

This Week Is A Strange Week In Numbers

By **Alexander Baron** - May 12, 2015



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Numerology is a strange belief, or maybe it is not so strange, because the strangest numbers have the strangest habits of turning up in the strangest places at the strangest times. Take pi for instance. Even if you left school a decade or two ago you will probably remember it is the ratio of a circle: $C = \pi D$ or $2\pi R$. But did you know that π also turns up in many other places, including as the sum of a series (more than one in fact), or that it is related to another transcendental number, e ? This is known as Euler's identity.

How about something related to letters as well as numbers? In the English language, the number 40 (forty) is the only one that has all its letters in alphabetical order!

Dates can also do strange things, and this week is a strange one indeed, because as one numberphile pointed out, every date this week is the same as in reverse – see the picture below. Weird, huh?

**Every day in this week will be the same
if read forwards or backwards:**

5/10/15

5/11/15

5/12/15

5/13/15

5/14/15

5/15/15

5/16/15

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Such dates are known as palindromic, and there are some more coming up. October 5 this year is palindromic, as is October 6 next year, while if you use the American format of month then day then year, June 10 next year is palindromic.



Queen Elizabeth II (Credits: Joel Rouse/ Ministry of Defence)

And here is a man-made anomaly, there is one woman and only one, who has two birthdays, the Queen of England. Elizabeth II was born April 21, 1926, which means she is now 89 years old, but her official birthday is a Saturday in June, this year it will be June 13. The Queen is also currently the world's second longest reigning monarch behind only the King of Thailand, and the second longest reigning monarch in English history behind her great-grandmother Queen Victoria, but on September 9 this year she will break this record, having already been on the Throne for a staggering 63 years and 3 months. Now that will be a date to celebrate.