Do you know…

( из материалов книги «Книга для ежедневного чтения на английском языке» М. И. Дубровин. Москва «Просвещение» 1973)

… that the largest eggs are laid by sharks and ostriches?

… that some snakes have legs?

… that a seal never sleeps more than 1,05 minutes at a time?

… that the bee pollinates 100,000 different kinds of plants? Without bees we found have no apples, pears, plums, cherries, apricots, melons, pears, etc.

… that the number of possible ways of playing the first four moves only on each side in a game of chess is 318,979,564,000?

… that lead melts at 620 degrees C; tin melts at 446 degrees C? But if these two metals are melted and put together, it is called solder, and solder melts at 356 degrees C.

… that radon, although it is a gas, is four times as heavy as iron?

… that 11,111,111 multiplied by itself equals 123,456,787,654,321?

… that when pocket watches were first invented, they were so heavy that their owners had pages to carry them?

… that the human heart stops for one-sixth of a second between beats? So your heart stands still for one-sixth of your lifetime.

… that it is impossible to sneeze with your eyes open?

To pollinate-опылять

Tin-олово

Solder-припой

Multiplied by itself-умноженное само на себя

… that there are no two snow-flakes which are exactly alike?

Millions and millions of snow-flakes fall during every snow-storm, but each snow-flake is different in someway from all the others, though all snow-flakes are flat, six-sided figures.

… that the length of a lightning flash is usually about half a mile? But some of them are five miles long, although most flashes last only a few millionths of a second?

… that sometimes lightning picks its victims? Once in France lightning struck a sheep-fold. It killed every black sheep, but left all the white sheep alive.

A few millionths of a second-несколько миллионных секунды

Picks its victims-выбирает себе жертвы

Sheep-fold-овчарня

English humour

Why does it rain?

Little boy: Mummy, why does it rain?

Mother: To make things grow. To give us corn, apples, pears, flowers-

Little boy: Then why does it rain on the pavement?

How much does ink cost?

Boy: Is ink so very expensive, Father?

Father: Why, no, what makes you think so?

Boy: Well, Mother seems quite disturbed because I spilled some ink on the carpet.

How do they get into them?

Father: Isn`t it wonderful how little chicks get out of their shells?

Son: What puzzles me is how they get into them.