TEN SECONDS SMARTER · QUIZ NIGHT KIT FREE SAMPLE

New Year's Eve Quiz Night

70 fact-checked questions in 7 rounds

Family-friendly; works for pubs, offices and home parties on any New Year's Eve

Host script



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How to run this quiz FREE SAMPLE

This free sample is one complete round. Allow about **20 min** for the whole night. Everything you need is in this kit: show the slides, read from this script, hand out the answer sheets, and keep score in the spreadsheet.

Before the night

- Print one set of answer sheets per team (one page each) and a few spares. Have pens ready.
- Open the slides on the laptop connected to your screen or projector. They work in PowerPoint, Keynote and Google Slides.
- Use **Presenter View** so you see the answers in the speaker notes while the room sees only the question. Test this before guests arrive.
- Open the scoreboard spreadsheet and type in the team names as they arrive.
- Skim this script once so you know how to pronounce everything.

Running order

Welcome, teams and rules	**5 min**
Round 1: New Year Around the World	**12 min**
Wrap-up	**3 min**
Total (approx.)	**20 min**

Each round

1. Show the round title slide and read the line under **Read out**.
2. Show each question and read it aloud twice. Allow about 30–45 seconds per question.
3. On the **Pens down** slide, collect the sheets (or have teams swap with a neighbour to mark).
4. Click through the answers. Read the fact after each one: it keeps the energy up while you mark.
5. Enter the round scores in the spreadsheet before the next round starts.

Marking

- One point per correct answer (10). No half points.
- Check the **Accept** notes under each answer: they list alternatives to allow and near-misses to reject.
- Be generous with spelling if the answer is clearly the right one.
- The quizmaster’s decision is final. Disputes can wait for the break.

Ties and prizes

- Still tied? Ask a number question of your own (e.g. “How many minutes did tonight’s quiz last?”). Closest answer wins.
- Prizes don’t need to be big: bragging rights, a round of drinks, or chocolate.

Answer key at a glance FREE SAMPLE

For quick marking. Full questions, accepted alternatives and facts follow, round by round.

Round 1 · New Year Around the World

1. Hogmanay
2. Big Ben
3. Sydney
4. Robert Burns
5. The first-foot
6. Copacabana
7. Soba (buckwheat noodles)
8. Dinner for One
9. Stonehaven
10. The old year

ROUND 1 · FREE SAMPLE

New Year Around the World

Write your answer

READ OUT

Ten questions on how the world sees in the New Year, from Scotland to Japan.

1 **What is the Scots word for the last day of the year and its New Year celebrations?** EASY

ANSWER **Hogmanay**

Say: *Celebrations often carry on into New Year's Day and, in some places, 2 January as well.*

2 **In London, the arrival of midnight is greeted by the chimes of which famous bell?** EASY

ANSWER **Big Ben**

Accept / notes: The Great Bell; Elizabeth Tower is NOT accepted (that is the tower, not the bell)

Say: *Since 2004, London has also held a major fireworks display, launched from the South Bank of the River Thames and the London Eye.*

3 **Which Australian city's Harbour Bridge is the focal point of its midnight fireworks?** EASY

ANSWER **Sydney**

Say: *Fireworks are launched from the bridge itself, and lighting displays illuminate it during the show.*

4 **Which Scottish poet wrote the words of 'Auld Lang Syne'?** MEDIUM

ANSWER **Robert Burns**

Accept / notes: Burns; Rabbie Burns

Say: *Burns based his poem on an older Scottish folk song; it was set to its now-standard tune in 1799.*

5 **In Scottish folklore, what is the first person to enter a home on New Year's Day called?** MEDIUM

ANSWER **The first-foot**

Accept / notes: First-footer; First-footing

Say: *The first-foot is seen as a bringer of good fortune for the coming year.*

6 **On which Rio de Janeiro beach is Brazil's best-known New Year's Eve fireworks display?** MEDIUM

ANSWER **Copacabana**

Accept / notes: Copacabana Beach

Say: *It is one of the world's largest New Year displays, and because Brazil is mostly south of the Equator, it happens in summer.*

7 **Which type of noodle do many Japanese families traditionally eat on New Year's Eve?** MEDIUM

ANSWER **Soba (buckwheat noodles)**

Accept / notes: Soba; Buckwheat noodles; Toshikoshi soba; Udon and ramen are NOT accepted

Say: *The noodles are easily cut while eating, which is meant to help the household let go of the year's hardships.*

8 **Which English-language comedy sketch is traditional New Year's Eve TV viewing in Germany?** HARD

ANSWER **Dinner for One**

Accept / notes: The 90th Birthday; Der 90. Geburtstag

Say: *Originally a British stage sketch, it was recorded by German broadcaster NDR and opens with a short introduction in German.*

9 **In which Scottish town near Aberdeen do paraders swing fireballs around at midnight?** HARD

ANSWER **Stonehaven**

Say: *The fireballs are made from chicken wire and flammable scrap, and are traditionally believed to ward off spirits.*

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10 **In Ecuador, men dress up on New Year's Eve as the 'widows' of what?** HARD

ANSWER **The old year**

Accept / notes: The past year; The departing year; The year that is ending; Año Viejo (the Old Year)

Say: *The 'widows' dance in the streets and playfully ask passing drivers for a toll.*

End of Round 1: show the **Pens down** slide, collect sheets, then reveal the answers.

Sources

Every answer in this kit was checked against the page below.

Round 1 · New Year Around the World

1. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hogmanay
2. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Year%27s_Eve
3. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Year%27s_Eve
4. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Auld_Lang_Syne
5. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First-foot
6. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Year%27s_Eve
7. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toshikoshi_soba
8. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dinner_for_One
9. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Year%27s_Eve
10. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Year%27s_Eve