

Never bristle at ingenuity. When a repair job on the multi-billion dollar International Space Station hit a snag last week, the problem was fixed with a cheap solution. During a spacewalk, American astronaut Sunita Williams and Japanese astronaut Akihiko Hoshide struggled to tighten a troublesome bolt on an electrical switching unit for the station's solar array systems. Suspecting that the bolt holes were filled with metal shavings that prevented the bolts from tightening, the high-flying pair turned to a low-tech tool. Using a toothbrush attached to a metal pole, they removed the obstruction. And as a bonus, the space station now smells minty fresh. Now we brush up on today's news. Here are our highlights:

IN A WORD



innocuous /ih-NOK-yoo-uhs/ *adjective*

*not interesting, stimulating or significant; pallid; insipid.

Example sentence: Brandon didn't exactly wow the science fair judges with his *innocuous* experiment, which demonstrated that talking into an electric fan makes your voice sound funny.

Source: Dictionary.com (Audio pronunciation – click on the gray speaker icon.)

TODAY'S TRIVIA



The ancient Egyptians used lotus leaves to fan air across wet mats or water-filled vessels for evaporative cooling. The ancient Romans had a similar system that used peacock feathers and snow hauled down from the Alps. During the 2nd century in China, a rotary fan that employed seven wheels (each 10 feet in diameter) was powered by a man or a horse to cool an entire hall. Folding fans were invented in Japan in the 8th century, possibly inspired by the way bats fold their wings.

Philip Diehl, a German immigrant who lost everything in the 1871 Chicago fire, mounted a fan blade to a sewing-machine motor and attached it to the ceiling, thereby inventing the ceiling fan. The electric fan was created in 1882 by 22-year old American engineer Schuyler Skaats Wheeler, who drew on the work of Thomas Edison and Nicola Tesla. By 1910, Westinghouse was marketing an electric fan for household use with the claim that the electricity to operate it would cost only one-fourth of a penny per hour. Self-contained window fans, made of plastic instead of metal, were introduced by a British company in 1934.

Source: Wikipedia.org and FamilyTreeMagazine.com

QUOTE ME



"Nothing gives one person so much advantage over another as to remain always cool and unruffled under all circumstances."
– Thomas Jefferson (1743 - 1826), third president of the United States

FOCUS ON SAFETY

Safety is our shared responsibility.