

Hey Smart Scoopers

Hope your week has been wonderful!

This time, we've gathered five stories that travel from a major political shift in Bangladesh to the snowy arenas of the Winter Olympics, from the curious roots of everyday phrases to the astonishing navigation skills of migratory birds. And of course, we've tucked in a clever little puzzle to tie it all together.

Here are your fresh picks for the week:

Scoop 1: Bangladesh voted for change: New leader, new direction

Scoop 2: Why do we say that?: The surprising origin of everyday phrases

Scoop 3: Winter Olympics 2026: Ice, mountains and medals

Scoop 4: How migratory birds travel?: Without getting lost...

Scoop 5: Puzzle For The Week: The three neckties

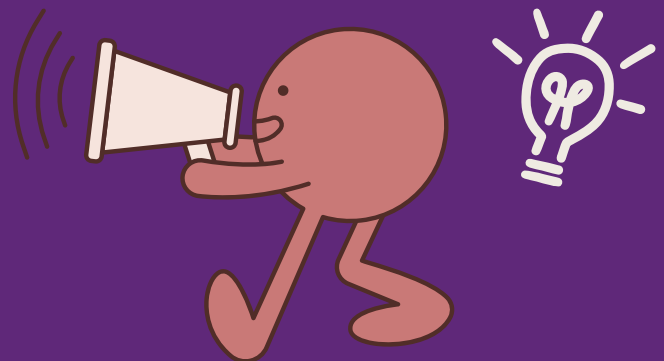
Dig in and enjoy!

Happy Reading,
The SmartScoop Team

Our mascot, Blurt
will follow us
along the way.

Blurt /blurt/
noun:

A loud, round, super-curious character who just can't keep a fact in.



Bangladesh Votes For Change

NEW LEADER, NEW DIRECTION

On February 17, 2026, Tarique Rahman was officially sworn in as the Prime Minister of Bangladesh following a landslide victory by his party, the BNP (Bangladesh Nationalist Party), which won 212 out of 299 seats. The election, the first since the 2024 student-led uprising, saw a high voter turnout of 60%.



If you have not been following the news about Bangladesh, here is the story

For many years, Bangladesh politics was mainly led by two powerful prime ministers: Sheikh Hasina and Khaleda Zia. Their two parties, the Awami League and the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, took turns leading the country. This rivalry shaped politics for decades.

In 2024, things changed dramatically. There were large protests across the country. Many people, especially students and young voters, were unhappy about economic problems, job opportunities, and how elections had been handled. The protests grew bigger and stronger.

As pressure increased, Sheikh Hasina left the country. After she stepped down and fled, an interim or temporary government was formed. Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus stepped in to guide the country during this transition period. His role was to help stabilize the situation and prepare for fresh elections.

Finally, in February 2026, Bangladesh held a new general election. The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) won a landslide victory. Its leader, Tarique Rahman, is now set to become the new Prime Minister, marking a major shift in Bangladesh's political history.

Bangladesh is a young country, about 40% of the people are under the age of 30. This election was nicknamed the "Gen Z-inspired election" because it only happened because students and young people stood up for what they believed in and fought for true change.

The new government now faces a big challenge: they need to create jobs, stop corruption, and prove that democracy can actually work for everyone.

Why Do We Say That?

THE SURPRISING ORIGIN OF EVERYDAY PHRASES

Why do we wish someone "good luck" by telling them to break their leg? How exactly does it rain cats and dogs? And who decided that the cat was let out of the bag in the first place? The English language is full of phrases that make zero sense on the surface, but behind every weird saying is a genuinely fascinating story. Have you ever wondered mid-sentence and thought... wait, what does that actually mean? Let's dig in.

Break a Leg

MEANING: Good luck!

Telling someone to "break a leg" before a big performance is one of the most well-known practices in theater. But theater, is bit of a superstitious world. Saying "good luck" backstage is considered tempting fate, so performers flipped the script and began wishing each other the opposite. The phrase became widely used in American theater circles in the early 20th century and remains a ritual incantation before the curtain rises.

