

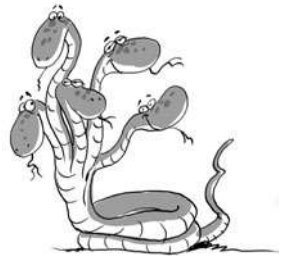


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# ***Shocking*** **Body Facts**



If a person is struck by lightning, they sometimes *vaporize* (evaporate) completely, so that there is nothing left of them at all.

Bacteria trapped inside a salt crystal for 250 million years were revived and grown by scientists in the USA.

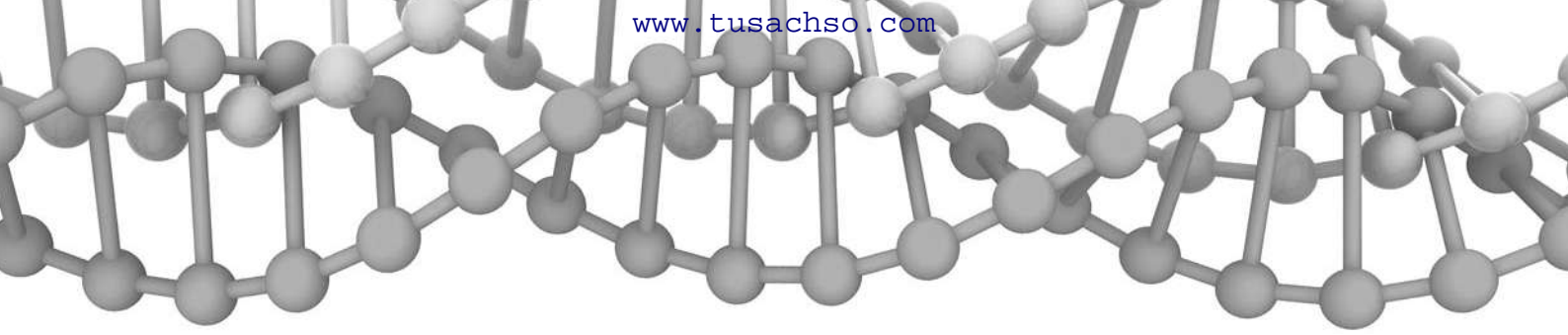
An adult human takes about 23,000 breaths per day.

**An Anglo-American company will store samples of your disease-fighting white blood cells, so that more can be made if you get ill.**

It takes less than 0.1 grams (0.004 ounces) of poison found in parts of the pufferfish to kill an adult human. However, some people eat the fish regularly as they know which bits to remove!



**Dead bodies can remain perfectly intact after many years. This can happen when fat in the body turns into a type of soap that doesn't rot.**



Some people are 'human calculators' and can do really complicated sums in their heads instantly – even faster than someone with a calculator! No one knows exactly how their brains are different.

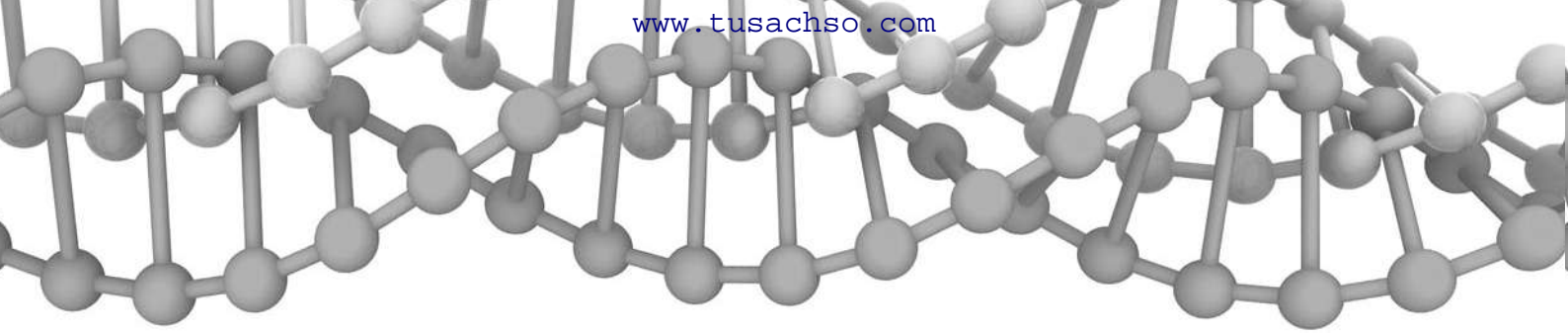
If scientists could build a brain from computer chips, it would take a million times as much power to run as a real human brain.

