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Language, perhaps one of the most basic features of our existence, is unquestionably the most significant instrument for us to make sense of our existence and what is happening around us. Indeed, it determines and shapes both our perception of the world and our imagination. We think, speak and share our feelings within the limits of our language. Therefore, it is vital to increase our awareness of language in the effort to expand our horizons. As a matter of fact, learning a new language doubles all these gains and makes countless contributions to our mindset. Especially if we take into account that 1.5 billion people out of more than 8 billion in the world speak English, it is obvious that one of the most basic necessities of being a global citizen is to know English.

As Oscar Wilde indicates in his work *De Profundis*, “The greatest of evils is shallowness.” To be able to get rid of the shallowness, it is a must to see the world from the perspectives of other people and other languages. Learning a new language takes us out of our own world and opens up completely different universes before us. In today’s interconnected world, being able to speak more than one language is becoming increasingly valuable. It opens up new opportunities for travel, education, and career advancement. It also enables us to participate in global conversations, and to contribute to building a more interconnected and peaceful world.

Furthermore, learning a new language may improve our cognitive abilities and boost our brainpower. Studies have shown that bilingual and multilingual individuals have stronger problem-solving skills, better memory retention, and are more adept at multitasking. Learning a new language also requires us to exercise our executive functions, such as attention, inhibition, and working memory, which may help delay the onset of cognitive decline in old age. In this way, learning a new language may have long-term benefits for our overall cognitive health and wellbeing.

To this end, I can clearly see that all of our students are driven by an effort to improve their language skills. Hereby, I am proud to share this humble work prepared by our students. Kind regards.

Sedat IŞIK
Principal

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CLIMBING CHOLITAS

WRITTEN BY MEHMET POYRAZ TORÇUK

Have you ever climbed multiple mountains with your friends to send people a message? Yeah weird question I know, but I also know that your answer is most likely “no”. So, instead, let’s talk about some people who would answer “yes” to this question. Known as “Climbing Cholitas”, a group of Bolivian Aymara indigenous women have climbed multiple mountains not just to show off but also to send a message. Well, who are these women?



Cecilia Llusco, founder of the Climbing Cholitas said that it was always a childhood dream of hers to climb mountains. However, there was a lot of discrimination against indigenous women in traditional skirts. Women like Cecilia were always told that they wouldn't be able to climb any mountain. To prove those people wrong and show the world that they are strong and brave, they decided to climb even if they were being held back by other people telling them that climbing is a man's sport and that they can't climb with their skirts.



One of Climbing Cholitas' biggest goals was to climb Mt. Aconcagua which is a mountain that is almost 7000 meters high. To prepare for the Mt. Aconcagua, they climbed other mountains such as Huayna Potosi, Acotango, Illimani, Pomarapi, Parinacota and Bolivia's highest mountain, Sajama de Oruro (about 6500m).



Cecilia said that each time they reached the summit, it would feel as if they were "flying through the clouds and touching the sky". Cecilia also said that women in traditional skirts have gone further and want to go even further to always represent Aymara culture. Her biggest dream is to reach the top of the highest mountain in the world, The Everest, but who knows when that'll happen?

TURKISH BIRD LANGUAGE

WRITTEN BY ALİ OSMAN KARŞU



Whistling is a kind of communication that is used to imitate and pronounce words. Due to the area's rocky terrain and high mountains, which forced the local inhabitants to find another means to communicate across great distances, the practice emerged. Farmers who spend the most of their time outside make up the majority of the practitioners. The affected populations view this practice as a vital representation of their cultural identity that strengthens intergroup relations and community.

One of these communities is Turkish people who live in the tough Black Sea Region, which is known for its harsh weather and ground conditions. So they found another way to speak.

A kind of Turkish used to communicate through melodies and high-pitched whistles is known as Turkish bird language. With only 10,000 speakers left, it was once primarily used by Turkish farmers to communicate across great distances.



“This Turkish language isn’t spoken, it’s whistled!”

The language is connected to Kuşköy, a community in the northern Pontic Mountains of Turkey, which has held an annual festival celebrating bird language, culture, and art since 1997. Despite the language's 400-year history, its origins remain a mystery. Due to the effects of social and technical development, the language has been added to the "List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding," by UNESCO in 2017, with the growing usage of mobile phones being cited as a "major danger to its survival."



In the settlement of Kuskoy, which translates to "bird village," the bird language is still often used today, but 50 years ago it was also prevalent in the Black Sea areas of Trabzon, Rize, Ordu, Artvin, and Bayburt. Seref Kocek, the president of the Bird Language Cultural Association, said the locals have reacted to the news "with joy, as a dream come true." Kuskoy works to preserve the tradition through its annual Bird Language Festival. The language has also been taught at the elementary school level by the district government since 2014.

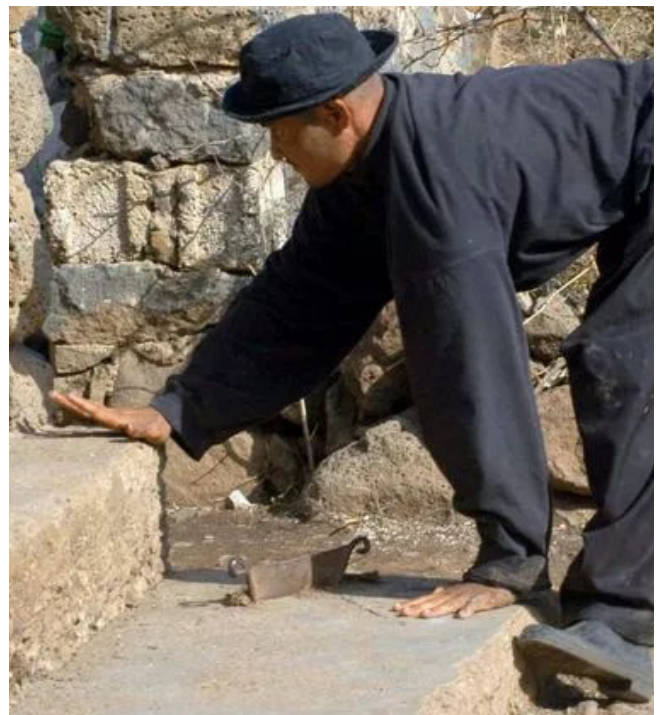


QUADRUPEDAL HUMANS

WRITTEN BY DİDEM KAZANCI & AYLİN ÇELİK

The research was run by Prof. Nicolas Humphrey. He is an evolutionary psychologist who heard about Ulaş family by Turkish scientist. He and his team expected 6 disabled children but when they first met them they understood that this wasn't the only problem they had. Those people also had mental retardation which causes other problems such as not being able to speak as much as we can. Therefore, the team's priority was taking their brains' tomography. And the results wasn't that surprising. They all have the same damage. Their cerebellums, the little brain, shrunk from the middle. Even it's a rare condition, it's not very suprising since their parents are second cousins. So, this damage causes balance problems, that's why they couldn't get upright.

