PUZZLEMEETS

ANIL
Perth, Australia

An assortment of logological riddles for your bemusement. A few are nonsenses but most are "serious" quizzes and research questions. Indicative time limits: twenty minutes for #1-8 combined, one day for 9-11, two hours for 12-19. Get out your atlas (ie, break your neck!) for the last ten. Answers are out back.

1. What word becomes its opposite in the plural? I know one example but would love to hear of others.
2. Which number gets larger when beheaded?
3. Which odd number becomes even when beheaded?
4. What's the next number in this endless series and its rationale: 1 2 3 6 7 8 10 15 16 17 ___?
5. "Gives a lot and keeps none yet is a totally selfish person." What kind of monster is this?
6. Which building is not a building?
7. What is the ridiculously useless golf term for a hole-in-one on a par five hole?
8. Is a person being agreed with an agreeee?
9. What sound has the most rhymes in Merriam-Webster's The Essential Rhyming Dictionary of 2002? It lists all sounds under the commonest spelling, vowel first, so the answer starts with a vowel. They start with the last accented syllable, not necessarily the last syllable. Thus, the listing for -ity does not count -ality or -lility, which are separate contenders for the Title. I've counted proper names but not acronyms. Other sources with more or no proper names may give a different result. How many of M-W's top ten can you name? Try to put them in order.

10. I had planned to work out an Eckler style network or geographico-logological "chain letter" linking every nation in the world to a neighbor sharing a common letter in its name. But this turned out to be too easy as almost every country has an A in its name! Of the 202 nations or territories in the 2008 Olympics, only 31 lack an A in their short or map name. Can you name them? And to complete the network, name for each an adjacent country bearing an A in its map name that also has a letter in common with it. Much tougher, name the mere 6 of them which lack an A in their full official name and their local language name and any recently replaced but generally better known map name.

11. Of these 31, how many have a neighbor with whom they share no letters in their map names? Ditto in their official names?

12. Which United State name has a letter in common with all the other 49?

13. Which state has a letter in common with the least other states?

14. Is there any pair of contiguous states which fail to share a letter, preventing the US map from being a totally connected geographico-logological network?

15. What is the only US state that can be spelled on a single row of the standard keyboard?

16. Name the nine states that are heterograms, i.e., have no repeated letters?

17. Fifty-seven countries' English map names are heterograms. You don't need an answer list to see how many of these you can name. I merely ask you to name the longest of them, at 11 letters.

18. Which two countries are panvocalic, containing all five vowels once each. One has 14 letters, the other has 10 and is also the second longest heterogram.

19. Which US states if any are panvocalic?