

English-an-enigma quiz

A literary quiz is usually in the form of quotes and who said what. This one is not. Despite its charming oddities and enigmas or perhaps because of it, English remains a fascinating language which lends itself to word play and provides tidbits for parlour games on a rainy day. Now here's a quiz to stimulate the grey cells and set you thinking:

- (1) Which word has five consecutive vowels in it?
- (2) Talking of vowels, which word has all the vowels in the order in which we have learnt them, viz., A E I O U?
- (3) A static vehicle races forward and backward at the same time? How's that? (a palindrome)
- (4) It is said that there is only one word which begins and ends with 'UND'. Which one?
- (5) Is there a word other than 'sugar' which is spelt with a 'Su' but pronounced with an SH'?
- (6) Does No Hat, A smile remind you of a famous painting? (Hint: It is an anagram)
- (7) Many have been foxed trying to make one word out of 'New Door'? Can you?
- (8) Quick wafting zephyrs vex bold Jim: This is a sentence which would tax any typist. Why?
- (9) The following legend is found in some churches under the tables of the Ten Commandments:

PRSVR Y PRFCT MN
VR KP THS PRCPST TN

What do the strange words mean?

- (10) What is unique about the novel "Gadsby" written by Ernest V. Wright in

1939?

(11) Here's one more for those who know typing. Words like "deaf" and "waste" are typed using only the fingers of the left hand. What is the longest such word where the right hand is not at all used?

(12) In the sentence "Though considered tough, the passage through the desert was comparatively easy," is there something noteworthy and unusual?

1. You do not have to stand in a line to know that the word is QUEUING.
2. Abstemious
3. Racecar reads the same on the reverse gear too. (A palindrome)
4. Underground
5. There is such a word, for Sure!
6. The Mona Lisa (of the enigmatic smile by Leonardo da Vinci) It is an anagram.
7. Surely the answer 'one word' would have eluded you. (also an anagram)
8. The sentence has all the 26 alphabets in it - as in the familiar sentence "The Quick Brown Fox Jumps Over the Lazy Dog" (but this one has fewer letters).
9. With the missing vowel 'E' in the appropriate places it would read: Persevere ye perfect men, ever keep these precepts ten.
10. The entire 5,000 word novel was written without even once using the vowel 'E' - an unmatched literary feat.
11. Stewardesses
12. Three words in it end with "ough" but each one is pronounced differently.

Answers

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