

## The Guinness' Book of Records Hall of Fame

The **Guinness Book of Records** holds some of the most daring things people have ever done. However, even this collection of astonishing feats has its favourites. We bring some of them in the text below, adapted from their website, [www.guinnessworldrecords.com](http://www.guinnessworldrecords.com).

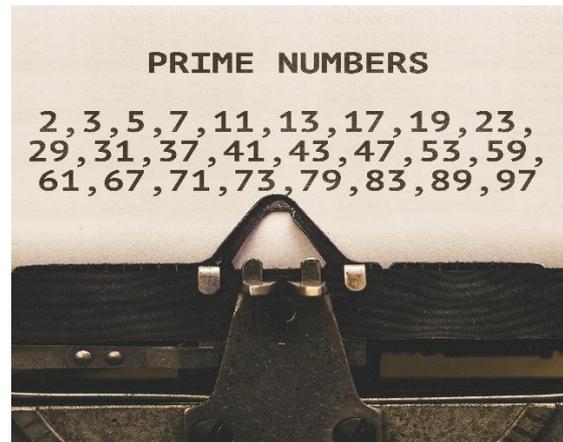
Felix Baumgartner is an Austrian skydiver who did a parachute jump from the edge of universe. The Red Bull Stratos project, worth \$20,000,000, made history on 14 October 2012. Mr. Baumgartner lifted off from Roswell in the USA, and took two hours to reach the far end of atmosphere. It only took him 9 minutes to return to Earth, breaking the records for the highest freefall parachute jump (38,969.4 m) and the fastest speed in freefall (1,357.6 km/h). He was also the first person to break the sound barrier in freefall. His jump had the most watches for a live event on YouTube, and the largest audience for a livestreamed ad: 8,000,000 people!



On 4 January 2010 the tallest building on the planet opened – the Burj Khalifa. This 828 m tall skyscraper is used for residences, offices and as a hotel. More than 12,000 people from all over the world worked on its construction. It has 28,261 hand-cut glass panels on the outside. On New Year's Eve 2015, there was a special display in which 1,600,000 kilos of fireworks were released from every side of the building.



On 26 December 2017, Jonathan Pace discovered a new prime number which has 23,249,425 digits. The number's name is M77232917, and it was calculated by subtracting 1 from the result of 2 to the power of 77,232,917. It belongs to a special class of rare numbers known as Mersenne primes and has nearly one million digits more than the prime number which previously held this record.



Do you know which country has the largest number of different surnames? It is France! There are about 1,000,000 surnames, half of which are very recent, from the last century. The most usual surnames are Martin (228,857), Bernard (120,573), Thomas (108,141) and Dupont (63,035). Believe it or not, the country has several names with no vowels at all, such as Snp and Vlk.



You may not have heard of Ashrita Furman, but he holds an interesting record: that for most Guinness World Records. In over 30 years, Ashrita has set more than 600 records, of which over 200 have not been broken yet. His first record were 27,000 jumping jacks in seven hours. One of the records he likes best is lighting the most candles on a birthday cake: 72,585! He is also one of the few people who have broken a record on every single continent.



**Questions and tasks:**

- 1) What is the most and the least fascinating record from the text?
- 2) Which type of records are you most interested in? Find out: Go to the Guinness World Record website and discover one or more of such examples.
- 3) Would you ever try to break a record? If yes, which one? If no, why not?
- 4) What kind of personal traits and outside help do you think record-breakers need? Research: Find out what the people who have broken a record say about their success.
- 5) Discuss: What are some of your personal records? Compare them with the people in class, and make a class book of records.