There is an extraordinary family who is located in small Turkish village. The mother given birth to 19 children. 7 of them born and grow different from others, different from us: They walk on their all fours.



Well, at least that was what they thought at first. However, beside Ulaş siblings, no one who has same damage walk on their all fours. So, Prof. Humphrey and his team looked for an other reason. And they found the answer by asking how they treated while they were growing up. Years ago, they were normal toddlers who used to crawl but when it was time to get upright they couldn't do it because of their balance problems. They got on their feet but were also on their hands too. A little bit of help from others wouldn't be good? It definitely would. But apparently no one corrected them. They just accepted their situation as their faith. After the team discovered that, they gave walking frames to the family and installed parallel bars in the yard to encourage them upright. Even the ones unlikely to join exercises stood up and walked on their foot in couple months. And the researches concluded after almost ten years. The scientist found the damaged gene which causes the shrunk cerebellum. After all of that, they might find a cure since they found what needed to be healed.



Apart from the scientific part of this story, there is also social part. They were called 'cursed' by the villagers for years and they even had to move their house to more isolated place where they were alone and helpless. Even there that disabled five siblings were constantly mocked by the children from village. They weren't included any social circles and they lived dependent on their parents and siblings for years. As Prof. Humphrey said, it is a major tragic human story.

DENMARK

WRITTEN BY TUANA TAŞÇI



Have you ever thought how is life in Denmark? What about a Danish student's day? Consider a country where there are more bicycles than people. Consider a country that has maintained its first position in the list of the happiest countries in the world for years. As a group of Sakıp Sabancı Anatolian High School students, we had the chance to experience these all. For 5 days, we were a guest in their lives with a Danish student we matched with. After our exciting 3-hour flight, the surprisingly calm airport greeted us.

Of course, one of the famous elements of nordic countries, blond genes, also caught our attention. From the airport to the school, we watched the huge green fields and sweet houses on the roads. When we arrived at the school, we met with our hosts, who greeted us with their shorts and slippers. That's how they dress in summer at school. Luckily my partner, Ida, lived right across the school. Like most houses in town, his house was an elegant, yet simple garden house. Most of my friends's hosts has had a huge trampoline. Then we tried the famous Danish hygge in their cozy living room.





During most of the time there, we had the chance to observe the education system as well as the natural and historical beauties. When we first went to school, of course, the first thing that caught our attention was that everyone was wearing the clothes they wanted, and then the school's garden, which was almost as wide as an American football field. There were floor-to-ceiling windows throughout the school. We drank water from sinks. Lots of students come to school by bicycle. It was very important for them that their lessons were interactive. For example, in biology class, they would go out to the garden and measure the height of the trees.

In one of our lessons, when the teacher taught the lesson through the presentation, they apologized to us. We enjoyed learning a lot about education systems, like they took a gap year to travel around the world and they work in shops to have their own income. In addition, we learned about various classic festival days, such as everyone dressing up as old people and coming to school.



Some interesting things that I observed are: Shops close at around 6 o'clock, the students are into a candy flavor which is called lakrids, every driver is careful with the rules and priority is always pedestrian, they check-in and check-out in public transportations, all the people know English well. Copenhagen which we saw and were amazed by the views, the streets, its canal and the detailed buildings was a very expensive city. When they came to Istanbul, they were surprised that public transportation was so crowded, they liked the view of the Bosphorus, also they liked the way moms treated them, hospitality is quite important to us as we all know. What surprised me the most was no one who found ayran tasty liked it in here!

MUNSA'23 !

WRITTEN BY MELİS TUNCA

If you are a beginner, MUN (Model United Nations) is an educational simulation where students represent specific countries and United Nations agencies- organizations. MUNSA'23 was the third official MUN conference of Beşiktaş Sakıp Sabancı Anatolian High School and my first MUN experience. I was one of the public relations members and I would like to share with you my memories and observations there. But before I start, I should say that MUNSA'23 was a pretty important and proud conference for us because it was all organized by the students of our school, by my friends.



MUNSA'23 welcomed 300 people with its 6 different committees as U.S. SENATE - SOCHUM - JCC: KGB - JCC: CIA - ICJ - HCC - FUNSC to the event. On 10 March, Friday, our first day started with an important but sorrowful opening ceremony because of the earthquake which has physically affected our eleven cities and deeply affected the whole country.



In the ceremony; our school principal, advisors, secretary general, director general, deputy secretary general, head of academy and head of crisis gave their speeches. Also before the ceremony, we as the PR team handed out the tote bags and badges to our delegates and admins. Then we had a joyful lunch together and after that our sessions started.



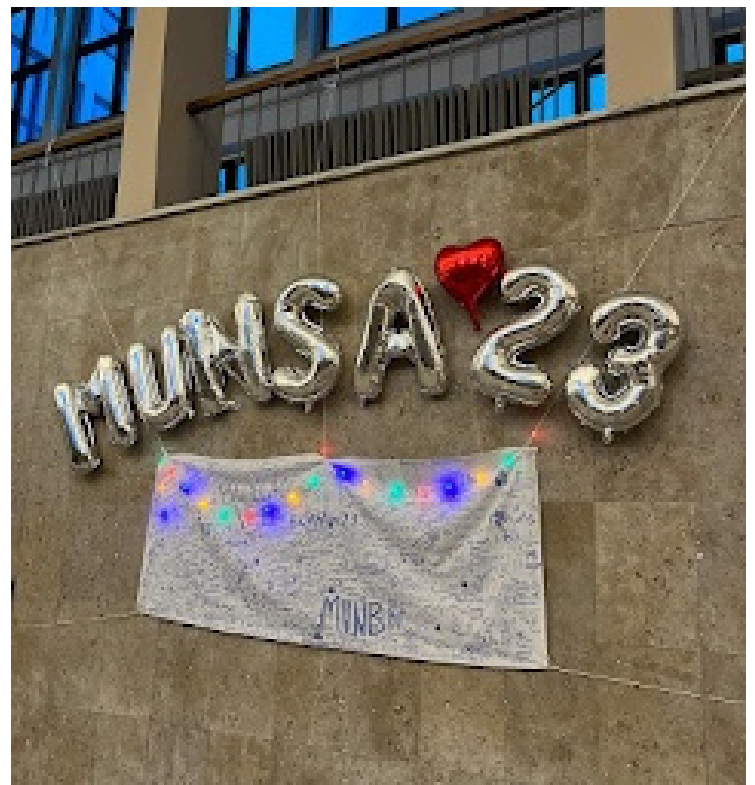
We had a total of 10 sessions in three days, Friday 2 sessions, Saturday 4 sessions and Sunday 4 sessions. During the sessions, even though there was always competition between our delegates- which I think is necessary and important-, at the break times they all enjoyed themselves together: played some fun games, played FIFA on PlayStation, took a fashion walk on the red carpet, sang and danced, made a soulmate test and sent each other crush cookies, ate delicious snacks- lunches- breakfasts, etc...