Malaria is a tropical disease spread by mosquitoes. Since the Stone Age, malaria has been responsible for half of all human deaths from illness.

Each person's tongue print is unique.

In ancient times, Indian doctors used live ants to 'stitch' wounds together. The doctor would hold the edges together and get the ant to bite through the skin. The ant's head would then be snapped off leaving its jaws as the 'stitch'!





Your brain receives about 100 million pieces of information at any one moment from your eyes, nose, ears, skin and receptors inside your body.

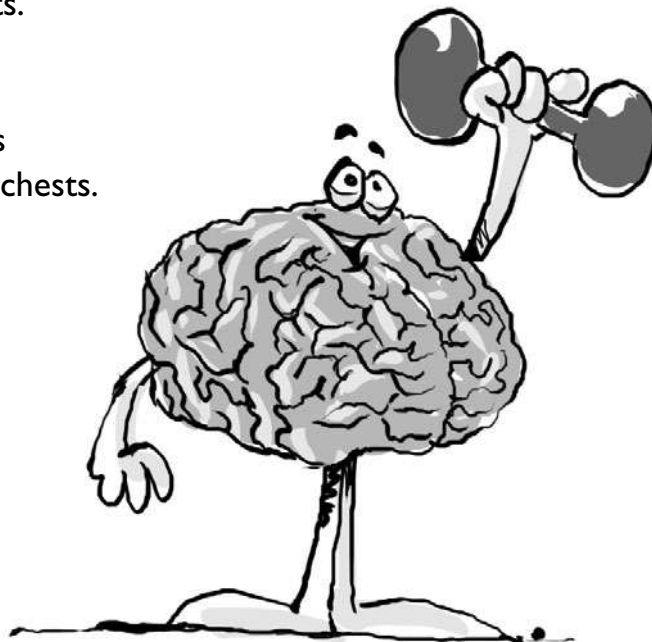
Eating asparagus produces a chemical that makes urine smell strongly, although not everyone can smell it. Lucky them!

A sneeze travels at 161 kilometres (100 miles) per hour.


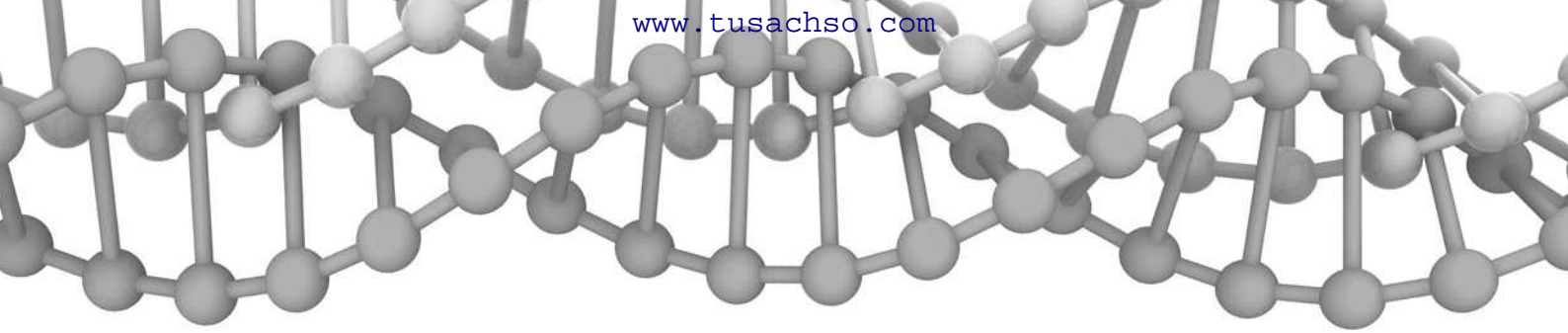
A body left unburied in a tropical climate will be reduced to a skeleton in two weeks by the action of insects.

People can be born with ears growing from their necks or chests.

There are more bacteria in your mouth than there are people in the whole world!







**More people are allergic to cows' milk than to any other food or drink.**

Rubbing yourself with a garlic clove is supposed to keep mosquitoes away... and vampires... and probably other people, too!

