

# Curiosity Corner: Pop quiz time

Okay, it's time for a pop quiz! Let's see how you do. (Answers below; don't peek!)

•How many of the original 48 states border the Atlantic, Pacific or Gulf waters?

•How many of the original 48 states do not border Atlantic, Pacific or Gulf waters?

•When you walk, does your left arm swing with your right or left leg?

•Where is the London Bridge located?

•Do lions and tigers roam the same locations?

•Where won't you find billboards in the United States?

•Do books have even-numbered pages on the right side or the left?

•Sleepy, Sneazy, Happy, Grumpy, Dopey and Doc. Who's missing?

•How many numbered keys are there are on a telephone keypad, and which two have no alphabet letters?

•Most of the numbered telephone keys have three letters, but two keys have four letters. Which are these and why?

•What is a "Harvard" or "Oxford" comma?

Answers:

•21 (Can you name them?)

•27 (Trick question; did you subtract 21 from 48?)

•Right

•Lake Havasu City, Arizona. Now a tourist attraction, it was moved there in the 1960s after being dismantled because it could not handle the traffic. It was sold for \$2,460,000 and a new bridge of different design was built over the Thames.

•No. Lions are in Africa and tigers are in Asia.

•Four states do not allow billboards: Hawaii (banned in 1927), Alaska (banned in 1959), Vermont (banned in 1968) and Maine (banned in 1977).

•Left

•Bashful

•Ten keys. The "1" and "0" keys have no letters.

•The "7" and "9" keys have four letters. If all eight keys with



**CURIOSITY CORNER**  
Dr. Jerry D. Wilson  
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letters only had three letters each, that would only get us to 24 letters ( $8 \times 3 = 24$ ), so two keys have an additional letter, representing all 26 letters of the alphabet.

Here's your English lesson for the day. A Harvard or Oxford comma refers to the "serial" comma in a list before the "and" (or sometimes "or"). For example, "the peppers on sale were red, yellow, and green." It is also written by some standards as "the peppers on sale were red, yellow and green." You likely won't find any Oxford commas in the newspaper you're holding — it's not allowed in Associated Press (AP) style. Yet without this extra comma, there is often ambiguity. If you were to write, "I invited my parents, Robert and Samantha" without an Oxford comma, it could either mean that you invited two people by the name of Robert and Samantha in addition to your parents; or it could mean that you invited your parents, whose names are Robert and Samantha. With an Oxford comma, "I invited my parents, Robert, and Samantha," it is clear that Robert and Samantha are separate from the parents.

C.P.S. (Curious Postscript): People become prisoners using their phones — that's why they're called "cell" phones.

Curious about something? Send your questions to Dr. Jerry D. Wilson, College of Science and Mathematics, Lander University, Greenwood, SC 29649, or email [jerry@curiosity-corner.net](mailto:jerry@curiosity-corner.net). Selected questions will appear in the Curiosity Corner. For Curiosity Corner background, go to [www.curiosity-corner.net](http://www.curiosity-corner.net).



**BILINGUAL CLUB** — Tricia Nolan and Nisa Navarro took their students who are in the Bilingual Club at Laurens Middle School, along with students from Bilingual Clubs from every school in Laurens District 55, on a field trip to Greenville. They attended a lively performance of international music by the group called the Villa Lobos Brothers at the Peace Center for the Performing Arts. They also enjoyed a tasty meal together at IHOP. Students and chaperones all enjoyed this educational and entertaining experience. Pictured are, from left, Rosalinda Estaban, Nisa Navarro, Maricela Andres Diego, Victor Tapia Sanchez, Heidi Chamorro Hernandez, Adriana Diaz Ramos, Dyana Martinez, San-Juana Cruz Tomas, Kimberly Hernenandez, Hugo Avila, Keilyn Mendoza, Alexandra Lazaro Peralta, Leandro Tapia-Gomez, Tricia Nolan, Jesus Gonzalez-Moreno, Desi Cruz-Garduno, Heidi Hernandez, Draney Cedillo Nava, Bryan Ramirez, Bryan Hernandez, Kimberly Sosa-Hernandez, Viviana Reyna, Yuritza Navarro Hernandez, and Miranda Roman.

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