminal Advertising

In every episode of Seinfeld there is a Superman somewhere. *(Obviously not Jerry!)*

QUESTION TIME:

Where and when was the first underground train line opened?

Answer: Page 48

249. The 'Frozen Chosen'

In 1980, the 'Yellow Pages' accidentally listed a funeral home under 'Frozen Foods.' *(Sends a chill up the spine!)*

250. The Typing Teachers Dream (And pupils downfall)

The sentence "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog." uses every letter in the alphabet. (Developed by Western Union to Test telex/twx communications) By the way, the average typist does 56% of the typing with their left hand. *(Today saving the right for the mouse – someone must have known!)*

MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE' ANSWERS

- Page 1 DOWNTOWN
- 3 Stay back. You are too close.
- 5 The ring fell into a can of dry, ground coffee!
- 7 Spreadsheet
- 9 Only 10 Times!
- 11 Foursome
- 13 Too soon to tell.
- 15 A person after my own heart.
- 17 Friend in need.
- 20 Forgive and forget.
- 22 Foreign object.
- 24 Mixed messages.
- 27 Backchat
- 29 Repeat performance.
- 31 Getting back to basics.
- 33 Answer: Because we sing 'hymns', not 'hers'! (It's a joke, not theology!)
- 35 Too funny for words.
- 37 Sit down and shut up.
- 39 Easy on the eye.
- 41 The scar in Jesus' side as well as the nail-print scars in each of his hands.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Page 2 QUESTION: If you cut an earthworm in half, will it grow into two new worms?

ANSWER: This widely held idea is largely a myth. While it is true that earthworms can regenerate, when you cut one in half, both parts don't regenerate into fully developed worms. Only the front end of the worm, containing the "brain" (cerebral ganglion) has a chance of growing new segments.

Page 4 QUESTION: How did trivia (such as this), get its name?

ANSWER: It is a merging of the Latin words 'tri' (three) and 'via' (road). To educate the public, news and information was posted on boards at crossroads (where three roads met) and so the word 'trivialis' was applied to the snippets of un-related information. The word trivial is derived from this 'Trivia' as a word on its own dates to about 1920.

Page 6 QUESTION: From where does the saying "Hobson's Choice" originate?

ANSWER: Hobson's Choice doesn't simply mean a difficult choice. It means no choice at all, rather like having to choose between the devil and the deep blue sea. It originated from Thomas Hobson, a 16th-century stable-keeper, and a paid-up member of the amalgamated union of the bloody-minded. He only hired out his horses on a strict rotation system. Customers couldn't choose a horse for themselves. You got the one nearest the stable door or none!

Page 8 QUESTION: Is it true that hair and nails continue to grow after death?

ANSWER: No, they only seem to. What really happens is that the body dries out after death and the skin recedes from the hair and nails, making it APPEAR as if they are longer. In fact, even though hair is not technically "living," hair and nail cells still need to be nourished by blood in order to grow.

Page 10 QUESTION: What is an "inclined elevator"?

ANSWER: Quite logically, "Inclined Elevator" was another term used at the turn of the twentieth century for what we now call an escalator. The first one was installed at Harrods department store in London and was scary enough that store personnel served brandy to customers who felt faint while riding it.

Page 12 QUESTION: What is a Welsh rabbit?

ANSWER: Welsh rabbit (also called Welsh rarebit) isn't an animal at all. It's melted cheese on toast or crackers. It was called this so peasants could imagine themselves eating real rabbit -- or at least make fun of the fact that they couldn't afford it. The name originated in an era when only the Welsh nobility could hunt rabbits. The poor peasants had to melt cheese on toast and simply call it "rabbit."

Page 15 QUESTION: Where did the term "private eye" originate?

ANSWER: We get "private eye" from the famous logo of the Pinkerton Detective Agency - a wide-open eye. The company, founded in the 1800s, had as its motto: "We never sleep."

Page 17 QUESTION: Who wrote the first detective novel?

ANSWER: Edgar Allan Poe, best known for his tales of horror, is credited with being the "father" of the marvellous mystery genre. Auguste C. Dupin, his super-intelligent and super-logical detective, first appeared in the 1841 story, "The Murders in the Rue Morgue."

Page 19 QUESTION: Why do pigs like to wallow in mud?

ANSWER: It's not because they're dirty animals or like being dirty. Pigs don't perspire and wallowing in mud simply helps them to cool off.

Page 21 QUESTION: What is the only bone in the body that does not connect to other bones?

ANSWER: The hyoid bone, in the throat, is the only bone in the human body that does not connect to other bones. Its particular job is to support the tongue and its muscles.

Page 23 QUESTION: Is there really such a thing as a flea circus?

