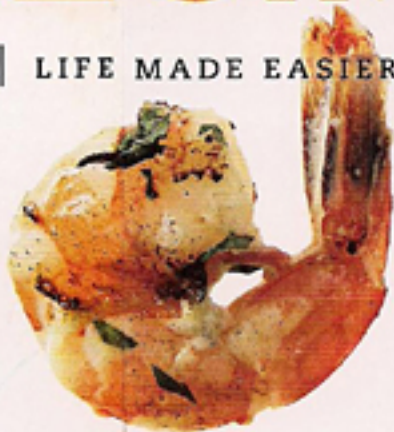


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JULY 201

the simple list

Your monthly dose of useful tidbits, timely trivia, and catchy conversation starters



12

The number of iconic household objects given the stamp of approval for the U.S. Postal Service's latest collection, Pioneers of American Industrial Design. The set pays tribute to famed 20th-century designers who gave us everything from Fiestaware (Frederick Hurten Rhead) to the standard desk telephone (Henry Dreyfuss). Like the designs themselves, these "Forever" stamps promise to stand the test of time—since you can use them no matter the postage rate. (Available at shop.usps.com.)

100.4°

The temperature most doctors consider a fever, according to the book *Don't Cross Your Eyes...They'll Get Stuck That Way* (Griffin, \$14), out this month. (No word on what constitutes a Saturday Night or Bieber fever.) Authors Aaron E. Carroll and Rachel C. Vreeman, both M.D.'s, reveal some other truths, too: Rubbing vitamin E on a cut or a scar won't help it heal any faster, and eating dairy products won't make a cold any worse. So go ahead and milk your sniffles for all the ice cream they're worth.

OMG

Believe it or not, this three-letter abbreviation (which was just added to the *Oxford English Dictionary*) wasn't born in a chat room. Its first recorded use dates back much further—to 1917. It appeared in a letter from British admiral John Arbuthnot to Winston Churchill. In case Churchill was slow on the uptake, Fisher followed the phrase with a quick "(Oh! My God!)" translation. Are you ROTFL (rolling on the floor laughing)?



124

The number of times your child can go bowling for free from July 1 to August 31 if you visit KidsBowlFree.com and sign up to receive e-mail vouchers, which are accepted at more than 800 bowling centers nationwide. They're perfect for rainy days, when you have lots of time to, yes, spare.



12,214,601

The number of 18- to 24-year-olds who voted in the 1972 national election, when President Richard Nixon defeated the Democratic senator from South Dakota, George McGovern. As a percentage, that number still represents a record turnout for American youth. Here's the (probable) reason why: On July 1, 1971, the 26th Amendment went into effect, lowering the voting age from 21 to 18. Now, if only the primaries were more like *American Idol*...



35

How many times the word *phony* appears in J.D. Salinger's *The Catcher in the Rye*. The novel turns 60 on July 16, but the adolescent angst of Holden Caulfield remains as relevant (and unphony) as ever.