It's Raining Cats and Dogs

MEANING: It's raining very heavily

This phrase storms in from 17th century England. One popular theory links it to filthy city streets where heavy rain would flush debris and, grimly, the bodies of stray animals through the gutters. After a downpour, it might truly look like creatures had fallen from the sky.

Barking Up the Wrong Tree

MEANING: Following a mistaken line of thought or accusing the wrong person.

This comes from 19th-century American raccoon hunting. Hunting dogs would chase a raccoon up a tree and stand at the base barking. However, raccoons are clever—they can often leap from one tree to another without the dog noticing. The dog would continue barking at an empty tree while the raccoon was long gone.

Bury the Hatchet

MEANING: To make peace.

This is one of the few idioms with a literal, documented history. It comes from Native American diplomacy, specifically the Iroquois Confederacy. When tribes reached a peace agreement, the chiefs would literally bury their tomahawks/hatchets in the ground to symbolize that the fighting was over and the weapons were out of reach.

Language is never just words. Every phrase is a small time capsule carrying bits of history, daily life, superstition, and human experience from centuries ago right into our everyday conversations.

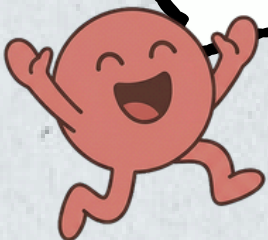
Hmm..interesting! let me think and make up a phrase , say it with confidence, and watch it age into history like fine cheese...

MADE UP BY BLURT: "Polish the Thunder"

Meaning: To act extremely confident and dramatic about something that is still completely unproven... or barely started.

Usage: Don't polish the thunder before winners are announced.

Disclaimer: This phrase is entirely made up by Blurt. If it becomes famous, that's on you!.



ICE, MOUNTAINS AND MEDALS



The Winter Olympics 2026 (officially known as Milano Cortina 2026) began on 6 February 2026 and will run until 22 February 2026. The Games are being hosted in northern Italy, mainly in Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo. Athletes from around the world are competing in exciting winter sports such as skiing, ice hockey and figure skating.

What Makes This Olympics Special

There are a few things about Milano Cortina 2026 that make it stand out from any Winter Olympics before it:

It's the first Olympics officially co-hosted by two cities:

For the first time ever, the Winter Olympics are officially shared by two main host cities: Milan (the fashion capital of Italy) and Cortina d'Ampezzo (a famous mountain resort).



A brand-new sport has joined the Olympics.: This is called Sky mountaineering or **Skimo**, a grueling winter endurance sport where athletes race through mountain terrain by climbing uphill and skiing back down under their own power.



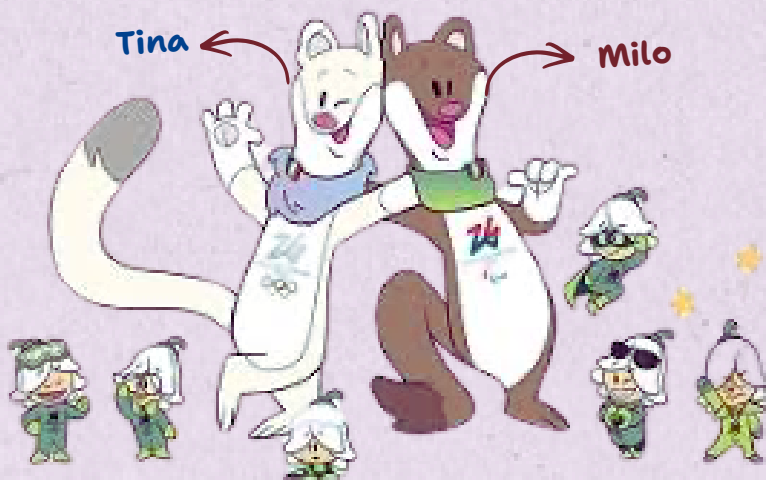
Dual Moguls: Imagine freestyle skiing, but head-to-head. Two skiers race side-by-side down a bumpy hill, doing tricks in the air. It's fast, chaotic, and awesome to watch.

