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James Tanton*, MAA Mathematician at Large, Washington, D.C.. *HOW MANY DEGREES ARE IN A MARTIAN CIRCLE? And other human - and nonhuman - questions one should ask about everyday mathematics.*

Who chose the number 360 for the count of degrees in a circle? Why that number? And why do mathematicians not like that number for mathematics? Why is the preferred direction of motion in mathematics counterclockwise when the rest of world naturally chooses clockwise? Why are fingers and single digit numbers both called digits? Why do we humans like the numbers 10, 12, 20, and 60 particularly so? Why are logarithms so confusing? Why is base e the "natural" logarithm to use? What happened to the vinculum? (Bring back the vinculum, I say!) Why did human circle-ometry become trigonometry? Let's spend a session together exploring tidbits from the human - and nonhuman - development of mathematics. (Received August 05, 2017)