Our delegates and admins attended their committees with success. Throughout three days, our lovely delegates did their best, and at the end of our conference, some of them got best, outstanding and honorable mention awards. Moreover, apart from high-school students, there were some university students as supervisors and visitors in our committees. Our school club teamed up with several university students

for MUNSA '23 to be the best without failings. We're so grateful to them :) And also I would like to say that we are sorry for the ones who could not be selected for our conference; as you may know, MUNSA is a popular organization :)



- Last but not least I would like to add for the ones who do not know what MUN conferences provide students;
- to be aware of modern and historical issues in our world
 - to improve their English level both in speaking and listening
 - to improve their problem-solving skills
 - to improve their debate skills and standing for what they think and believe
 - to gain self-confident
 - to know themselves better
 - to socialize with their peers



GET TO KNOW OUR SYSTEM

WRITTEN BY BURCU AKBAŞ

Our solar system is indeed a very interesting topic. That's why we learn about it at school. But, do you know these facts? Let's see!

Uranus is the first planet found with the aid of a telescope.



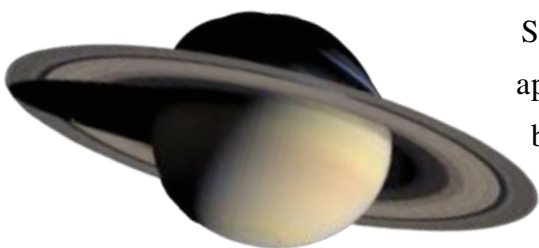
The hottest planet Venus, as known as the twin of the Earth, rotates around itself so slowly that its one day is equal to 243 Earth days and its one year is equal to 225 Earth days. So one day is longer than one year on this planet.



Mercury, the planet that is closest to our beautiful star, lacks an atmosphere to prevent the temperature difference between day and night. Instead, it has a thin exosphere which cannot prevent this temperature difference.

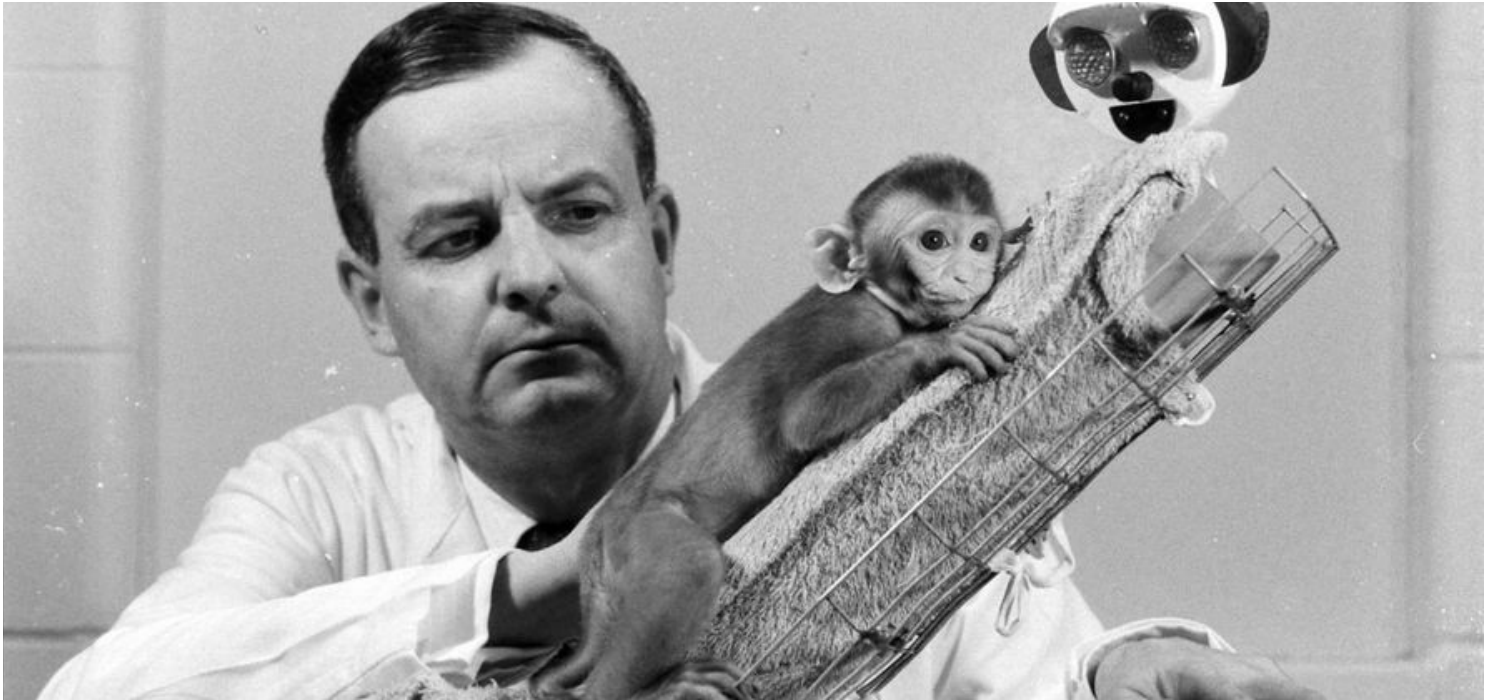
That's why, while a part of this planet can reach 430 degrees, the other part can reach -179 degrees. Also this planet shrinks! It is about nine miles smaller than it was 4 billion years ago.

Saturn is the next in line after Jupiter and the distance between them is approximately 450 million miles. But the surprising fact is the distance between the Sun and Jupiter. It is also about 450 million miles. So the distance between the sun and Jupiter is equal to the distance between Jupiter and Saturn.