ANSWER: Yes, flea circuses first appeared in Europe in the 1820s and featured such spectacular diversions as the re-enactment of Napoleon's defeat at Waterloo. They – but not their fleas - died out sometime in the middle of the last century. Trainers use the fleas' natural responses to stimuli to encourage them to jump and move around and even pull props. Of course, the performers are tiny, so a magnifying glass is necessary for a good view.

Page 25 QUESTION: Do sword swallows really swallow the sword?

ANSWER: It's not a trick: they really do swallow the sword. It's not easy though. Sword swallows must relax the throat muscles and keep them completely relaxed while the sword is inside. The swords are dull, but without a steady hand – or sword - they can do damage to the throat, oesophagus, or stomach.

Page 28 QUESTION: In terms of chemical composition, what substance does human blood most closely resemble?

ANSWER: The substance chemically closest to blood is seawater. In fact, the saline solution which is used in intravenous injections, "normal saline," is 0.9% salt to water, the same salinity as seawater. It's also the salinity of amniotic fluid, the liquid that surrounded all of us in utero, before we were born. Of course, seawater contains lots of other "trace minerals," which are mostly also present in blood. Yes, human plasma closely resembles seawater.

Page 30 QUESTION: Which Roman emperor succumbed to smallpox?

ANSWER: Emperor Marcus Aurelius succumbed to the "Plague of Antonine," a smallpox epidemic that killed something between 3.5 and 7 million people in the Roman Empire in 180 AD.

Page 31 QUESTION: How long was the world's longest prayer meeting?

ANSWER: How long does prayer meeting last in your church? Do the 'fidgits' set in after ten or twenty minutes? Let's say the average prayer meeting is an hour. But the world's longest Prayer Meeting? Multiply an hour by 24; multiply that by 365; and then multiply that by 100! That tallies up to 876,000 hours. The longest prayer meeting in the world actually lasted even longer than that! It began on August 27, 1727, in Herrnhut, Germany, when Moravians under Count von Zinzendorf commenced an around-the-clock prayer chain that lasted more than one hundred years!

Page 34 QUESTION: Is it true that it takes more muscles to frown than it does to smile?

ANSWER: Yes. Seventeen muscles to smile and 43 to frown is an oft-repeated figure, especially all over the Internet (and, yes, at university-related sites too) as well as in the popular press. But it's *nowhere* to be found in any text devoted to anatomy (especially of the head), surgery (esp. maxillofacial or reconstructive), neurology, or the analysis of human facial expressions.

In fact, Paul Ekman -- an authority on human facial expression tells me that he has no idea where this notion originated. It takes as few as two muscles to produce a universally recognisable smile and as few as three to produce a frown. There is simply no confirmation of the saying "it takes 17 muscles to smile and 43 to frown" in any medical text.

Page 36 QUESTION: Why do scientists describe cancer cells as "immortal"?

ANSWER: Normal cells divide a limited amount of times (usually no more than 50-60 times) before they die. Cancer cells, however, proliferate indefinitely in culture. A cancer cell will go on and on doubling, one cell becoming two, then four, then eight, etc.... Normal cells, when placed in a tissue culture dish, proliferate until a single layer of cells just touching each other covers the surface of the dish. Mitosis (cell replication) then stops. Cancer cells, on the other hand, show no such "contact inhibition." They continue to divide, piling up into actual mounds. It is this that makes cancer cells so damaging to an organism.

Page 37 QUESTION: What bird migrates from the Arctic to the Antarctic each year?

ANSWER: The Arctic tern. This travelling bird flies nearly 22,000 miles each year in its migration (roughly the circumference of the Earth), making it the animal with the greatest migratory range. Takes six months to fly each way. It migrates to live! It lives to migrate!

Page 40 QUESTION: What controversy involving Pluto occurred in 1999?

ANSWER: In January 1999, misleading reports appeared in the media that suggested Pluto was about to lose its status as a planet and be reclassified as a minor planet or even an asteroid. The furore was caused by a suggestion to include Pluto in a specialised listing of "Trans-Neptunian Objects," a group of smaller objects that have been discovered in the outer solar system beyond Neptune's orbit. These objects are similar to Pluto, though drastically smaller. Astronomers did not intend to imply that Pluto was not a planet by suggesting its inclusion on the list, but the assumption that Pluto was being "demoted" caused an uproar anyway and the International Astronomical Union had to issue a statement confirming that Pluto remained our ninth planet.

Page 42 QUESTION: Where and when was the first underground train line opened?

ANSWER: The City and South London Railway opened the world's first deep-level electric railway on December 18th, 1890, running from King William Street in the City of London under the River Thames to Stockwell.