

1. When Sachin was young, he wanted to become a fast bowler but was rejected by Australian great Dennis Lillee's MRF Pace Foundation in 1987. Lillee asked him to concentrate on his batting.
2. Sachin once fielded for Pakistan in a festival match against India in Mumbai in 1987, two years before his international debut. Javed Miandad and Abdul Qadir had left the field during lunch, after which he was asked to field for the visiting team.
3. Did you know Sachin has more five-wicket hauls in ODI cricket (2) than the greatest leg-spinner of our time Shane Warne (1).
4. While Warne has 37 Test five-wicket hauls, he managed a solitary ODI fiver in his 12-year career.
5. The spinning legend with 1,001 wickets is behind the greatest batsman of his time in a bowling record!
6. During the 1987 World Cup, Sachin was a ball boy for the match between India and Zimbabwe at the Wankhede stadium. He was 14 then.
7. The first batsman to break the 200 run barrier in an ODI match when he scored 200 against South Africa in 2010.
8. In 1992, at 19, Sachin joined the Yorkshire County Cricket Club, becoming the youngest Indian to play English county cricket. He had an excellent stint with Yorkshire, amassing 1,070 runs in 16 matches.
9. Sachin's debut Test against Pakistan in 1989 was also legendary all-rounder Kapil Dev's 100th match in whites for India.
10. Sachin was named after the great composer Sachin Dev Burman. Sachin's father Professor Ramesh Tendulkar was a huge fan of Burman's music.
11. Sachin's mother Rajni Tendulkar saw him play from the stands for the first time -- in his final Test.
12. Sachin was the highest run-getter in IPL 2010; he scored 618 runs in 15 matches.
13. Sachin had the Tricolor pasted inside his kitbag throughout his career.
14. He was the first sportsperson to receive the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian honour, in 2014.
15. Sachin won the most number of Man of the Match awards (9) in the World Cup.
16. The first car which Sachin owned was a Maruti 800. He bought it with a loan. Later, his marvelous cricketing exploits made him a brand ambassador of the reputed brand BMW.
17. He was the first international batsman to be given out by the third umpire (run out) on the second day of the Durban Test against

South Africa in 1992 when a Jonty Rhodes throw caught Sachin short of the crease.

- 18.** Sachin had a start worth remembering in domestic cricket -- he smacked a hundred in the Ranji, Duleep and Irani trophies.
- 19.** Sachin gave his bat to Pakistani all-rounder Shahid Afridi, who went on to score the fastest century in 1996 (a record which stood for 17 years) against Sri Lanka in just 37 balls.
- 20.** During his teens, Sachin would win a coin from his mentor Ramakant Achrekar if he could last an entire session of nets without getting dismissed. He is the proud owner of 13 such coins.