# Top 10 Bizarre Origins of Famous Companies

Some companies have very benign origins; nerds come up with an idea while in college, beg some rich investors to sphere them some cash. After years of more begging, they become successful. Most companies follow some variation of this. However, the origins of some of the most famous companies in the world are more weird and exciting. There is a list of the Top 10 Bizarre Origins of Famous Companies.

## Number 10: Vaseline

There always comes a time when you look at you elbow and realize that its as dry as the desert. During many of these situations, you might use a Vaseline product to remedy the issue. Fond memories, but do you know the strange origin of Vaseline? Vaseline was founded by 22-year-old British chemist Robert Chesebrough, in 1859. Chesebrough, who had been making kerosene from the oil of sperm whales, was eager to learn what other products could be made from petroleum. He was down an oil well when he discovered what was called “rod wax”, which was a gooey substance. Chesebrough noticed that the workers would use the goo to heal cuts and burns. After five years of perfecting his extraction technique, Chesebrough patented his process of making petroleum jelly into a usable product, in 1865. Chesebrough opened his first factory in Brooklyn in 1870. Chesebrough traveled throughout New York state in a horse and cart, spreading the word about his product, that he called a “miracle healer”. He did this by demonstrating it on himself. He would burn his skin with acid or an open flame. He would then spread the clear jelly on his injury, demonstrating that his past injuries were healed with the aid of his protective jelly. He was kind of a mad man.

## Number 9: Nascar

Do you love to see men and women, in fast cars, travel at 300 miles per hour around a circuit, just for your entertainment, then Nascar might be the sports for you. Nascar is a popular sport of adrenaline and ego that owes its origin to Prohibition. Nascar was started in Prohibition when drivers called runners, who delivered moonshine, used soup up cars to deliver the illegal moonshine, so that they would not be caught by federal agents who wanted to nab them. When the outran the agents, the drivers would have racing contests amongst themselves, to see who was the fastest. By the end of the 1940s, those contests had become an organized sport, due to the efforts of Big Bill France. Big Bill organized a meeting of drivers, car owners and mechanics at the Streamline Hotel in Daytona Beach on December 14, 1947, to establish standard rules for racing. The National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR) was formed on that day. On February 15, 1948, the first official Nascar race was held on the beach in Daytona. It was won by Red Byron. A week later, NASCAR became an official company.

## Number 8: Automoili Lamborghini SPA

If you were to buy a super sportscar, you would expect nothing but perfection out of that car. If were then disappointed by that sportscar, you might be tempted to build your own, just like in the case of Automoili Lamborghini SPA. It was founded by Ferruccio Lamborghini, who first started out with a tractor-building company in the Italian village of Sant'Agata Bolognese called Lamborghini Trattori. Lamborghini was an avid collector of sportscars, including those sold by Ferrari. He bought a Ferrari 250, but found that its clutch was defective. He decided to meet Enzo Ferrari at the Ferrari factory in Maranello, Italy, to complain about the quality of his Ferrari 250. Ferruccio received a dismissive answer from Ferrari, who told Lamborghini that "the problem is not with the car, but rather, the driver," and suggested he look after his tractors. He went home and tried to fix his car by dismounting the transmission. He then discovered that it was built with the very same transmission used in his own tractors. He summarized that with his pervious knowledge he could build his own super cars. Automoili Lamborghini SAP was founded as the company to fulfil this dream. In 1963, the 350 GTV was presented at the Turin Auto Show as the first of many Lamborghini masterpieces. So, maybe the next you are angry at a product, you could create your own instead of breaking stuff.

## Number 7: Toyota Motor Corporation

Everybody owns a Toyota car, or at least it seems that way due to its popularity. One thing for sure, they do last longer than your grandmother has on this Earth. Toyota has been one of the top cars manufacturers in the world according to revenue and volume sold. However, Toyota was not started as automobile maker or anything close to that. Toyota was founded as the Toyoda Automatic Loom Works by Sakichi Toyoda. A loom is a device used to weave cloth and tapestry. Its first product was the Model G Automatic Loom, first sold in 1924. A British Company, called the Platt Brothers, bought the production and sales rights for the loom for a cool £100,000. Sakichi gave the money from the sale to his son, Kiichiro, to develop automotive technology at Toyoda. In 1933 an automobile department was established at Toyoda. The Company's first passenger car, the Model AA, was launched in 1936. In 1937, the automobile division was spun off as the Toyota Motor Company. Toyota was chosen as the name instead of Toyoda because it looked cooler. Toyoda Automatic Loom Works is still around today as Toyota Industries, a manufacturer of forklifts, textile machinery and motor vehicle parts.

# Number 6: The Coca-Cola Company

Coca-Cola is the beverage your doctor would tell you not to part take in, while he enjoys one between surgeries. Coca Cola is one of the world’s favorite drinks, that has a very addictive taste and a very additive effect on your body fat. The addictive nature of Coca-Cola should not be surprising when one considers the origins of Coke. In 1986, Dr. John Styth Pemberton, a pharmacist and the founder of Coca-Cola started selling a nonalcoholic version of his tonic he called French Wine Coca, the original name of Coca-Cola. When Coca-Cola started, it had enough cocaine in it to make you fly. Back in the day, cocaine was a common ingredient in medical portions, which Coca-Cola was first marketed as. It was given names like dope or a shot in the armby its user. Soda fountains were called hop joints and the Coca-Cola delivery trucks were called dope wagons. However, public sentiment began to turn against cocaine in the 1890s. Amongst the things cocaine was accused of causing was the racial violence by drug-crazed blacks. Coca-Cola worked to remove cocaine from its soda by switching from fresh coca leaves to spent coca leaves that had no cocaine remaining. At the same time, it started advertising Coke as a refreshing beverage and not a medicine. Yet, Coca-Cola is still so-so addictive.

