English Roses



* There are over 100 species of the rose.
* We usually call the sharp spikes on the stem of a rose bush "thorns". But these are in fact technically prickles.
* The flowers of most species of rose have five petals except for the species 'Rosa sericea' which has only four.
* The name "Rose" is often used as a girl's name in English speaking countries.
* For hundreds of years the rose has been widely recognized as a symbol of love, sympathy or sorrow.
* The rose is most commonly used as an ornamental plant grown in the garden for its beautiful flowers.
* The rose can be used in perfumes. The nice scent of the rose comes from microscopic perfume glands on the petals. Sometimes rose petals are also dried and packed for commercial use as decoration or for scent.
* Because they're low-maintenance and nice to look at, rose shrubs (classified as a shrub even though some don't look like shrubs for example the climbing rose) are used as landscape plants for hedging (the thorns can discourage intruders) or planted on hillsides as a slope stabilizing method to stop soil erosion.
* The fruit of a rose is called a rose hip. The berry-like hip are usually red in color but some can be dark purple or black.
* Rose hips of some species are extremely rich in vitamin C, because of this the hip is sometimes made into jam, jelly, or brewed for tea. The hip also has minor medicinal uses, used in food supplements and can be pressed or filtered to make rose hip syrup.
* Historically the rose was of great importance to the Romans and Egyptians. Romans would use them as room decorations, or wear them on string around their neck and anything which was said "under the rose" was deemed to be a secret.
* Traditionally [England](http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/sciencefacts/countries/england.html) is signified by the rose, it is the country’s national flower. The rose came to prominence there during the 'Wars of the Roses', 1455 to 1485 when the house of Lancaster was represented by the red rose and fought against the house of York which was represented by the white rose.