HARLOW'S STUDIES ON DEPENDENCY IN MONKEYS

WRITTEN BY EREN BAYTÖRE



WHO IS HARRY FREDERICK HARLOW?

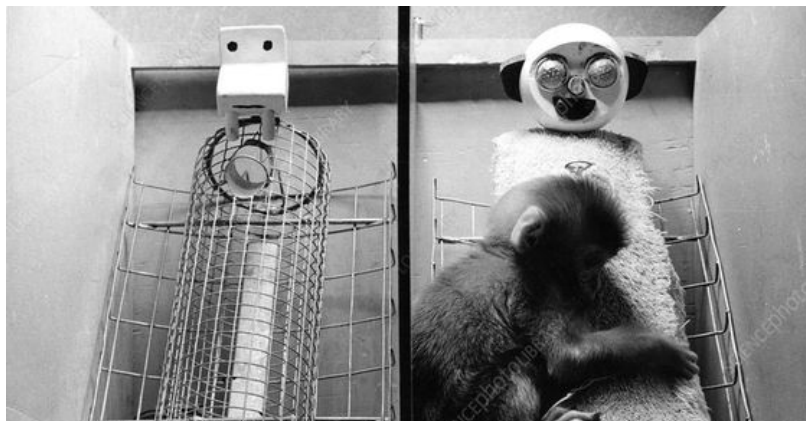
Harry Frederick Harlow was a 20th century American psychologist widely known for his experiments conducted on rhesus monkeys, which gave us an insight on the importance of caregiving and companionship to social and cognitive development. Although Harlow's experiments were ethically controversial in many ways they actually shone a light on dependency needs of infants and what is actually important in maternity.



WHAT DID THE EXPERIMENTS CONSIST OF?

Harlow sought to experiment on infant monkeys and established a breeding colony of rhesus macaques. The first thing he noticed in the monkeys he nursed was that they were far more different than their mother-reared peers. They clung to their cloth diapers, were far more aggressive and had social deficits. Noticing this definite distinction, Harlow sought to test it further. Creating surrogate mothers and observing each monkey's reaction to them was Harlow's main idea. He created 2 types of surrogate mothers: A wire one and a cloth one. He then created 2 conditions. In the first condition the wire mother held food whilst the cloth mother didn't. In the other condition the cloth mother held food while the wire mother didn't.

Monkeys overwhelmingly clung to their cloth mothers in both conditions. They clung to their cloth mothers even if they didn't provide nourishment. The monkeys would cling to their cloth mothers 17-18 hours a day while they only clung to their wire mothers less than an hour a day. The variable of comfort contact completely overwhelmed and overshadowed all other variables including nursing.



Harlow then wanted to test the feeling of security these mothers provided. For this he created a monster-like diabolical machine which created loud noises and moved metallic parts. The machine would be used to scare infant monkeys and observe which mother would they first cling in their state of fear. Needless to say, monkeys ran to their cloth mothers for comfort, even started to threaten the machine after a while showing that they felt secure around their cloth mothers.



When this test was conducted on a monkey who was only nursed by a wire mother, It was clearly seen that it was far more aggressive and fearful when compared to its cloth-mother materned pairs. This situation didn't change even when a wire mother was added to the environment.

Another study also proved that the monkeys raised by wire mothers had trouble digesting milk and often suffered from diarrhea. Harlow interpreted this behavior as "Contact comfort is psychologically stressful to the monkeys, and the digestive problems are a physiological manifestation of that stress."



WHAT WAS THE POINT AND THE IMPORTANCE OF THESE FINDINGS?

These studies and experiments directly contradicted the mentality of parents limiting or avoiding bodily contact when raising children in order to avoid spoiling them. As much as it is hard to believe, back in the 1950's this mentality was common to the point where experts told mothers that giving their children affection was bad. Most kids were being raised without experiencing contact comfort and affection. Harlow proved that intimate body contact essentially built up that parent-child bond and that nursing just further strengthened that bond. Although it seems like common sense now, back then this idea was deemed revolutionary and drastically effected the studies on love. Harlow always described his experiments as a study of love.

DOOMSDAY VAULT

HUMANITY'S LAST HOPE?

WRITTEN BY NEHIR ALKAN



Doomsday vault also known as global seed warehouse is a project that aims to preserve all plant seeds in the world. It located in Norway Longyearbyen. The project, which has been largely realized and supported by the Global Organization for Crop Diversity and also by the Norwegian government, aims to enable the plant species on the earth to be protected and replanted in case of a possible global disaster. It was reported in the media that many rich people financed this warehouse built under a mountain. The “Global Seed Warehouse” project, which started its operations in 2008, has been started to be prepared in 1983. Designed to be resistant to nuclear explosions, the warehouse cost around 9 million dollars and was built 130 meters below a mountain on the island of Spitsbergen in northern Norway. Approximately 4 million seeds are preserved in the warehouse. The temperature of the air is fixed at minus 18 degrees that is the temperature at which seeds can be preserved for the longest time. The project receives financial support of approximately 125-150 thousand dollars annually from the government funds of USA, England, Norway, Germany, Switzerland and Canada.



But not everyone thinks that it is a beneficial project. Against it, there are some sensational objections and even said it is a conspiracy theory. For instance, an American journalist F. William Engdahl, in her book “Seeds of Destruction” published in 2007 claims that “plans to take over the world economically and genetically” were formed under the glaciers of Spitsbergen island. In addition, the fact that the Rockefeller Fund is among the regular donors of this seed warehouse has led to this emergence of some theories. For example, theories have been put forward that not all people can benefit from the warehouse.

In conclusion, this is a very beneficial plan for people in the future. There are just two risks. One of them is polar bears but there are securities to protect the store. Second one is the climate change. But most of the building is designed suitable to any kind of hazard.

