Did you know...

... that the Hundred Years' War lasted 116 years?
... that chewing gum was accidently invented while again trying to create a new kind of rubber?
... that Google was almost called Backrub?

Actually, only two of those statements are true. Your job is to figure out which one is the fake!

Welcome to Two Truths and a Tall Tale. On every page you'll find three statements—two of them are true, and one... well, not so much. To figure out which one is false, you might use your superior knowledge. (“I thought William Fleer invented chewing gum.”) You might just take a wild guess. (“I know, number 3!”) Or you might ask someone for their advice or look up the answer somewhere.

And just a hint—don’t always assume the most outlandish statement is the false one. Sometimes truth really is stranger than fiction.

There are a few ways to play Two Truths and a Tall Tale. You can play by yourself—but no cheating! You can also play in a group. Have someone read the
questions and let people take turns guessing which one is false. Who knows, they might actually know the answer right off.

Or make it a race. That’s right—take out your phones or tablets and Google (or Backrub) the answers. Either way you and your soon-to-be well-informed friends will have a great time learning interesting facts like these:

- More people work in the Empire State Building than live in Iceland.
- Twinkies were named after a line of shoes.
- Massachusetts has its own state polka...

...or does it?

By the way, we’re not going to tell you which one of the facts on this page is false. You’ll need to check inside to find out for yourself. All the answers—and some fascinating trivia—are at the end of the book, starting on page 97. But don’t peek until you try to figure them out for yourself. You might even feel your brain expanding as you play. So what are you waiting for? Turn the page and get at it. You’re going to have a great time... and that’s the truth!
The Famous and Infamous

Which one of these statements is blatantly false?

1. Thomas Edison, the inventor of the electric lightbulb, was afraid of the dark.
2. Billy the Kid was not really a kid. He was 43 years old when he died in a gunfight.
3. President William H. Taft had a cow at the White House that provided milk for his family and guests.
Great Women in History

Interesting facts about some amazing ladies of the past.

1. Even though England’s culture in the 1500s is called the Elizabethan Age, Queen Elizabeth I died before such creative artists as Shakespeare and Christopher Marlowe came on the scene.

2. It took more than 50 years for the work of Susan B. Anthony to bring about the Nineteenth Amendment, giving women the right to vote.

3. Running low on medical supplies at the Battle of Bull Run during the Civil War, Clara Barton placed an ad in the newspaper, asking for donations.
Amazing Technology

Which of these facts are true and which one has been...ahem...invented?

1. The first barcode to be scanned was on a pack of Wrigley’s gum.
2. The electric chair was invented by a dentist.
3. Walt Disney developed the technology of videotape recording in the early 1930s.
Fun Food Facts, Part 1

Some delicious tidbits of trivia to whet your appetite.

1. PEZ, the name of the popular candy treat that comes in the cool character dispensers, is actually short for the German word for peppermint.

2. The founder of In-N-Out Burger and the founder of Shake Shack are second cousins.

3. A large serving of movie-theater popcorn has more calories than 5½ McDonald’s cheeseburgers.
Fun Food Facts, Part 2

Delicious food facts to suit your taste.

1. Pound cake got its name in England, where it was developed, because the cake cost a pound to purchase.
2. The fortune cookie was invented in the United States, not in China.
3. The state vegetable of Oklahoma is the watermelon.
Fun Food Facts, Part 3

Just when you thought you knew everything there was to know about food...

1. Idahoans celebrate New Year’s by dropping a big potato.
2. The oldest soft drink in the United States is Pepsi Cola.
3. A ripe cranberry will bounce like a tiny basketball.
TV or Not TV, Part 1

Which one of these techy facts isn't technically a fact?

1. The Academy Awards, or Oscars, were first televised on March 19, 1953.
3. Dwight Eisenhower was the first US president to appear on television.

TV or Not TV, Part 2

Here are some little-known tidbits—one untrue—about the magic of Hollywood.

1. Mayberry of *The Andy Griffith Show* doubled as downtown Chicago for the TV show *The Untouchables*.

2. The TV show *M*A*S*H* was filmed in Hollywood, but the original movie was filmed entirely in South Korea.

3. The castle from the 1967 movie *Camelot* was the same set used for the TV series *Kung Fu*.