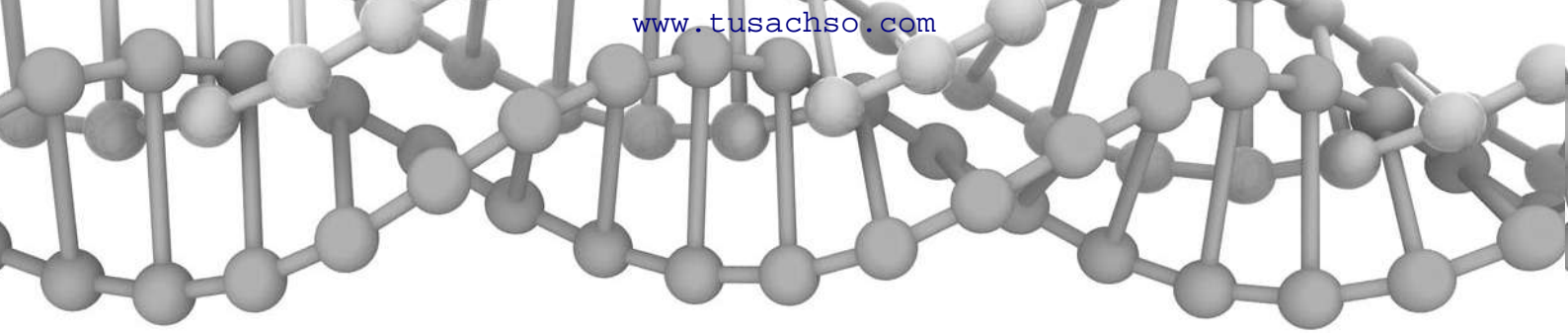
People are taller in the morning than in the evening. During the day, the weight of your body compresses your spine as you walk around, then when you are asleep it expands again.

**Electrical activity is detectable in a human brain up to 37 hours after death, possibly caused by chemical reactions.**

The spice nutmeg is harmless if eaten in moderation, but deadly poisonous if injected. Beware!

Your stomach lining replaces itself every three days.

**If you could lay out all the possible nerve connections in your brain, end to end, they would stretch to about 3.2 million kilometres (2 million miles).**



The strongest muscle in your body is your tongue!

If you read a novel that's 100,000 words long (about 300 pages) your eyes will travel just under 1 kilometre (more than half a mile) along the pages.

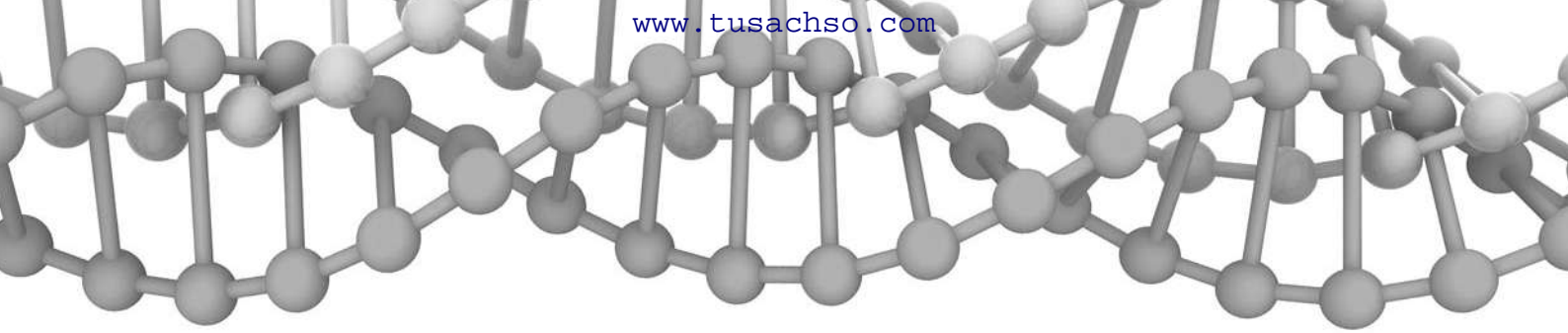
**There have been many cases of people spontaneously bursting into flames and dying. Often, their whole body is burned away. No one knows exactly why this *spontaneous human combustion* happens. What a way to go!**

Your eyes take about an hour to get accustomed to the dark, but after that they are 100,000 times as sensitive to light as they are in bright sunlight.

