

ALPHABET SOUP:



False or True?

By GYLES BRANDRETH

Some of these statements are true. Some are false. Can you spot the false ones?

1. Until 1957 it was illegal to go swimming in the state of New York on Sunday.

2. Teddy bears are named after President Theodore Roosevelt.

3. In southern Italy, tulips are not only grown for their beauty, but also because they are considered a delicacy and are regularly eaten as part of a salad.

4. Typewriters were first developed to help the blind.

5. Benjamin Franklin invented the digital clock in 1777.

6. An earthworm can pull 10 times its own weight.

7. Originally, the yo-yo was a Filipino jungle weapon.

8. Ignition keys were first used to start cars in 1949.

9. William Lee invented a knitting machine in 1589.

10. India ink actually comes from China.

11. The oldest account of a chimney describes one in Venice in 1347.

12. President Dwight Eisenhower was once North American Monopoly Champion.

13. Cleopatra was the product of six generations of brother/sister marriages.

14. Elephants cannot jump.

15. No mammal has poisonous glands.

16. A gorilla's brain weighs 10 pounds.

17. The Romans used weasels to catch mice.

18. Only male nightingales sing.

19. The Emperor Napoleon was an alcoholic.

20. Ovid wrote a book about cosmetics.

21. It is recorded that Louis XIII of France was bled 47 times in one month.



22. Queen Marie Antoinette

of France and actress Jayne Mansfield had identical bust measurements.

23. "School" is derived from the Greek word "skhole," which means "leisure."

24. Six different dialects are spoken in India.

25. During their studies, medical students increase their vocabularies by 10,000 words.

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A homophone is a telephone you keep around the house — true or false? Quite right: false.

Homophones, of course, are words that sound alike, but have different spellings or different meanings, like "wholly" (meaning "completely") and "holy" (meaning "sacred"). Can you find homophones that will fit these clues?

1. a. The opposite of left
b. A ceremony
(Both words begin with R.)

2. a. A group of musicians
b. Forbidden
(Both words begin with B.)

3. a. Corn on the cob
b. A labyrinth
(Both words begin with M.)

4. a. To agree
b. A climb
(Both words begin with A.)

5. a. To break the rules in a sport
b. What a chicken is
(Both words begin with F.)

6. a. An agreement
b. What a suitcase is when its full
(Both words begin with P.)

7. a. A cricketer does it
b. You eat soup from it
(Both words begin with B.)

8. a. You can bounce it
b. Shout
(Both words begin with B.)

9. a. A river in France
b. Rational health
(Both words begin with S.)

Answers

The following statements are false:

1. Untrue
3. Untrue
5. No, he didn't
12. Untrue
15. The duckbill platypus has
16. No, it weighs 1-3/4 pounds
19. Untrue
24. Wrong, there are 845

All the others are true.

Homophones:

- | | |
|--------------|-----------|
| 1. a. Right | b. Rite |
| 2. a. Band | b. Banned |
| 3. a. Maize | b. Maze |
| 4. a. Assent | b. Ascent |
| 5. a. Foul | b. Fowl |
| 6. a. Pact | b. Packed |
| 7. a. Bowl | b. Bowl |
| 8. a. Ball | b. Bawl |
| 9. a. Seine | b. Sane |