

DID YOU KNOW?

(SHORT PREVIEW)

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1) Chicken Breed that is Black Inside Out:

- Black is not an uncommon color in the animal world; bears are black, gorillas are black, there are breeds of dogs and cats that are black.
- But this Indonesian chicken breed known as Ayam Cemani takes 'Black' into an entirely different realm.
- The black color of Ayam Cemani is not limited to its feathers – the color is all over and even on the inside.
- Everything about this chicken is black – skin, beak, tongue, legs, toe nails, even its meat, bones and organs.
- Even bone marrow is black.
- Ayam Cemani is one of the most expensive chickens in the world with a single bird costing up to \$ 2,500 (Rs 1.5 lakh).

2) First Man to complete the World Journey on Foot:

- American David Kunst became the first person to complete the first round-the-world journey on foot on October 5, 1974(Began his journey on June 20, 1970).
- He took 4 years and 21 pairs of shoes to complete the journey across 4 continents.
- The Earth walker carried a torch in the 1996 Olympic Torch Relay and he is featured in the 1997 Guinness Record Breakers Book.
- With help from his brothers John and Pete and Jenni Samuel, an Australian School Teacher, David walked 21,759km round the planet earth.

3) A Brazil town has only women residents:

- Noiva do Cordeiro a Brazilian town near Belo Vale, is one of the very few all-female settlements in the world.
- Its 600-odd female residents are mostly between the ages of 20 and 35.
- They all live by a strict set of rules that allows only women to dominate society.
- All men – including husbands and sons above the age of 18 – are banished from Noiva do Corderio.
- They have to work away from home and can only visit during the weekends.
- Girl-power rules in this community and women are in charge of everything including farming, town planning and religion.
- "There are lots of things that women do better than men", said resident Rosalee.
- "Our town is prettier, more organized, and far more harmonious than if men were in charge."

4) Words to Sound Smart:

Sometimes we need to sound more intelligent. Whether its for an interview or the need to have the last word in an argument, a great vocabulary is vital for sounding smart.

It's easy to sound smart by dropping intelligent sounding words into casual conversations. You just have to make sure that you don't use them incorrectly, or you could end up embarrassing yourself. But don't worry-it shouldn't take you long to get the hang of using the following intelligent sounding words. Try them all out today, and you'll be a pro by tomorrow.

➤ **Proclivity:**

- It means that one has a 'tendency to do something regularly'.
- It's one of the intelligent sounding words that you can throw into conversations often, because you can use it to describe your friend with a proclivity for drama or your sister with a proclivity for music,

➤ **Quintessential:**

- Quintessential represents the 'perfect example' of something.
- For instance, you can say that your friend is the quintessential athlete, because he's so talented, fit and works hard to achieve.

➤ **Seldom:**

- People seldom use the word 'seldom'.
- It means the same thing as 'rarely' or 'infrequently', which you probably use often in everyday life.
- It should be easy to slip 'seldom' into one of your conversations today, so give it a try.

➤ **Exorbitant:**

- Exorbitant means 'unreasonably high'.
- With the rising prices, it shouldn't be difficult to use this word in a sentence.
- Tell your friends that the gas prices are exorbitant, and they'll know exactly what you mean.

➤ **Transpired:**

- Instead of saying that something happened, say that it 'transpired'.
- It's a simple change of words that will make you sound more intelligent.
- So the next time you have a conversation with your crush, be sure to tell your friends what transpired between you two.

➤ **Ornery:**

- Ornery means bad-tempered and grouchy.

- If your siblings are annoying you one day, and they won't stop getting angry at you, tell them that they're being ornery.
- **Toilsome:**
- If something takes a lot of hard work to complete, then it is toilsome.
 - So instead of saying that your homework or job is difficult, say that it is toilsome.
 - The word itself sounds rough and tough, so even people that haven't heard the word before will understand what you mean.
- **Comeuppance:**
- Comeuppance means 'a punishment that someone deserves'.
 - It's almost the same idea as Karma.
 - If someone cheats on you, and then gets their heart broken by someone else, it's their comeuppance for hurting you.
- **Eclectic:**
- Eclectic means 'deriving ideas, style or taste from a broad and diverse range of sources'.
 - If you like the Backstreet Boys as much as you like Eminem, then your music taste is eclectic.
- **Dalliance:**
- A dalliance is a 'casual romantic relationship that is brief and not serious.'
 - If you're ever in one of these situations, it's best to describe your partner as a dalliance.
 - People might not know what you're talking about.

5) Feathers used as a canvas for paintings:

- New Albany, Indiana-based folk artist Jamie Homeister has chosen a truly unconventional canvas for her beautiful animal and bird paintings – feathers.
- She usually receives the feathers from customers who commission her to paint images of their birds that the given feathers actually belonged to.
- She has always been intrigued by the lifestyles of all those who walked this earth before us, so feather painting just always made sense to her.
- She's based in Indiana, but her work is influenced most by her Canadian heritage, and much of her feather work gives a hard nod to the Native American culture.
- She does much of it by commission – many of her parrot-feather paintings depict the parrots from which the feathers themselves fell.
- Featherwork is an incredibly humbling media.
- The feathers splice, buckle, splinter and shred under the weight of paint.

- Layering them in her multi-feather formations is even more difficult to execute, as you have layers of light, airy, thinly threaded buoyancy.
- She says that the meticulous process of painting on feathers is sometimes no easier than 'painting on blades of grass'.
- One really has to let the materials speak to you through canvas.