Gender Equality: This is the most gender-equal Winter Games ever! About 47% of the athletes are women. For the first time, women in cross-country skiing are racing the exact same distances as the men.



Meet the Mascots: Tina and Milo

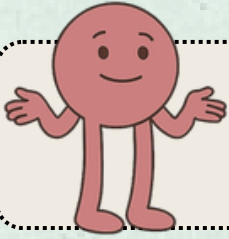
Every Olympics has mascots, and Milano Cortina 2026's are Tina and Milo: two adorable stoats (small mammals related to weasels and otters). Their names come from the two host cities: Tina from Cortina, and Milo from Milano. They are joined by six little snowdrop flowers called "The Flo," who travel with them on their adventures.



Aww...they look so cute, right!



WITHOUT GETTING LOST...



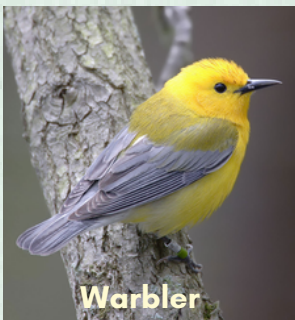
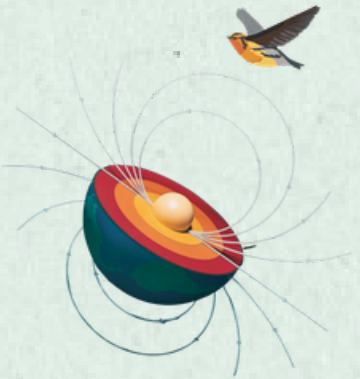
Every year, billions of birds do something that seems almost impossible, they fly thousands of kilometres to a completely different part of the world, and then find their way back again. No GPS. No Google Maps. No one giving them directions. So how do they do it?



Nature has equipped birds with incredible internal gadgets that help them fly mile after mile without losing direction. Let's dig in!

The Internal Compass: Feeling the Force

The coolest trick birds have is the ability to sense the Earth's magnetic field. While we need a physical compass needle to show us North, birds have a "built-in" version. **Magnetoreception in the Eyes:** Some birds have special proteins in their eyes called cryptochromes. These may allow them to actually see the magnetic field as a shade of light or color overlaid on their vision. **Iron in the Beak:** Some species have tiny crystals of magnetite (a magnetic mineral) in their beaks. This acts like a sensor that tells the bird exactly where it is located on the Earth's grid.



Warbler

The Celestial Map: Star Gazers

Birds that fly at night (like warblers and thrushes) are expert astronomers. They look at the stars to figure out which way is North. They don't just look for one star; they learn the rotation of the night sky. By watching how the stars crawl across the heavens around the North Star (Polaris), they can determine a constant direction. If you put a migratory bird in a planetarium and rotate the stars, it will actually change the direction it tries to fly!

The Sun and the Clock

During the day, birds use the position of the sun to tell direction. But here's the clever part — they also have an internal body clock, so they can account for the fact that the sun moves across the sky throughout the day. It's like having a built-in compass that automatically adjusts itself every hour.

Landmarks

Experienced birds also use memory and landmarks — coastlines, mountain ranges, rivers, and even roads. Older birds that have made the journey before often lead the way, and younger birds learn the route by following them.

