TEN SECONDS SMARTER · QUIZ NIGHT KIT FREE SAMPLE

Christmas Quiz Night

70 festive questions in 7 rounds

Family-friendly; works for pubs, offices, classrooms and home parties

Host script



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1 Christmas Around the World
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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: Christmas 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 · Christmas Around the World

1. Norway
2. La Befana
3. Summer
4. Spain
5. 13 December
6. 13
7. Finland
8. Wales
9. The Julian calendar
10. Mexico

ROUND 1 · FREE SAMPLE

Christmas Around the World

Write your answer

READ OUT

How do they do Christmas elsewhere? Ten questions on festive customs from around the globe.

1 **Which country sends London's Trafalgar Square its Christmas tree each year?** EASY

ANSWER **Norway**

Say: *Norway has given the tree every year since 1947 as a thank-you for Britain's support during the Second World War.*

2 **In Italian folklore, which old woman brings children gifts on the eve of Epiphany?** EASY

ANSWER **La Befana**

Accept / notes: Befana

Say: *She is usually described as a kindly, witch-like old woman, and she visits on the night of 5 January.*

3 **In Australia, Christmas falls in which season?** EASY

ANSWER **Summer**

Say: *Christmas falls in the Southern Hemisphere's summer, and the warm weather has given rise to some local traditions.*

4 **In Dutch tradition, Sinterklaas arrives by steamboat from which country?** MEDIUM

ANSWER **Spain**

Say: *Once he has arrived, Sinterklaas traditionally rides a white horse.*

5 **On which date is Saint Lucy's Day celebrated?** MEDIUM

ANSWER **13 December**

Accept / notes: December 13; the 13th of December

Say: *The date marks the death of the martyr Saint Lucy, traditionally in the year 304.*

6 **In Icelandic folklore, how many Yule Lads come to town before Christmas?** MEDIUM

ANSWER **13**

Accept / notes: Thirteen

Say: *They arrive one by one over the last 13 nights before Yule, and each has his own way of making mischief.*

7 **In which country is the Christmas gift-bringer called Joulupukki?** MEDIUM

ANSWER **Finland**

Say: *Joulupukki literally means 'Christmas goat' or 'Yule goat', from an old Nordic folk tradition.*

8 **The Mari Lwyd, a horse's skull carried on a pole, is a custom from which part of the UK?** HARD

ANSWER **Wales**

Accept / notes: South Wales

Say: *The real horse's skull is usually decorated with ribbons and rosettes, with glass bottle eyes and a snapping jaw.*

9 **Some Eastern Orthodox churches keep Christmas on 7 January because they still use which calendar?** HARD

ANSWER **The Julian calendar**

Accept / notes: Julian

Say: *They celebrate on 25 December in the Julian calendar, which matches 7 January in the Gregorian calendar until the year 2100.*

10 **The 'Night of the Radishes', held every 23 December, takes place in which country?** HARD

ANSWER **Mexico**

Say: *In the city of Oaxaca, people carve oversized radishes into scenes that compete for prizes.*

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 · Christmas Around the World

1. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trafalgar_Square_Christmas_tree
2. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Befana
3. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christmas_in_Australia
4. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sinterklaas
5. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Lucy's_Day
6. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Icelandic_Christmas_folklore
7. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joulupukki
8. https://museum.wales/blog/1187/Christmas-Traditions-The-Mari-Lwyd/
9. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julian_calendar
10. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Night_of_the_Radishes