Angry**Fear****Disgust****Happy****Sad****Shocked****Neutral**

F U N F A C T S

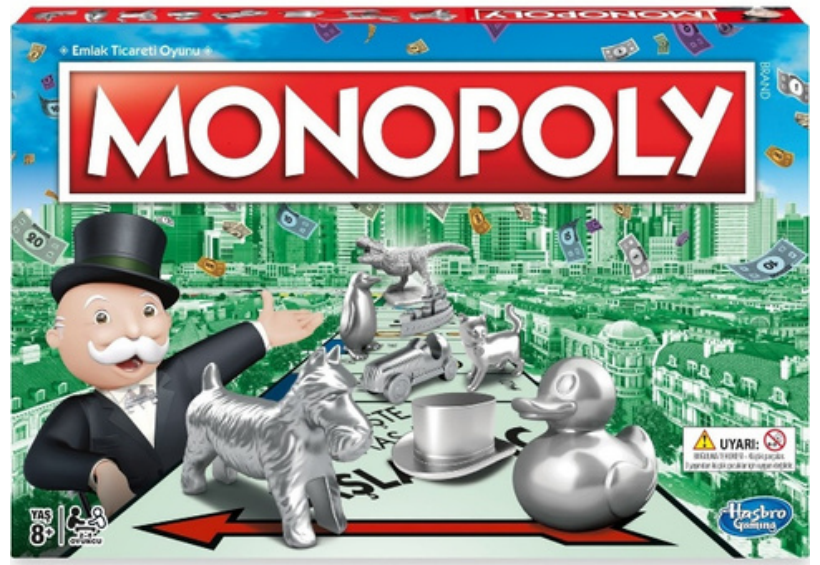
WRITTEN BY SEVGİ ECEM MET & BURCU AKBAŞ

Have you ever experienced that when you fall in love, your chest is burning, or while you are sad, your hands and feet are cold, or when you get angry, your head is hotter than ever? Then, you are not alone. Here is the graphic of the distribution of the body temperature, when you experience different emotions. What is more impressive is this graphic doesn't change culture to culture a lot. I mean, it is a universal feature among people. Therefore, it probably has antique roots. Also, these changes in your body are not random things, they all have different reasons. For instance, when you are in fear, your blood goes from your hands and feet to your vital organs like brain and heart, and your body prepares itself to escape or fight. When your blood moves, the temperature of different parts of the body changes. If there is more blood, these places are hotter, and if there is less blood, these places are colder.

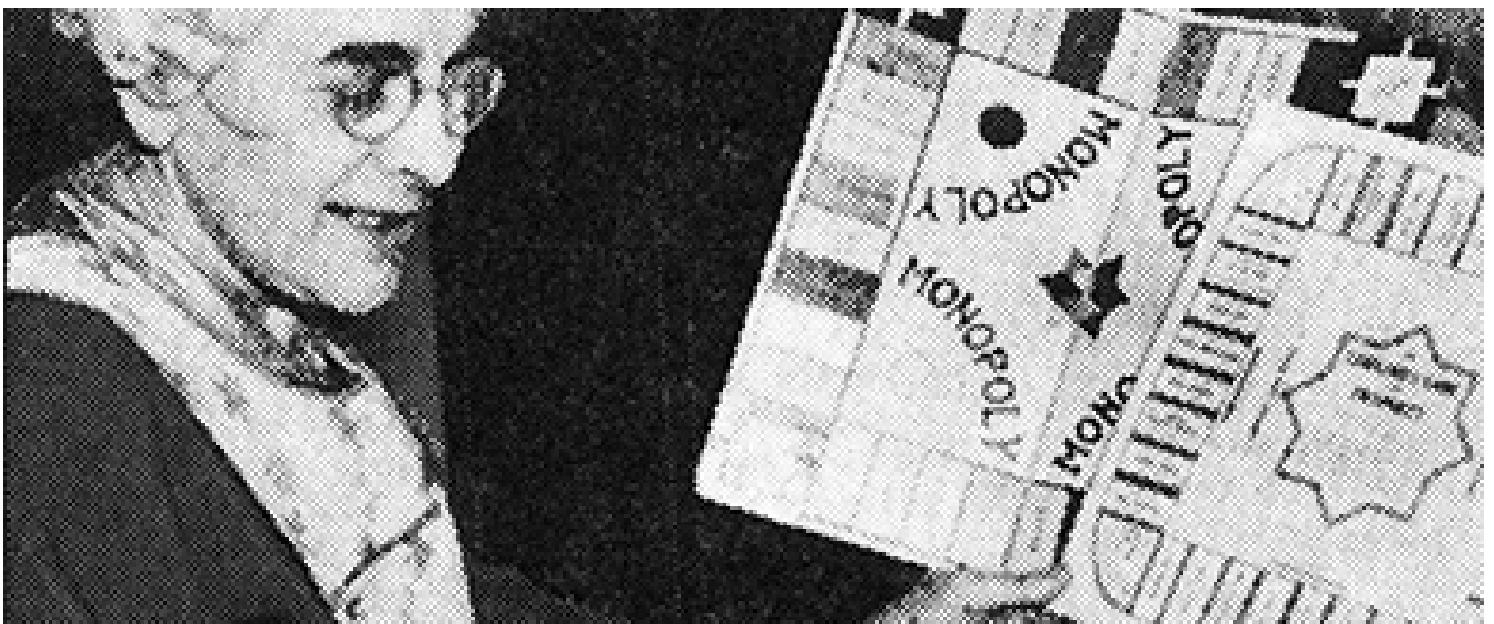
Anxiety**Love****Depression****Be Humiliated****Pride****Shame****Jealousy**



I think all of you have heard about “Monopoly” : The game where you go around a square, collect lands, and sink your opponents. However, do you know the story of this game? “Landlord’s Game” or “Monopoly” ,as it is called today, was developed in 1904 by Lizzie Magie, who is a game designer, feminist and activist, to teach the harms of the capitalist system. There were two different rule sets: You could play the game either as a monopolist or as a welfarist. In the second rule set which is not known a lot, each player receives a share from rent.

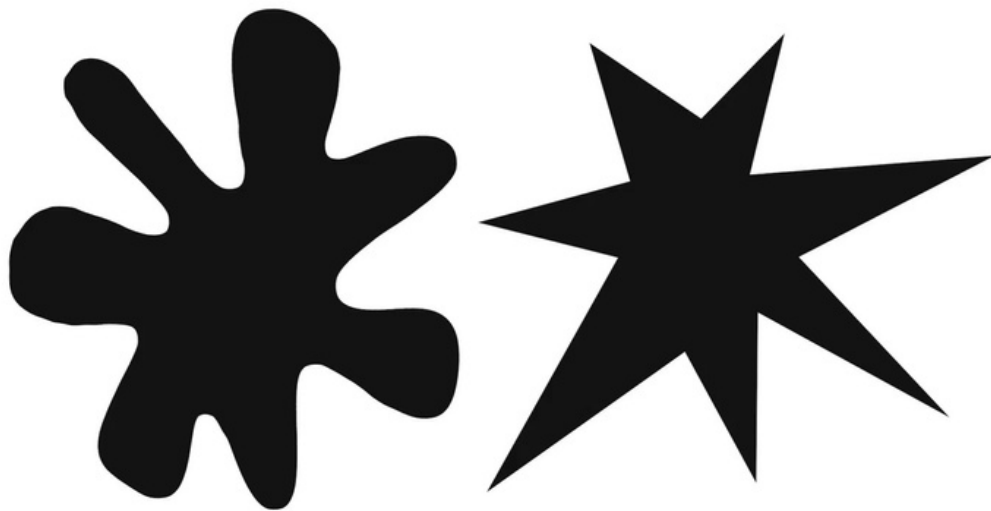


The purpose of this was showing that in an equal system, where only one player does not monopolize all the money, all people can live by better standards. Afterwards, “Parker Brothers” bought the rights of the game with the promise of delivering the message to wider audiences just for \$500. Then, “Parker Brothersé joined “Hasbro Gaming”. Well, you know the rest.