## Number 5: Nintendo

Nintendo has successfully marketed itself as a family friendly video games developer. It works to maintain that clean image. Too bad it cannot boost of such a pristine past. Nintendo was founded in 1889, by Fusajiro Yamauchi. Its primary product was a playing card called Hanafuda, that was only legalized three years earlier. Hanafuda is a traditional Japanese card game that was played by the Yakuza. In fact, the original meaning of the Japanese word Yakuza was useless individual; this was coined to denote a player who had a losing hand in Hanafuda. When Nintendo first started, it found little success. It only became successful when the Yakuza learned how to use them to gamble with. Nintendo’s cards were not primary made for gambling, but it is fair to say they were sold mainly to the Yakuza to facilitate their gambling. That is not the only shady thing in Nintendo past, but let us not revisit Nintendo’s Love Hotel today.

## Number 4: Listerine

Do you remember that moment when you are five or six, when your mother insisted that you must keep the Listerine in your mouth for at least ten more seconds; ten long seconds of burn. All that to obtain a cleaner mouth. Yet, mouths were the farthest things from the mind of Listerine creators. Listerine was developed in 1879, by Dr. Joseph Lawrence based on the work of Joseph Lister. Joseph Lister was an English doctor and surgeon who was the first person to perform an operation in a chamber sterilized by pulverizing antiseptic in the air. Listerine was originally made to dress wounds after surgery through a company called the Lambert Pharmacal Company formed by pharmacist Jordan Wheat Lambert. After finding little success, its creators decided that Listerine could suddenly be used in the mouth, and started marketing it to dentists in 1895. In 1914, it became an over-the-counter mouthwash sold in the United States. It finally became a household name, when Jordan Lambert’s son, Gerard Lambert, joined the company and started promoting Listerine heavily. Gerard took Listerine from bloody wounds to your mouth.

## Number 3: Wrigley

One of the most annoying things your best friend can do is chew gum loudly with an open mouth. You look at them with a side eye, and they offer you a Wrigley, thinking that is the problem. Wrigley was formed in 1892, by William Wrigley Jr. Born in Philadelphia, Wrigley Jr. moved to Chicago and started selling necessities like soap and baking powder. However, he noticed something very bizarre; he would give away sticks of gum as an incentive to purchase his real merchandise. He then noticed that the gum was far more popular than the soap and baking powder he was selling. Wrigley Jr. quickly redirected his efforts into developing his own line of gums. Before Wrigley Jr. could make real money from his gums, he had to battle the persistent stereotype that only women should chew gum. The Sweet Sixteen Orange and Lotta Gum were some of Wrigley’s first gums. They paved the way for a revolution in chewing gum’s appeal. The public at large, especially, the youth were onboarded with these gums. So, you can thank Mr. Wrigley for having gum on your brand-new denim jeans.

## Number 2: Red Bull GmbH

Red Bull gives you wings, or at least it does until you are falling feet first from a fifteen feet wall, thinking you could suddenly fly. Despite the false advertising Red Bull is built on, flying is very important to the history of Red Bull. Red Bull started out as a just a local Thailand energy drink called Krating Daeng, which translates to Red Bull, in 1976. Krating Daeng was created by Chaleo Yoovidhya as refreshment for Thai labourers, truck drivers and shift workers to keep sleep away. The Red Bull that you consumed while studying, was not developed until 1987 through the vision of Dietrich Mateschitz. Dietrich Mateschitz had experienced jet-lag after a flight. He decided to use Krating Daeng to help his lethargy and found that it cured his sluggishness from the flight. He then decided to take the energy drink to the west with the blessing and financial help of Chaleo Yoovidhya; both investing US $500,000 and each receiving a 49% share of the new company called Red Bull GmbH. Thus, Red Bull was born to “give you wings” because a man felt sick after flying in vehicle with wings.

## Number 1: Fanta

Coca-Cola is perhaps the most popular sugary beverages in the world, but Fanta is defiantly the most festive carbonated belly enhancer in the world. Although Fanta loves to bring the party, its origin is far darker than a night without the internet. No days were darker in the world, than the days during World War 2, when the Nazis wanted to take over the world. This is the environment that Fanta was created in. After the attack on Pearl Harbor Coca-Cola stopped shipping its intimately guarded secret syrup to Germany. Due to this embargo, Max Keith, the head of Coca-Cola Deutschland, was no longer able to produce the world’s favourite fat inducing beverage while stocks were depleting very quickly. Max would not allow Germany to go without soda. He brought together some random ingredients including leftover by-products from a local cheese factory, whey and apple pomace, which was the remains of apple after being processed for cider. All these ingredients were brought together by enough sugar that would make you unable to sit down even if you were tied to a chair. This new product was called Fanta and it quickly became a Nazi Germany favourite due in part to its taste. The Coca-Cola company eventually took over the production, sales and marketing of Fanta that is still very popular today. However, no matter who makes Fanta now, you are still drinking Nazi juice.

Which company’s origin did you find most fantasticating? Do you know of any other company with bizarre origins that you feel deserves a place on this list? Have you started a business in manner that can be considered bizarre? Let us know in the comments section below. Thanks for watching.