Smell

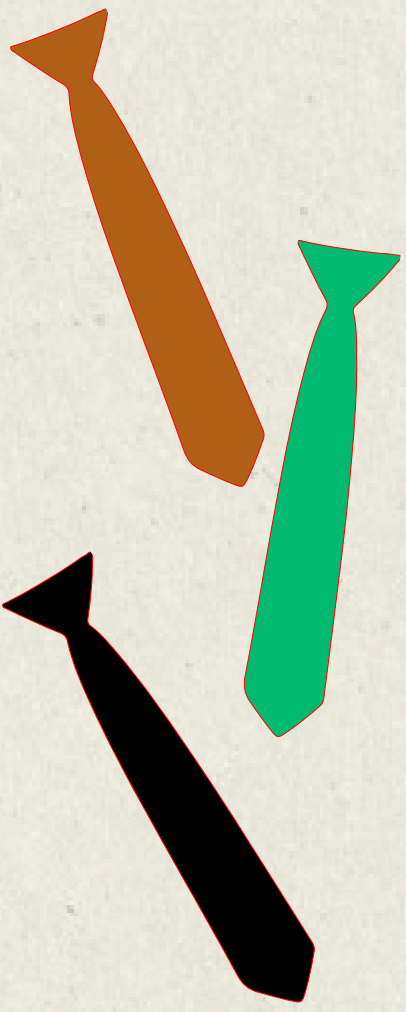
Some birds, particularly pigeons and certain seabirds, also use smell to help navigate. They can detect subtle changes in the scent of the air and use it to build a kind of "smell map" of the world around them.



Mighty impressive. With brains smaller than a walnut, they cross entire continents without getting lost... and I can't step outside without opening Maps.

THE THREE NECK TIES

THE THREE NECKTIES



Mr. Brown, Mr. Green, and Mr. Black were having lunch together. One wore a brown necktie, one a green tie, one a black.

“Have you noticed,” said the man with the green tie, “that although our ties have colors that match our names, not one of us has on a tie that matches his own name?”

“By golly, you’re right!” exclaimed Mr. Brown.

What color tie was each man wearing?”

SOLUTION

Mr. Brown had a black tie.

Mr. Black had a green tie.

Mr. Green had a brown tie.

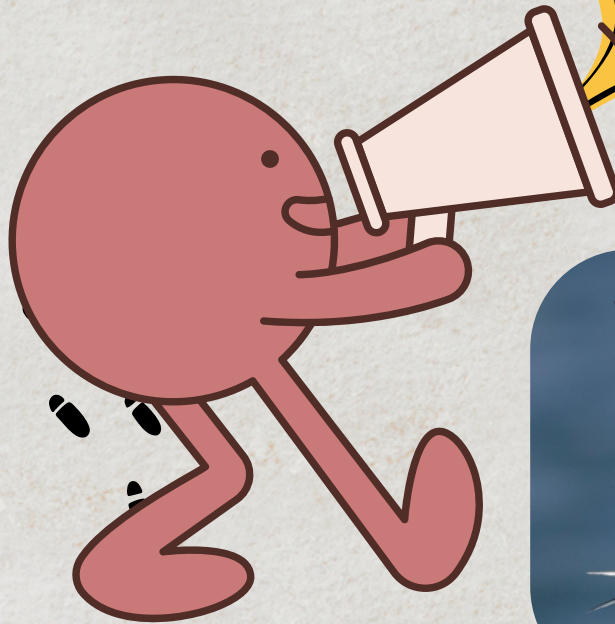
Brown couldn’t be wearing a brown tie, for then it would correspond to his name. He couldn’t be wearing a green tie because a tie of this color is on the man who asked him a question. Therefore Brown’s tie must be black.

This leaves the green and brown ties to be worn respectively by Mr. Black and Mr. Green.

Blurt's

Interesting fact for the week

The Arctic Tern travels about 44,000 miles every year, the equivalent of flying around the entire Earth nearly twice!



That's it for this week! Until next time, keep your brain gears turning!

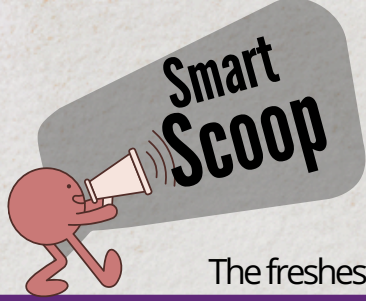


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smartscoopteam@gmail.com

We'd love to hear from you! Mostly Blurt tbh..



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