Probably, you have celebrated your birthday at least once, but have you ever thought about why people do this? There are some theories about it, but the common thought is the roots of it date back to ancient Greek. Pagans offered their vows to Artemis, the goddess of wild animals, preys, herbs and births, by bringing cakes which have candles on the sixth day of the lunar calendar.

At that time, people from different cultures believed that smoke of fires beared their prayers to the gods. Do you understand now why people wish when they are blowing out the candles? As for the reason for the birthday parties, Pagans believed that evil spirits visited people on their birthdays. They got together and brought presents to make the person who had birthday happy, and make noise to expel the evil spirits. Well, is it familiar?

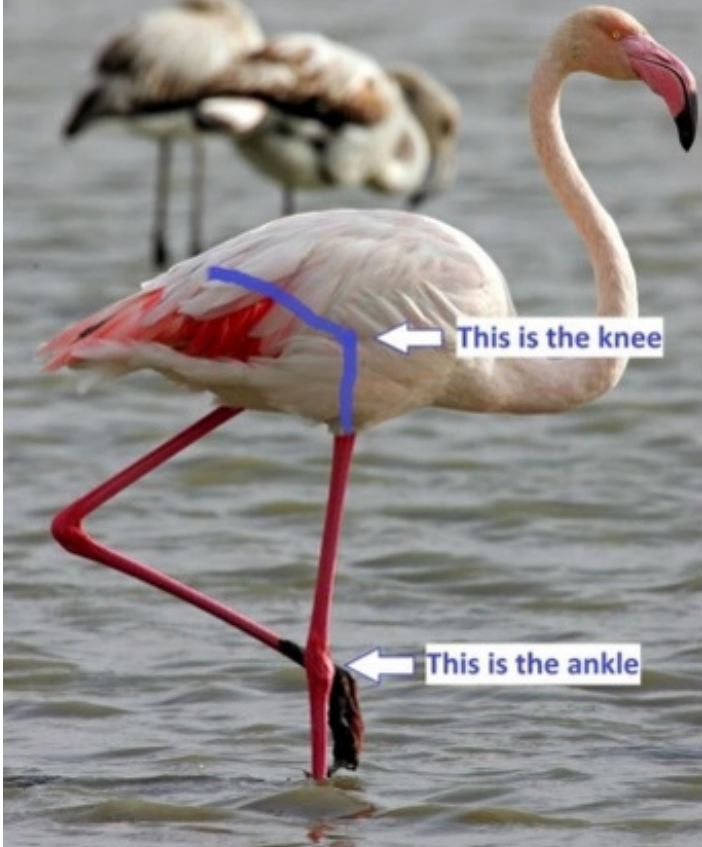


This is just fascinating. I want you to guess which shape is “Bouba” and which shape is “Kiki” from the image. (But no cheat! The first way you think is your answer.) Also, I know naming shapes sounds weird, but just give it a shot. Probably, you named the one on the left “Bouba”, and the other one “Kiki”. I know it, because the connection between sounds and shapes is not random, and there is a study about it called “Bouba-Kiki Effect”.

However, we do not know exactly where the connection is based. This effect was discovered by psychologist Wolfgang Köhler in 1929. The research has been continuing since that time with people who speak different languages and even babies, but the results are the same. 95-98 percent of people give the same answer as you.

UNIQUE FACTS ABOUT ANIMALS

WRITTEN BY SEVGİ ECEM MET & BURCU AKBAŞ



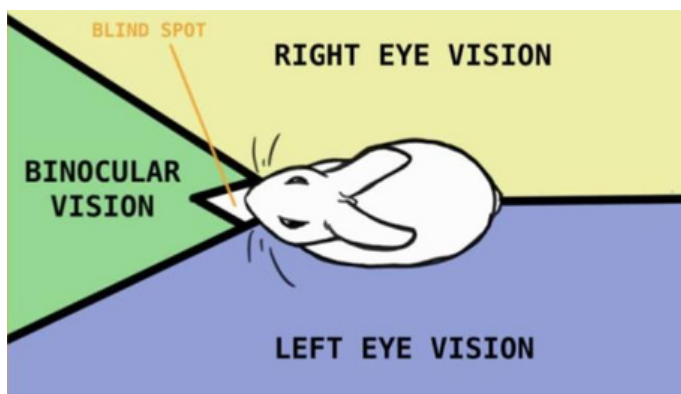
LARGE BALLS OF PINK YARN: FLAMINGOS

Flamingos are really interesting and eye-catching animals, especially due to their appearance. But do we know these animals? Let's see!

- They are not born in pink! They are white when they are babies. But then, their feathers change color when they grow up.
- Just like kids, baby flamingos have a distinct voice that their parents recognize.
- There are just 6 species of these beautiful beings.
- Their funny-looking knees are actually not their knees. They are actually just ankles. But where are the knees? Hidden behind feathers and close to their bodies.
- Lastly, did you know that they can run on water? They have webbed feet and that provides them the chance of running on water before they take off.

THEY SEE EVERYWHERE, WITHOUT MOVING

No, they are not a kind of frightening horror movie character, they are rabbits! Rabbits have really large eyesight that is nearly 360 degrees. That's why they can instantly realize if there is something behind them.



MONKEYS HAVE ACCENTS

Tamarin monkeys copy each other's accents! There is a relatively recent study that shows for the first time that when these monkeys are in other species of tamarin monkey's territories, they copy their accents to keep the peace and get along.

