

Hosting at Total-Trivia in the 21st and a ½ Century

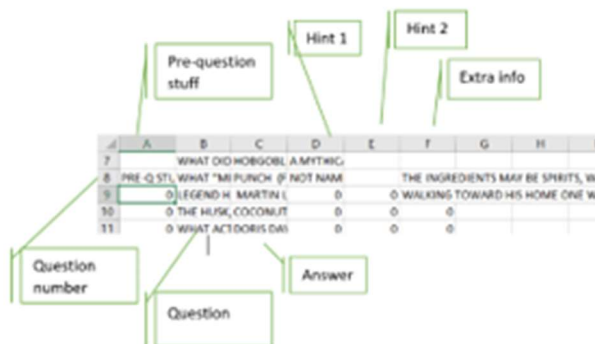
Here are a few tips from some of the regular hosts, gleaned from the experience of years of hosting. Their mistakes can make your quizzes better!

Creating your Quiz

You'll need 36 – 42 questions to fill the hour, depending on how many people are there are in attendance. More people means it takes a bit longer to post the names of those who answer correctly.

It's up to you whether you use Word, Excel or some other text program for compiling your quiz. Just be sure you practice copy/pasting (in Microsoft it's ctrl-c to copy and ctrl-v to paste and if you accidentally overwrite your question, ctrl-z to undo). Feel free to visit the site to practise anytime there's no quiz!

BobC uses Excel:



cHez uses Word:



Choose the type of quiz you want to create.

You can use all random (unrelated) questions, have a theme, link the next question to the previous answer, or have 4 or so categories. Get creative! If you come up with something new, explain it to the players before the start, so they know what to expect.

Types of questions.

Aside from the straight Q & A, you can ask some of the following types:

BANDA stands for 'Before and After'; and is comprised of two separate entities joined by a common word. An example of a clue would be: 'Friends actor who travelled in time to become an Erle Stanley Gardner character in 1933'. The answer is Matthew Perry Mason. PERRY would be the word in common.

RHYME TIME is a clue with a two-word rhyming answer. An example of a clue would be: 'Agile clanging percussion instrument'. The answer is 'nimble cymbal'.

A TOM SWIFTY is a phrase in which a sentence is linked by a pun to the manner in which it is said. An example is; 'I only have diamonds, clubs and spades,' said Tom _____. The answer is 'heartlessly'

ACROWGRAMS are really four answers in one. For example: What noun is spelled by the first letter of each of the answers to the following clues?

1. Female fox 2. Cry of pain 3. Lohan 4. Fox hunt cry. The answer is 'VOLT' (Vixen, Ouch, Lindsay, Tallyho!)

There's plenty of scope to come up with interesting question format, so have a go!

Where do I get my questions from?

We encourage you to write your own questions! There are lots of sites out there with questions and answers, but they are not all good.

If you do get ideas for your questions from another source like <https://j-archive.com/> please make sure the questions are rephrased as far as possible in your own words.

What makes a good question?

1. Make sure your questions (and answers) are current. For example, don't expect the answer 'green' if you ask the colour of Libya's flag!
2. Similar to the above, and sounds simple, but make sure your answers are correct. For example, don't ask a question about John Adams when you mean John Quincy Adams.
3. Use a mix of topics - everyone has different strengths.
4. Remember that we have an international audience so please make sure that there are a variety of questions. Don't assume the entire world knows American pop culture or American sports stars or the order of the US Presidents.
5. Ensure your questions are unambiguous with only one answer (some people get cranky if they think you're asking one thing, but you really wanted another answer).
6. Shortish answers will be appreciated by the players.
7. Keep your questions easy to read and free of obfuscation and extravagant verbiage.
8. Avoid number questions unless you are prepared for chaos. You might consider limiting players to 1 or 2 guesses each.
9. Avoid too many very easy questions that are typing contests (like 'What insect produces honey?').
10. Try to have a hint ready for any that you think might be a little obscure. It's easier than trying to write one on the run.
11. Most players are aware of the rules about how to answer (no abbreviations, only need to provide the surname of a person, etc). If you require something different from this, please make that clear in the question.

Before you host

You'll need to create a hosting ID so that you can have coloured text. To do this:

- Go to the [site](#) and ensure you're logged out.
- Click on the Log in/out button and choose 'Or register as a new user' from the popup.
- Create your hosting name - make it different from your usual name.
- Enter a password and email address and press register.

Once you've done that, ask Bob to give you a font colour. Choose a hosting colour that is colour-blind friendly. There's always a chance that one or more of the players is colour-blind.

Game time

Please USE ALL CAPS. It makes it easier for the room to distinguish the host's interjections.

During play, copy and paste your question to the chat box. When you start to see answers popup, start to write down the names of the people with the correct answer. Start off with 'WD' (well done).

Try to gauge the pace of the game. As a guide, try to get the first 10 questions done by around 20 minutes past the hour; then the next ten done soon after the half hour, and the next 10 by quarter-to the coming hour. That will leave 15 mins for the last 10 questions, the scores and wrap up.

Try not to get drawn into any side conversation – it distracts from the flow of the game for players.

Enjoy!

The first time you run a quiz can be daunting. Relax and have fun, we're all friends and want you to succeed! Ask one of the regular hosts if you have any issues before or during the quiz. We're also happy to read through any questions to help with wording or finessing.

And thanks for volunteering! 50 hosting points will come your way for your efforts!