

What it's called

Sometimes it's on the tip of your tongue... "What is it called again?" It's not always easy to remember those out-of-the-ordinary things but to refresh your memory, here's what it is called.

Mid-men, the male versions of mid-wives, are called accouchers.

The plastic things on the end of shoelaces are called aglets.

The study of creatures such as Bigfoot, the chupacabra, and the Loch Ness monster is called cryptozoology. Zoologist Bernard Heuvelmans coined the term to describe his investigations of animals unknown to science.

The apparatus used in alcohol distilleries for freeing the spirit from water is called the dephlegmator.

One that speaks two languages - is bilingual - can be said to be diglot.

Ducks are never male. The males of the species are called drakes. In a casino, however, ducks is a nickname for a pair of deuces.

The working section of a piano is called the action.

Shoemakers are commonly called cobblers but correctly speaking a cobbler is a shoe repairman. A shoemaker is a cordwainer - they also made leather bottles and harnesses.

The device at the intersection of two railroad tracks to permit the wheels and flanges on one track to cross or branch for the other is called a frog.

A specific length of thread or yarn according to the type of fiber is called a hank. For linen, a hank is 274 metres (300 yards); for cotton, it is 768 metres (840 yards).

The white part of your fingernail is called the lunula.

The thin line of cloud that forms behind an aircraft at high altitudes is called a contrail.

A depth of 2 fathoms (3.6 metres) is called a Mark Twain. Originally a fathom was the space reached by with two arms outstretched.

In the early days of film making, people who worked on the sets were called movies. The films were called motion pictures.

The tendency of the leaves or petals of certain plants to assume a different position at night is called nyctitropism.

The back of the human hand is the opisthenar.

Revealing personality traits through writing is referred to as graphology.



ALL IN THE FAMILY

It sounds like daytime TV, but it's real. The year 1886 was a big one for Frances Folsom: She turned twenty-one, married her surrogate father, and became the youngest-ever first lady. How do you ask? Frances's real father died when she was ten, leaving her the legal ward of her late father's law partner, Grover Cleveland..

Eleven years later, in 1886, Grover Cleveland was president of the United States. Cleveland then forty-nine years old and a lifelong bachelor up to that time, took Ms. Folsom as his bride in the White House.

Aside from making Frances the youngest-ever first lady, Grover Cleveland added another bit of history to that wedding. He became the only president to be married at the White House.

Footnote: Just one other president got married during his term of office. That was when widower Woodrow Wilson married Edith Galt in 1915 —but that wedding was held at the bride's home in Washington, not the White House.

A LITTLE FACTOID

For 3000 years, until 1883, hemp was the world's largest agricultural crop, from which the majority of fabric, soap, paper, medicines, and oils were produced.