

1. “If you drop a golf ball and a baseball from the same height at the same time, which one hits the ground first?”

In normal conditions — like just dropping them in air — they’ll hit almost at the same time, but the golf ball might land a tiny bit later because air resistance affects it a little differently. If you dropped them in a vacuum, though, they’d hit the ground exactly at the same time.

2. “If you’re lost in the desert, should you ration your water or drink it all early?”

If you’re lost in the desert, it’s generally better to drink your water early rather than ration it. Dehydration can impair your judgment and physical ability, making it harder to find help or shelter. Experts recommend drinking early and often to stay alert and functional, especially during the hottest parts of the day, while also seeking shade and conserving energy.

3. “Is Stockholm East or West of Cape Town?”

Stockholm (in Sweden) is west of Cape Town (in South Africa). If you look at a world map, Stockholm lies around 18° east longitude, while Cape Town is about 18° east longitude too—but since they’re nearly on the same meridian, Stockholm is actually slightly farther west. However, the main difference between them is latitude—Stockholm is far north, and Cape Town is far south.

4. “Is leaving your laptop plugged in constantly good or bad for its battery health?”

Leaving your laptop plugged in constantly is okay for long-term battery health. Modern laptops stop charging at 100%, so it is a myth that you can “overcharge” your battery and cause harm. Many laptops also offer battery health or “conservation mode” settings to help manage this automatically.

5. “Does searing meat at high heat seal in the juices?”

No — searing meat at high heat does not actually seal in the juices. That’s a common cooking myth. Searing creates a flavorful brown crust through the Maillard reaction, which enhances taste and texture, but it doesn’t form a barrier to lock in moisture. In fact, some juices are lost during searing. The best way to keep meat juicy is to avoid overcooking, let it rest before cutting, and cook it to the proper internal temperature.

6. If you double the speed of a car, do you double the braking distance?

No — if you double the speed of a car, you quadruple the braking distance, not just double it. Braking distance increases with the square of your speed because kinetic energy (which brakes must dissipate) is proportional to the square of velocity.

7. “Does maintaining eye contact always make you appear more trustworthy?”

Not always — while moderate eye contact often makes you seem confident and trustworthy, too much or too intense eye contact can feel aggressive or uncomfortable. Cultural norms also play a role: in some cultures, steady eye contact shows respect and sincerity, while in others, it can be seen as rude or confrontational.

8. “What is celebrated on the Mexican holiday of Cinco de Mayo?”

On Cinco de Mayo Mexico celebrates its Independence Day. It marks the start of Mexico’s fight for independence from Spanish rule in 1810. The day is celebrated with parades, fireworks, music, traditional food, and patriotic displays across the country, symbolizing freedom and national pride.

9. “Does cracking your knuckles frequently increase the risk of arthritis?”

Yes — cracking your knuckles does increase the risk of arthritis. Multiple studies have shown a link between knuckle cracking and arthritis. The popping sound comes from gas bubbles collapsing in the joint fluid, which can damage bones or cartilage. Furthermore, cracking excessively or forcefully can sometimes cause temporary swelling or reduced grip strength.

10. “Why is it called the dark side of the moon?”

It’s called the “dark side of the Moon” because that side is never visible from Earth, not because it’s actually dark. The Moon is tidally locked to Earth, meaning it rotates on its axis at the same rate it orbits Earth — so we always see the same side. The far side receives just as much sunlight as the near side, but it remained unseen until spacecraft photographed it, which is why it earned the nickname “dark side.”