**Interesting Facts about English**

**https://www.englishclub.com/interesting-facts/**

* The most common letter in English is "e".
* The most common vowel in English is "e", followed by "a".
* The most common consonant in English is "r", followed by "t".
* Every syllable in English must have a vowel (sound). Not all syllables have consonants.
* Only two English words in current use end in "-gry". They are "angry" and "hungry".
* The word "bookkeeper" (along with its associate "bookkeeping") is the only unhyphenated English word with three consecutive double letters. Other such words, like "sweet-toothed", require a hyphen to be readily readable.
* The word "triskaidekaphobia" means "extreme fear of the number 13". This superstition is related to "paraskevidekatriaphobia", which means "fear of Friday the 13th".
* More English words begin with the letter "s" than with any other letter.
* A preposition is always followed by a noun (ie noun, proper noun, pronoun, noun group, gerund).
* The word "uncopyrightable" is the longest English word in normal use that contains no letter more than once.
* A sentence that contains all 26 letters of the alphabet is called a "pangram".
* The following sentence contains all 26 letters of the alphabet: "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog." This sentence is often used to test typewriters or keyboards.
* The only word in English that ends with the letters "-mt" is "dreamt" (which is a variant spelling of "dreamed") - as well of course as "undreamt" :)
* A word formed by joining together parts of existing words is called a "blend" (or, less commonly, a "portmanteau word"). Many new words enter the English language in this way. Examples are "brunch" (breakfast + lunch); "motel" (motorcar + hotel); and "guesstimate" (guess + estimate). Note that blends are not the same as compounds or compound nouns, which form when two whole words join together, for example: website, blackboard, darkroom.
* The word "alphabet" comes from the first two letters of the Greek alphabet: alpha, bēta.
* The dot over the letter "i" and the letter "j" is called a "superscript dot".
* In normal usage, the # symbol has several names, for example: hash, pound sign, number sign.
* In English, the @ symbol is usually called "the at sign" or "the at symbol".
* If we place a comma before the word "and" at the end of a list, this is known as an "Oxford comma" or a "serial comma". For example: "I drink coffee, tea, and wine."
* Some words exist only in plural form, for example: glasses (spectacles), binoculars, scissors, shears, tongs, gallows, trousers, jeans, pants, pyjamas (but note that clothing words often become singular when we use them as modifiers, as in "trouser pocket").
* The shortest complete sentence in English is the following. "I am."
* The word "Checkmate" in chess comes from the Persian phrase "Shah Mat" meaning "the king is helpless".
* We pronounce the combination "ough" in 9 different ways, as in the following sentence which contains them all: "A rough-coated, dough-faced, thoughtful ploughman strode through the streets of Scarborough; after falling into a slough, he coughed and hiccoughed."
* The longest English word without a true vowel (a, e, i, o or u) is "rhythm".
* The only planet not named after a god is our own, Earth. The others are, in order from the Sun, Mercury, Venus, [Earth,] Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune.
* There are only 4 English words in common use ending in "-dous": hazardous, horrendous, stupendous, and tremendous.
* We can find 10 words in the 7-letter word "therein" without rearranging any of its letters: the, there, he, in, rein, her, here, ere, therein, herein.
* A sentence with a similar pattern, which may help to unravel the above, is:
* It is true, despite everything you say, that this word which this word refers to is not the same word which this word refers to.

Or, if you insist on being really correct:

It is true, despite everything you say, that this word to which this word refers is not the same word to which this word refers.

* The "QWERTY keyboard" gains its name from the fact that its first 6 letter keys are Q, W, E, R, T and Y. On early typewriters the keys were arranged in such a way as to minimize the clashing of the mechanical rods that carried the letters.