TEN SECONDS SMARTER · QUIZ NIGHT KIT FREE SAMPLE

Thanksgiving & Friendsgiving Quiz Night 2026

70 questions to share around the table, in rounds

Family-friendly; works for Thanksgiving and F offices, pubs and classrooms

Host script



› How to run this quiz
› Answer key at a glance
1 The Thanksgiving Table
› Sources

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: The Thanksgiving Table	**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 · The Thanksgiving Table

1. Wishbone
2. They float
3. Onions
4. Wisconsin
5. Sage
6. Dressing
7. Yams
8. Louis Camille Maillard
9. Mexico
10. Broad Breasted White

ROUND 1 · FREE SAMPLE

The Thanksgiving Table

Write your answer

READ OUT

Ten questions on the food of the feast: where it comes from, how it's grown and what happens in the oven.

1 EASY

What is the common name for the forked bone of a turkey that two people pull apart to make a wish?

ANSWER **Wishbone**

Accept / notes: Furcula

Say: *Its proper name is the furcula, which is Latin for 'little fork'.*

2 EASY

When cranberry bogs are flooded at harvest time, what do the loose berries do that lets farmers round them up?

ANSWER **They float**

Accept / notes: Float; Float to the surface

Say: *The floating berries are herded into a corner of the bog, then pumped or conveyed out.*

3 EASY

Green bean casserole, a Thanksgiving favourite, is classically topped with crispy fried what?

ANSWER **Onions**

Accept / notes: Fried onions; French fried onions; Crispy onions

Say: *The dish was popularised in the 1950s by a recipe printed on a soup can.*

4 MEDIUM

In 2021, which US state grew the most cranberries?

ANSWER **Wisconsin**

Accept / notes: Do NOT accept Massachusetts (it was second)

Say: *Wisconsin grew 59% of the US crop that year, ahead of Massachusetts, New Jersey and Oregon.*

5 MEDIUM

Which herb is traditionally paired with onion in a classic stuffing for roast turkey?

ANSWER **Sage**

Say: *Sage and onion stuffing goes with roast turkey or chicken at both Christmas and Thanksgiving.*

6 MEDIUM

In the United States, stuffing is also widely known by what other name?

ANSWER **Dressing**

Accept / notes: Do NOT accept filling or forcemeat

Say: *In the US, the name 'dressing' is recorded from 1850; 'stuffing' goes back to 1538.*

7 MEDIUM

Orange sweet potatoes are often sold in North America under the name of which other, unrelated vegetable?

ANSWER **Yams**

Accept / notes: Yam

Say: *True yams are a different plant altogether, from the monocot family Dioscoreaceae.*

8 **The browning reaction that gives roast turkey skin its colour and savoury flavour is named after which French chemist?** HARD

ANSWER **Louis Camille Maillard**

Accept / notes: Maillard; The Maillard reaction

Say: *Maillard first described the reaction in 1912. It also browns toast, steak and toasted marshmallows.*

---

9 **The main domestic turkey varieties today descend from birds raised in which present-day country?** HARD

ANSWER **Mexico**

Accept / notes: Do NOT accept the United States or Turkey

Say: *The Spanish brought these turkeys to Europe in the 16th century.*

---

10 **Which turkey variety is the commercial bird of choice on large farms, making it the most eaten turkey of all?** HARD

ANSWER **Broad Breasted White**

Accept / notes: Broad-breasted White; Do NOT accept Broad Breasted Bronze

Say: *The bird that receives the US presidential 'pardon' is usually a Broad Breasted White too.*

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 · The Thanksgiving Table

1. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Furcula
2. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cranberry
3. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Green_bean_casserole
4. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cranberry
5. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salvia_officinalis
6. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stuffing
7. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sweet_potato
8. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maillard_reaction
9. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Domestic_turkey
10. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Domestic_turkey