

Humor & Trivia Editing Sample

Original Writing Sample

Owner-created portfolio demonstration. Not paid customer work.

Trivia warm-up

What has three hearts, blue blood, eight arms - and still can't proofread its own captions?

Answer: An octopus.

1. Punch up a flat trivia caption

Before

Octopuses are interesting because they have three hearts and blue blood.

After

Three hearts, blue blood, eight arms - octopuses sound less like sea creatures and more like the ocean's overachievers.

2. Make the fact shorter, clearer, and more memorable

Before

A day on Venus is longer than a year there because Venus rotates very slowly and takes 243 Earth days to rotate, while its year is 225 Earth days.

After

On Venus, Monday could outlast New Year's: one rotation takes 243 Earth days, while a Venus year takes just 225.

Original list

The octopus has three hearts.

Three hearts? The octopus is showing off.

Octopuses have three hearts - overachievers.

Edited list

Three hearts? The octopus is showing off. Blue blood, eight arms, three hearts - subtlety was never the plan.

Editing approach

Proofread first. Then tighten for space, improve weak punchlines, remove repetition, and verify factual claims with reputable sources - while keeping the original tone and intended audience intact.

Source references retained from the original

Smithsonian Ocean: cephalopod hearts and blood. NASA Venus Facts: rotation and orbital periods. These references are part of the original demonstration; no new online fact-check was performed.