THE BATTLE OF KARANSEBES

WRITTEN BY EMRE ÖZDOĞAN

Have you ever heard of an army defeating itself? The answer is probably no, but there was a war in the vast world of history, which happens to be exactly that, an army defeating itself. To be precise it's The Battle of Karansebes. In the midst of the Austro-Turkish War, the Austrians engaged in a deadly battle in the town of Karansebes — against itself — all because of one bottle too many of Schnapps (a strong fruit drink with 30/40 % alcoholic content.). The Battle of Karansebes took place during the Austro-Turkish War supposedly occurring during the night of 21–22 September 1788 and to understand the dire consequences of the battle of Karansebes which not only crushed the little to none morale of the Austrian army it also:

- Killed 10,000 Austrian soldiers.
- Vanished 3 cannons and the chest containing the army's payroll.
- Emperor Joseph II fell from his horse into the river. In order not to be captured by the Turks, he crawled to a house nearby (loss of prestige).

In order to understand why such a thing happened let's dive deep into it.



FIRST OF ALL, HOW DID IT START?

The Austrian army was made up of a vast array of nations which include Germans, Hungarians, Czechs and Moravians, Slovaks, Poles, Ruthenes, Slovenes, Serbs and Croats, Bulgarians, Romanians, and Italians. Therefore, communication between the different nationalities was difficult, to say the least, and more often than not necessary communications were literally lost in translation. On the night of September 17, Austrian cavalymen went on a scouting patrol for Turkish soldiers. But while out, the soldiers came upon a group of travelers that had set up camp along the other side of the river. The travelers offered the soldiers drinks in order to appease the weary men. The soldiers accepted and thus began a night of heavy drinking. At one point, a group of soldiers met with the drinkers by chance and asked to join. When he was denied alcohol, a fistfight erupted. Before long, the fight escalated, and shots were allegedly fired.



Back in the town of Karansebes proper, where there was no drinking and no fighting, the rest of the Austrian army was on alert for Turkish forces. When they heard the shots fired from across the river, the sober Austrian forces naturally believed the noise to be coming from the Turks. They began to scream “Turks, Turks!” across the river, the drunken forces heard their comrades' cries of “Turks, Turks!” and rushed back to camp to assist their fellow soldiers, believing their cries to be pleas for help. Seeing the approaching mass of men in the dark, the sober forces opened fire, believing the drunken soldiers to be the invading enemy of Turks. Upon being fired, the drunken forces believed their camp to be overtaken by the Turks, and in turn, fired back at them. Whether because they realized the mistake that had transpired, or simply because they wanted the firing to stop, a few German officers shouted “halt!” which means “stop.” But due to the language barrier, non-German soldiers believed the German soldiers to be shouting “Allah, Allah.” which was the Ottomans' battle cry. Instead of ceasing the firing, the battle cry simply fueled it. Chaos reigned in the Austrian camp and thus the Battle of Karansebes raged. From a combination of alcohol, darkness and language barriers, the entire Austrian army battled itself. By the end of the night, roughly thousands of Austrian men were left dead or wounded.



THE AFTERMATH

Two days later, the Ottoman army arrived. They discovered dead and wounded soldiers and albeit confused they easily took Karansebes.

THE MENNONITES

WRITTEN BY BEDİRHAN BEŞALTI

It may look like a scene from a bygone era, but these people are part of a community in present day Central America. They belong to a Christian group called Mennonites. Like the Amish in the US, the Mennonite community shuns the modern world. Most Mennonites live in secluded, self-sufficient colonies. We get a rare glimpse into the life of a devout and isolated community.



The Mennonites embrace isolation, which in their eyes helps protect them from the temptations of the modern world. At first glance, time seems to have stood still in the Mennonite colony in Belize, where people still travel by horse-drawn carriage and do without conveniences such as televisions and electricity.



They still speak an old form of the German dialect Plattdeutsch. But modern life is slowly making inroads in Little Belize. Wilhelm, the community's former doctor, was expelled for owning a mobile phone. Fearing that their community was being tainted, some more traditional members decided to found a new colony in a remote jungle in Peru, where they hope to live according to old customs and religious beliefs. For the first time ever, a camera team was granted access to one of Central and South America's traditional Mennonite colonies.

The Anabaptists in central European German- and Dutch-speaking areas are where the early Mennonite tale begins. These early Mennonites were a part of the Protestant Reformation, which was a widespread backlash against the doctrine and practices of the Roman Catholic Church. The rejection of infant baptism, which had political and theological significance because nearly every child born in western Europe was baptized in the Roman Catholic Church, is what sets it apart from other movements.



Anabaptist-Mennonite thought has been characterized by its insistence on a separation between religion and the world. The persecutions of the 16th century forced Anabaptists to withdraw from society in order to survive, a strategy that became central in Mennonite theology.

Consequently, most Mennonites have remained tightly bound to their communities, have practiced rigorous group discipline, and wear distinctive clothing (e.g., the “plain coat”—a jacket without lapels—for men and the “covering”—a small hat made of lace—for women).

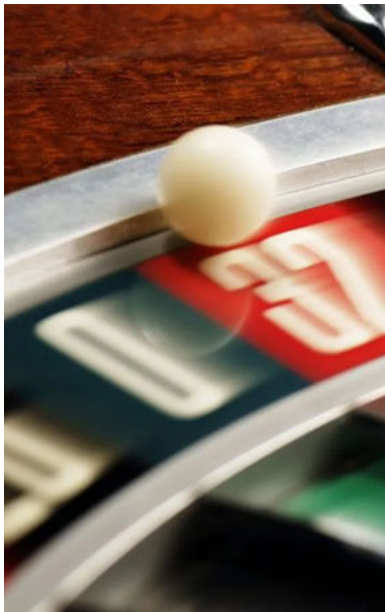
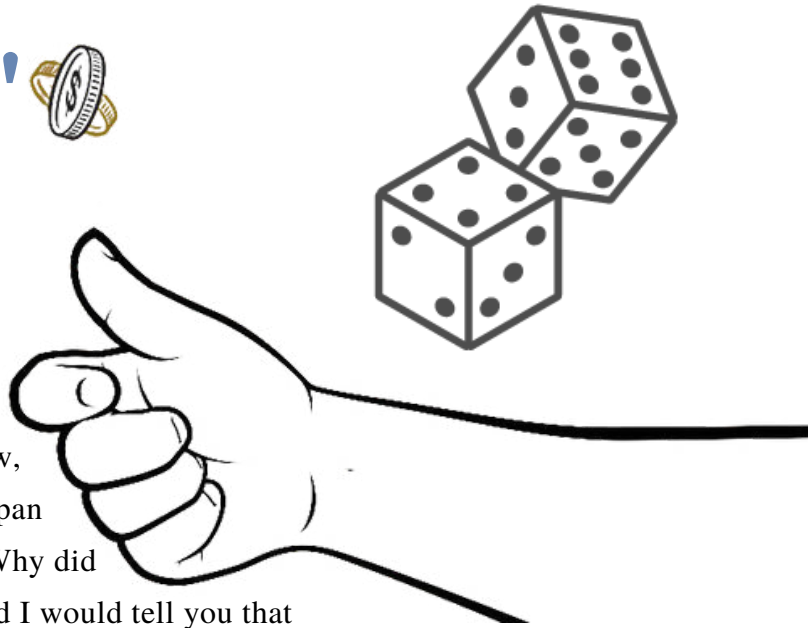


Their isolation encouraged the sectarian virtues of frugality, hard work, piety, and mutual helpfulness but also frequently led to schism. By the mid-20th century, however, many Mennonites were deeply involved in the social, educational, and economic world around them, a situation that led to revolutionary changes in It also prompted a new search for identity as a distinct group in the modern world, through study of their denominational history, sociological analysis, and theological interaction with other groups.

