

English language curiosities

The longest words:

In Czech?

- nejneobhospodařovanějšími

Pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanoc niosis

- The longest word in a major dictionary
- Coined to be the longest word
- From medicine

Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrn
drobwlllantysiliogogoch

That is a lovely town in a very pretty part of Wales.

Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious

- Famous for being created for Marry Poppins musical

smiles

- The nicest longest English word

The shortest word:

- A
- I

balloonner

- The only word in the English language that has four sets of double letters in row

Queue

- the only word that is still pronounced the same way when the last four letters are removed

The most common letter in English

E

This paragraph is not ordinary. Look at it. At first, it won't look too odd. Just a normal paragraph – you may think. But look at it again and you might find it a bit unusual. Just a tiny bit. What's wrong with it, you may ask? Nothing wrong at all, in fact: as I said, it's just slightly unusual. It's difficult to put it in words. Look again. Is anything not right? Can you spot it? Is anything ... missing?

There was no letter E

- It's the hardest kind of lipogram.

Lipogram

= a text written without using a particular letter of the alphabet.

Almost

- the longest word with the letters in the alphabetical order

In Czech?

- Mateřídoušky
- dvacetikoruny
- The words with all vowels in order

- Abstemious,
 - abstemiously,
 - abstentious,
 - adventitious,
 - adventitiously,
 - Arenicolous,
 - arsenious
 - cavernicolous
- the words with each of the vowels, all in order, none repeated

Subbookkeeper

- the only word with four pairs of double letters in a row
- = (a person who works underneath the main bookkeeper)

Goddessship

- the only word in the English language with a triple letter

In Czech?

- Nejštěstnější
- Přesvědčivější
- Scvrnks
- Smrž pln skvrn zvlhl z mlh.
- Slova s pěti háčky
- Nejdelší slovo bez samohlásek
- Nejdelší věta bez samohlásek.

Sentences

The quick brown fox jumps
over the lazy dog.

Pack my box with five dozen
liquor jugs

- Use every letter of the alphabet!

And Czech?

- Ulili-li liliputáni oheň včas, zabránili požáru.
- 5x the same syllable

- Nebudou se štítiti títi Ti ti tiší špehové do vazů?
- 9x

I am.

- The shortest complete sentence

Palindroms

a word or phrase that is the same whether it is
read forwards or backwards

- Madam I'm Adam.
- Sit on a potato pan, Otis.

Read the whole words:

- First ladies rule the State and state the rule:
ladies first.

Other palindroms

- Stressed or desserts
- Stop – pots
- Evil – live
- Star – rats
- Red rum, sir, is murder.
- Step on no pets.
- Eva, can I see bees in a cave?
- No lemon, no melon.

In Czech?

- Kobyla má malý bok.
- Fešná paní volá: Má málo vína pan šéf?
- Do chladu si masa mísu dal Chod.
- Sabina hrává na varhany bas.
- Jelenovi pivo nelej.
- Umírá na rýmu.

From politics

- I zeman ležel na mezi.
- A kníže je žínka.

From maths

- 19.9.1991

Strange meanings?

- They were too close to the door to close it.
- Upon seeing the tear in the painting I shed a tear.
- I had to subject the subject to a series of tests.

Is English logical?

- Noses can run and feet can smell.
- If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat?
- There is no egg in eggplant nor ham in hamburger; neither apple nor pine in pineapple.

- When the stars are out, they are visible; but when the lights are out they are invisible.