

Tests and Teasers

Vowel Play:

1. There is at least one English word in which a single vowel is repeated six times. What's the word?
Indivisibility.
2. Can you think of at least three words of five letters or more, none of which contains the letters A, E, I, O or U? **Crypt, gypsy, lymph, myrrh, pygmy, sylph, tryst.**
3. How far do you have to count before using the letter A in spelling a number? **One Thousand.**

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The Great Chain Puzzle:

If it costs five cents to break a link, and ten cents to weld it again – what is the least it would cost to join together five short chains of three links each into a single chain consisting of 15 links?

The ANSWER is 45 cents. Take one of the groups of three links and break each one (cost, 15 cents). Then use each link to join two of the other groups (cost for three welding jobs at ten cents: 30 cents).

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Quiz-Show Questions:

1. The electronic media discovered long ago that it takes something special to beat the challenge of an interesting interrogatory. Here is a selection of questions that were asked and answered on the air in the popular radio quiz programs of the 1940s.
1. How does one know which is the left bank and which is the right bank of a river? **Facing downstream, the left bank is to your left, the right bank is to your right.**
2. What popular dances had in their titles the name of (1) a pastry, (2) a fruit, (3) a city? **Cakewalk, Big Apple, Charleston**
3. Is a person who is excessively thirsty suffering from kleptomania, polydipsia, or myopia? **Polydipsia.**
4. True or false? Noah's Ark was known as the Ark of the Covenant. **False. The Ark of the Covenant was the sacred chest in the sanctuary of the Temple into which Moses placed the tablets stone containing the 10 Commandments.**
5. In a deck of ordinary playing cards, two of the Jacks are one-eyed; the other Jacks have two eyes. What is the total number of eyes on the four Jack cards? **Twelve: each Jack has two faces.**
6. Is it true that there is one place in England where the King or Queen never go? **Yes, the House of Commons.**
7. If you are convicted of the crime of embracery, what have you done? Embracery is the crime of trying to influence a jury or a judge corruptly.
8. Of what well-known proverb is this a paraphrase? "A nomadic portion of the metamorphosed igneous or sedimentary deposits of the Proterozoic era accumulates no bryophytic plant life." **"A rolling stone gathers no moss."**
9. Why would a detective doubt this story? A lady, dreaming that she was drowning, became so frightened that she died of a heart attack in her sleep. **Because she would have been unable to tell of the dream if she had died of a heart attack in her sleep.**
10. Most of us use it every day in our homes. If we purchased 100 pounds of it, it would contain approximately 87 pounds of water; 4 pounds of fat; 4 pounds of casein, ash and albumin; and 5 pounds of sugar. What is it? **Milk**
11. Five automobiles were lined up bumper-to-bumper. How many bumpers were actually touching each other? **Eight**
12. Why does it take longer to hoist a flag to half-mast than it does to hoist it to full-mast? **The flag should first be hoisted to the peak for an instant and then lowered to half-mast.**

13. If an elderly man is the scion of a prominent family, is he the founder of the family; a descendent of the family; or the black sheep of the family? **Descendant of the family.**
14. Niagara Falls is situated between which two of the Great Lakes? **Between Lakes Ontario and Erie.**
15. If you were a musician and were practicing your flams, your flam paradiddles, your double paradiddles, ruffs, and double drag, what kind of musical instrument would you be playing? **Drum.**
16. Is the toe of Italy's boot on the west or east side of the peninsula? **West side.**
17. How many keys does a piano have – 66, 77, 88, or 99? **88.**
18. Mr. and Mrs. Smith had seven daughters and each daughter had one brother. How many people were in the Smith family? **Ten: Mr. and Mrs. Smith, the seven daughters, and just one son as each sister had the same brother.**
19. You've heard the threat, "I will break every bone in your body." In order to do it, how many bones would you have to break: approximately 200, 2000, or 20,000? **200**
20. Would it be cheaper for you to take one friend to the movies twice – or two friends at the same time? **Two friends at the same time. Then you would have to buy only three admissions. If you took one friend twice, you would have to buy his ticket twice and your own twice as well.**
21. There are 14 punctuation marks in English grammar. Can you name eight? **Period, comma, colon, semicolon, interrogation mark, exclamation point, dash, hyphen, quotation marks, apostrophe, brackets, parentheses, braces, ellipses.**
22. Is the tip of the finger, the end of the tongue, or the bottom of the feet the most delicate organ of touch? **The end of the tongue.**
23. If your doctor gave you three pills and told to take one every half hour, how long would they last? **One hour.**
24. Name seven articles, each starting with the letter S, worn on the feet. **Shoes; socks; slippers; sneakers; sandals; snowshoes; skis; stockings; etc.**
25. What fruit has its seeds on the outside? **The strawberry.**
26. In baseball, the batter hits a grounder and runs to first base. The shortstop feels the grounder and throws to first, the ball arriving at the same instant as the runner. Is the runner out or safe? **Safe.**
27. Zinc, copper, pewter, bronze, brass – which of these are not alloys? **Zinc and copper.**
28. Is a pundit a short pun, a learned man, or one who habitually makes puns? **A learned man.**
29. What is the most popular prepared drink in the world? **Tea.**
30. Is a zebra black and white stripes, or white with black stripes? **White with black stripes.**
31. If you entered a dark room and had only one match and there was a kerosene lamp, and oil stove, and a cigarette, which would you like first? **The match.**