

## A Beware the Ides of Math

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The first number to be triangular and hexagonal etc. Who cares!

It is a lucky number. But it is also a deficient number (sum of the factors  $< 2n$ )!

In the Hebrew numbering system 15 is not referred to as “ten and five” unlike 13, 14, 16, 17, etc. It is called “nine and six”. Ten and five is pronounced “yodh heh” which sound suspiciously like a name for God. And let’s not get started on Gematria.

Knuth recommended doing a lateral Bible study, looking and 16<sup>th</sup> verse of the third chapter of each book of the bible. So, let’s look at Genesis 3:15

And I will put enmity  
between you and the woman,<sup>[SEP]</sup>  
and between your offspring and hers;<sup>[SEP]</sup>  
he will crush your head,<sup>[SEP]</sup>  
and you will strike his heel.

Let’s just stop there!

Who would like to be world-famous but only for 15 minutes?

Phosphorus, atomic number 15, is so darn reactive that it does not occur on earth by itself. It is known as Lucifer.

Ah! the good old days when the tip was just 15%.

Sam Loyd’s infamous 15 puzzle, with the 14 and 15 initially reversed, wasted vast amounts of time and made the public question the trustworthiness of puzzlers.

An average employer spends 15 seconds on each job application.

James Buchanan was the 15<sup>th</sup> United states president. He is often ranked the worst president but does compete with Donald Trump and Andrew Jackson for that honor. He fought the Mormons, appointed political hacks, and bent over backwards to appease the South. Most of his cabinet joined the Confederacy.

Rugby Union teams have the rare number of 15 members; remember Rugby is a blood sport: “Give blood - play rugby”

Kentucky is the fifteenth state of the Union and the flag with 15 stars, which had 15 stripes, was considered so cluttered that there was no flag with 16, 17, 18 or 19 stars.

The 15th Amendment granted blacks the right to vote but was so narrow that it left open huge loopholes to disenfranchise by other means, such as bogus literacy tests.

Tipper Gores “Filthy Fifteen”: Prince, Sheena Easton, Judas Priest, Vanity, Motley Crue, AC/DC, Twisted Sister, Madonna, W.A.S.P., Def Leppard, Mercyful Fate, Black Sabbath, Mary Jane Girls, Venom, Cindi Lauper.

A popular meme: Maybe you weren’t a terrible person maybe you were just fifteen.

And you just might find who you're supposed to be  
I didn't know who I was supposed to be  
At fifteen. [Taylor Swift]

CDC: 15 year olds feel a lot of sadness or depression, leading to poor grades at school, alcohol or drug use, unsafe sex, etc. And in 32 states you can drive at the age of fifteen (including Georgia!)

On average women sleep 15 minutes longer than men.

“Fifteen Men on the Dead Man’s Chest” is a fictional sea shanty by Robert Louis Stevenson. It turns out that Blackbeard marooned 15 men on one of the British Virgin Islands, called Dead Man’s Chest or Dead Chest. He left them for a month with a cutlass and a bottle of rum, hoping they would kill each other; they all survived the month.

The Tarot card for 15 is called the Devil. The devil is portrayed with breasts, a face on the belly, eyes on the knees, lion feet, male genitalia, bat-like wings, and antlers.

It took 15 blows to decapitate Mary Queen of Scots.

The iPhone 15: easily scratched metal, overheating, fragile, slow transfers, OLED burn-in, darker images, poor battery life.

A cockroach can survive 15 minutes under water.

“Beware the Ides of March”

Recall the Ides was only on the 15th in March, July, October and May.

Two years earlier Julius Caesar had moved New Year’s Day from the Ides of March.

On March 15th:

Louis XV declared war on England.

(Louis XV (15) died of smallpox as a defeated and unpopular king.)

Hitler invades Czechoslovakia, 1939.

Riots erupt in Watts, 1966.

But there never has been any superstition about the date.

Finally: Compared to fifteen love is nothing.

[At G4Gx there is a talk disparaging x; I got the job for G4G15.]