THE GAMBLER'S FALLACY

WRITTEN BY SUDE KÖZ

On August 18, 1913, a peculiar, perhaps miraculous, event occurred in the Monte Carlo Casino, during a roulette game. The ball fell in black 26 times in a row, making the gamblers lose millions of dollars in the span of one night since they kept betting against black. “Why did everyone keep going against black” you may ask, and I would tell you that your answer is hidden in the gambler’s fallacy, also known as the Monte Carlo fallacy since 1913 summer.



“Yes! It only takes being calculating and patient at least once in your life and—that’s all! It only takes being steadfast at least once, and in an hour I can change my whole destiny!” writes Dostoyevsky in his well-known novel “The Gambler”. You can think of the gambler’s fallacy as a type of ignorance. We tend to ignore that what we consider unusual doesn’t mean anything to the nature of randomness, that we can’t just win a game of luck by following the most sensible route. The gambler’s fallacy is also the reason why so many people gain and lose so much money in such short time spans; the moment they start winning repeatedly, they assume the probability of them winning another round gets higher. However in reality, if there is a series of events that are independent of one another, the previous outcomes can’t influence or predict the outcome of the next incident.

The gambler’s fallacy is a kind of delusion that has followed humans throughout time. In the 18th century, when fathers were eager to learn if they would have a son or not, they used to calculate how many sons and daughters were born in their surroundings, thinking if there were more daughters born around them the probability of them having sons would increase. Thus, manipulating statistics to trick themselves.

In addition to all of that, even when you’re aware of the gambler’s fallacy, there is still a big chance you will still fall for it. An experiment made with two groups, only one of the groups being educated about the gambler’s fallacy, shows that even if people are aware, most of the time they can’t internalize the matter and get beaten by a delusion. Just like how the nature of randomness has nothing to do with usuality, by nature the instincts of humans always think they’ll get the prize.



MURPHY'S LAW

WRITTEN BY AYLİN DAĞLI

Have you ever tried to be in the shortest queue in the supermarket during rush hour, but somehow ended up waiting the longest; or watched a buttered slice of bread fall to the ground many times, only to see it land on the floor butter-side down? We all feel like the universe is working against us on occasion, and popular culture has an answer for this situation: the infamous “Murphy’s Law”.

The original Murphy’s Law was “If there are two or more ways to do something, and one of those ways can result in a catastrophe, then someone will do it.” However, with time, it turned into the statement: “Anything that can go wrong, will go wrong.” In some formulations, the phrase is extended to “Anything that can go wrong, will go wrong, and at the worst possible time.” Contrary to belief, the law doesn’t mean that something bad will happen, it only claims that whatever is destined to happen, be it good or bad, will eventually happen. Murphy’s Law is neither disproven nor proven, it is just a satirical statement with only qualitative evidence in support of it. In reality, it’s us who gave Murphy’s Law relevance. When something goes well, little is made of it. But when things go badly, we look for reasons.



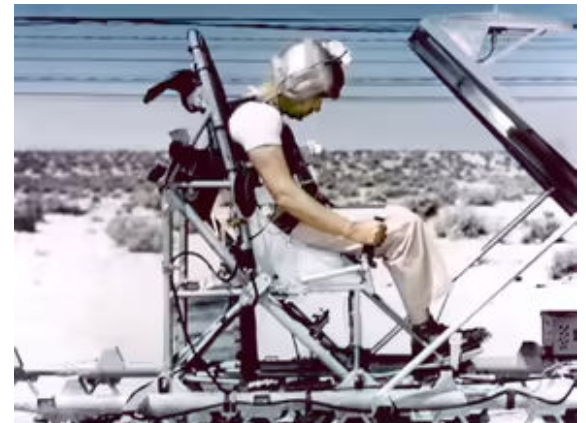
“Anything that can go wrong, will go wrong, and at the worst possible time.”



Edward Aloysius Murphy

The law's author was Edward A. Murphy Jr., a U.S. Air Force engineer. In 1949, at Edwards Air Force Base in California, officers were conducting project MX981 tests to determine once and for all how much G force -the force of gravity- a human being could withstand. They hoped that their findings could be applied to future airplane designs. The problem was that, in order to find out just how much force a person could take, the team needed an actual person to experience it. Stapp was a career physician for the Air Force, and he volunteered to ride the rocket sled. Murphy attended one of the tests, bearing a gift: a set of sensors that could be applied to the harness that held Dr. Stapp to the rocket sled. These sensors were capable of measuring the exact amount of G-force applied when the rocket sled came to a sudden stop, making the data more reliable. There are several stories about what happened that day, and about who exactly contributed what to the creation of Murphy's Law, but what follows is a good approximation of what happened.

The first test after Murphy hooked up his sensors to the harness produced a reading of zero -all of the sensors had been connected incorrectly. For each sensor, there were two ways of connecting them, and each one was installed the wrong way. When Murphy discovered the mistake, he grumbled something about the technician, who was allegedly blamed for the foul-up. Murphy said something along the lines of, "If there are two ways to do something, and one of those ways will result in disaster, he'll do it that way"



So why is Murphy's Law such a universal and relatable concept? Isn't there a fifty-fifty chance that something will go right or wrong? Perhaps the best explanation for our attraction to the law is an underlying sense of fatalism.



Fatalism is the idea that we're all powerless to the whims of fate. This notion says that the things that happen to us are unavoidable. Fatalism contradicts the concept of free will. Perhaps our connection to Murphy's Law is the result of the collision between free will and fatalism. "Anything that can go wrong" part is full of possibilities, while the other part seems more definite and inescapable. The next time you get stuck in traffic contrary to other moving lanes, you may remember that the universe doesn't have a grudge on you, you are just facing with the bitter side of possibilities.

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