Your skin is shed and regrown about every 27 days. Most people get through around 1,000 skins in a lifetime.

Your body destroys or loses two and a half million red blood cells every second. Luckily, it creates more at the same rate!

**There is enough acid in the human digestive system to dissolve an iron nail completely.**



Beard hair grows faster than any other hair on the human body. If left to grow for his whole life, a man's beard could be 9 metres (30 feet) long.

There is enough iron in your body to make a nail...which you could then dissolve in all the acid!

Women blink twice as often as men.

The *placenta*, which nourishes an unborn baby, is the only organ that develops after a person is fully grown. It is lost when the baby is born and another grows if the woman becomes pregnant again.

One in 512,000 births results in triplets.

Only a few hundred people in the world are known to have the rare blood type H-H. A person with H-H blood can't receive blood transfusions of any other blood type and may need to store their own blood in advance of an operation.



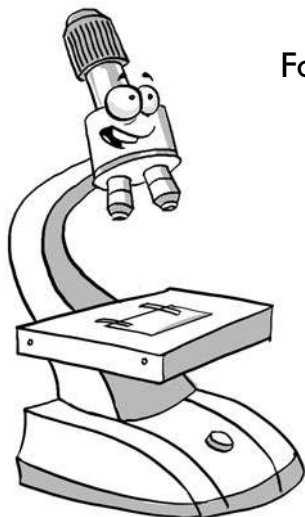


When you hold a seashell to your ear to 'hear the sea', what you actually hear is your own blood in the blood vessels of your ear.

If you could join up all the eyelashes you will lose during your lifetime they would stretch to about 30 metres (100 feet).

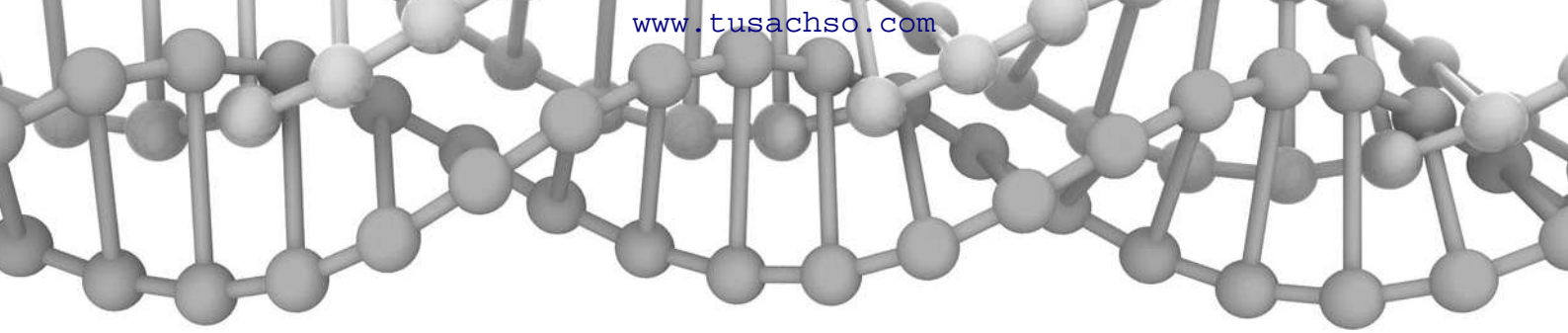
Hair grows most quickly during the day in the summertime. It grows more slowly at night and in winter.

**People who have lost a limb in an accident or operation often feel pain or itching in it, even though it's no longer there...**



For years, doctors thought the appendix in the gut didn't do anything. But in 2007, scientists discovered that it helps to grow new helpful bacteria if vital bacteria in the gut are killed by illness.

If all the blood vessels from a human body were laid end to end they would stretch 97,000 kilometres (60,000 miles).



A single human hair can support the weight of an apple.

**You lose around two billion skin cells every day, which adds up to around 2 kilograms (4.5 pounds) in a year.**

Everyone spent about half an hour of their life as a single cell, at the start of their mother's pregnancy.

A chemical found in asparagus attracts fish. During the First World War, American soldiers were issued with asparagus so that if they were stranded near water they could eat the asparagus, urinate in the water and catch some fish to eat!

If you rubbed garlic on the bottom of your foot, it would be absorbed through your skin and eventually your breath would smell of garlic!

