

The Big Bang Theory Quiz

Twenty questions in four rounds on twelve years of apartment 4A. No physics required, and nothing that needs the roommate agreement open in front of you.

4 rounds · 20 questions · about 30 min

How to run it

1. Print one host sheet for yourself and one team answer sheet per team. The host sheet has the key on it — keep it face down.
2. Three to five people per team. This one rewards people who watched it casually as much as people who watched it twice.
3. Read each question twice, then give about thirty seconds. Round four is true or false and goes quickly.
4. Teams swap sheets at the end of each round and mark each other while you read the answers. One point each, twenty in total.
5. The line under each answer on the host sheet is written to be read out — it usually settles the argument the question starts.

ROUND 1 — Apartment 4A

Four flights of stairs, and one seat that is not yours.

1. Which two characters share apartment 4A at the start of the show?

- ☐ A Howard and Raj
- ☐ B Sheldon and Amy
- ☐ C Leonard and Penny
- ☒ D Leonard and Sheldon

Answer: D — Leonard and Sheldon

Worth adding: Penny moves in across the hall into 4B, which is the entire premise of the first episode.

2. What is Sheldon's rule about the left-hand end of the sofa?

- ☒ A It is his spot and nobody else may sit in it
- ☐ B It has to stay empty for guests
- ☐ C Nobody is allowed to eat there
- ☐ D It is where the laptop lives

Answer: A — It is his spot and nobody else may sit in it

Worth adding: He has an argument ready about airflow, sightlines to the television and winter draughts, and he has clearly rehearsed it.

3. Why do they always take the stairs?

- ☐ A Sheldon insists on the exercise
- ☒ B The lift has been out of order for years
- ☐ C The building has no lift
- ☐ D Leonard is claustrophobic

Answer: B — The lift has been out of order for years

Worth adding: Out of order since a rocket-fuel experiment of Leonard's ended up inside it. It is finally repaired in the last season.

4. What does Sheldon say after a joke or a prank has landed?

- ☐ A Zing!
- ☐ B Gotcha!
- ☒ C Bazinga!
- ☐ D Kapow!

Answer: C — Bazinga!

Worth adding: It started as a word the writers used off camera, and ended up on merchandise in more languages than the show was dubbed into.

5. How does Sheldon knock on Penny's door?

- ☐ A One long knock and her name once
- ☒ B Three knocks and her name, three times over
- ☐ C Five knocks in a rhythm
- ☐ D He rings and walks straight in

Answer: B — Three knocks and her name, three times over

Worth adding: Knock knock knock, Penny. Knock knock knock, Penny. Knock knock knock, Penny. The show later gives it a sad little origin story.

ROUND 2 — At Caltech

Who is a doctor, and who is reminded that he is not.

6. At which university do the four men work?

- ☐ A MIT
- ☐ B Stanford
- ☐ C Princeton
- ☒ D Caltech

Answer: D — Caltech

Worth adding: In Pasadena, which is why the apartment is in Pasadena and why the commute is never mentioned.

7. Which of the four men does not have a doctorate?

- ☐ A Leonard
- ☐ B Raj
- ☒ C Howard
- ☐ D Sheldon

Answer: C — Howard

Worth adding: He has a master's in engineering from MIT, and the others bring it up roughly once an episode.

8. What kind of physicist is Sheldon?

- ☒ A Theoretical
- ☐ B Experimental
- ☐ C Nuclear
- ☐ D Astro

Answer: A — Theoretical

Worth adding: Leonard is the experimental one, which Sheldon treats as a different and lesser trade.

9. What does Howard do that none of the others manage?

- ☐ A He wins a Nobel Prize
- ☐ B He gets tenure first
- ☒ C He goes into space
- ☐ D He publishes in Nature

Answer: C — He goes into space

Worth adding: He flies to the International Space Station with equipment he helped design — and he is not allowed to forget it afterwards either.

10. What is Amy's field?

- ☒ A Neurobiology
- ☐ B Microbiology
- ☐ C Pharmacology
- ☐ D Astrophysics

Answer: A — Neurobiology

Worth adding: Bernadette is the microbiologist. The show keeps the two straight more carefully than most of its audience does.

ROUND 3 — The people

Where they came from and where they ended up.

11. What is Penny's job when we first meet her?

- ☐ A Pharmaceutical sales rep
- ☐ B Actress
- ☐ C Bartender
- ☒ D Waitress at the Cheesecake Factory

Answer: D — Waitress at the Cheesecake Factory

Worth adding: The acting is the plan; the Cheesecake Factory is the job. She switches to pharmaceutical sales later and is immediately better paid than the physicists.

12. Which American state is Sheldon from?

- ☐ A Oklahoma
- ☒ B Texas
- ☐ C Alabama
- ☐ D Nebraska

Answer: B — Texas

Worth adding: East Texas, with a mother who prays over him and a twin sister who is not remotely impressed by him.

13. Who runs the comic book shop the group goes to every week?

- ☐ A Barry Kripke
- ☒ B Stuart
- ☐ C Zack
- ☐ D Wil Wheaton

Answer: B — Stuart

Worth adding: Stuart, whose shop burns down and who ends up living with Howard's mother — the saddest running joke on the show.

14. What stops Raj from speaking to women in the early seasons?

- ☒ **A He cannot speak to them at all unless he has had a drink**
- ☐ B He speaks only through Howard on principle
- ☐ C He refuses to speak to anyone he has not been introduced to
- ☐ D He only speaks to them in Hindi

Answer: A — He cannot speak to them at all unless he has had a drink

Worth adding: Selective mutism, which the show plays for laughs for years and then quietly cures with a conversation instead of a cocktail.

15. What do Sheldon and Amy win at the very end of the show?

- ☐ A The Fields Medal
- ☐ B A MacArthur grant
- ☒ **C The Nobel Prize in Physics**
- ☐ D The Templeton Prize

Answer: C — The Nobel Prize in Physics

Worth adding: For super-asymmetry — and Sheldon's acceptance speech is the one time he thanks everybody else by name.

ROUND 4 — True or false

Read straight through, no pause between them.

16. True or false: Leonard and Penny get married in Las Vegas.

- ☒ **A True**
- ☐ B False

Answer: A — True

Worth adding: With Howard and Bernadette watching by video link, and a second ceremony later for the families.

17. True or false: Sheldon has a twin sister.

- ☒ **A True**
- ☐ B False

Answer: A — True

Worth adding: Missy, who turns up, dismantles him in about four lines, and leaves.

18. True or false: Howard and Bernadette have three children.

- ☐ A True
- ☒ **B False**

Answer: B — False

Worth adding: Two — a daughter, Halley, and a son.

19. True or false: Wil Wheaton appears as himself and becomes Sheldon's sworn enemy.

- ☒ **A True**
- ☐ B False

Answer: A — True

Worth adding: Over a signing Sheldon queued for as a child. They make peace eventually, more or less.

20. True or false: Sheldon and Leonard's living arrangement is governed by a written roommate agreement.

☒ A True

☐ B False

Answer: A — True

Worth adding: With clauses covering thermostat settings, bathroom rota and what happens in the event of one of them developing superpowers.