Brainteasers

1. Which letters of the English language, when pronounced out loud are most likely to spread microorganisms?

2. Which word, in English, has the most definitions?

3. What is the longest English word that contains no vowels?

4. What does the word "Syzygy" mean?

5. What is the first word to be found in Webster's Dictionary?

6. What is the longest one syllable word?

7. Which is the most used letter of the alphabet? and which is the least used?

8. Name a word that ends with "- *gry*."

9. What do you call a word that is spelled the same forwards or backwards; such as *kayak* or *racecar*?

10. What do you call a word that consists of two words combined, but with some missing letters? For example: motor + hotel = motel; breakfast + lunch = brunch.

Answers

1. Which letters of the English language, when pronounced out loud are most likely to spread microorganisms? F, P, T, D, and S.

2. Which word, in English, has the most definitions? Set (Webster's Dictionary has 119 definitions for this word!)

3. What is the longest English word that contains no vowels? Actually there are two: Rythm and Syzygy

4. What does the word "Syzygy mean? An alignment of three celestial objects; such as the sun, the earth, and the moon or a planet.

5. What is the first word to be found in Webster's Dictionary? A – meaning: the first word of the English alphabet

6. What is the longest one syllable word? Screeched

7. Which is the most used letter? and which is the least used? E is the most used, Q is the least (as all good Scrabble players know!)

8. Name a word that ends with "- *gry*." Angry and Hungry

9. What do you call a word that is spelled the same forwards or backwards, such as *kayak* or *racecar*? A Palindrome. Here are some more palindrome words: "repaper, madam, poop, reviver, tenet." Or how about a palindrome sentence like: "God saw I was dog." or "Step on no pets."

10. What do you call a word that consists of two words combined, but with some missing letters? For example: motor + hotel = motel; breakfast + lunch = brunch. Portmanteau. Some more examples would be: infomercial, docudrama, sitcom, webcast, and smog.