Tennis Trivia Questions

5 rounds · 40 questions · about 55 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, mixed if you can: a casual fan and a superfan remember different things.
3. Read each question twice, then give about thirty seconds.
4. Teams swap sheets at the end of each round and mark each other while you read the answers. One point for each correct answer.
5. The line under each answer on the host sheet is there to be read out once the answer is in.

ROUND 1 — Scoring, Rules & Terminology

1. In tennis scoring, what term is used for a score of zero?

- A Duck
- **B Love**
- C Blank
- D Nil

Answer: B — Love

Worth adding: "Love" is widely believed to come from the French "l'oeuf" (the egg), whose shape resembles a zero, while "duck" is the cricket equivalent.

2. When the score in a game reaches 40-40, what is it called?

- A Tiebreak
- B Advantage
- C Break point
- **D Deuce**

Answer: D — Deuce

Worth adding: At 40-40 the game is tied and a player must win two points in a row, which is why it is called deuce — from the French "à deux" (two points needed).

3. What is a legal serve that the receiver cannot touch with the racquet called?

- **A Ace**
- B Winner
- C Let
- D Smash

Answer: A — Ace

Worth adding: An ace is an untouched serve that wins the point outright, whereas a "let" is a serve that clips the net and must be replayed.

4. How high is the net at the centre of a tennis court?

A 2 feet (0.61 m)

B 3 feet 6 inches (1.07 m)

C 3 feet (0.914 m)

D 4 feet (1.22 m)

Answer: C — 3 feet (0.914 m)

Worth adding: The net is 3 feet 6 inches high at the posts but is strapped down to exactly 3 feet (0.914 m) in the middle, making the centre the lowest part of the net.

5. What happens when a player misses both the first and second serve of a point?

A A let is played

B The player gets a third serve

C The point is replayed

D A double fault — the point is lost

Answer: D — A double fault — the point is lost

Worth adding: A server has only two attempts, so missing both is a double fault and the point is immediately awarded to the receiver.

6. In tennis slang, what is a set won 6-0 commonly called?

A A blank

B A bagel

C A whitewash

D A doughnut

Answer: B — A bagel

Worth adding: The zero in 6-0 is said to look like a bagel, and a 6-1 set is nicknamed a "breadstick" by extension.

7. What is it called when a player wins a game while the opponent is serving?

A A break

B A steal

C A turnover

D A hold

Answer: A — A break

Worth adding: Because the server is expected to win their own service game (a "hold"), taking that game is called breaking serve.

8. What is the standard length of a tennis court, for both singles and doubles?

A 70 feet (21.34 m)

B 60 feet (18.29 m)

C 78 feet (23.77 m)

D 84 feet (25.60 m)

Answer: C — 78 feet (23.77 m)

Worth adding: The court is always 78 feet long; only the width changes, from 27 feet for singles to 36 feet for doubles.

9. What is a serving fault called when the server's foot touches the baseline before contact with the ball?

A Line fault

B Foot fault

C Service let

D Crossover

Answer: B — Foot fault

Worth adding: The rules require the server to stay behind the baseline until the ball is struck, so stepping on or over it is a foot fault and counts as a missed serve.

ROUND 2 — The Four Grand Slam Tournaments

10. Which Grand Slam tournament is played on clay?

A The Australian Open

B Wimbledon

C The French Open (Roland-Garros)

D The US Open

Answer: C — The French Open (Roland-Garros)

Worth adding: Roland-Garros in Paris is the only major contested on crushed red brick clay, a slow surface that produces long rallies and high bounce.

11. On which surface is Wimbledon played?

A Clay

B Hard court

C Carpet

D Grass

Answer: D — Grass

Worth adding: Wimbledon is the only Grand Slam still played on grass, the sport's original surface — which is why tennis was first called "lawn tennis".

12. In which city is the Australian Open held?

A Melbourne

B Brisbane

C Sydney

D Perth

Answer: A — Melbourne

Worth adding: The tournament has been staged at Melbourne Park (originally Flinders Park) since 1988, having rotated between Australian and New Zealand cities in earlier decades.

13. The US Open is played at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in which New York neighbourhood?

A Brooklyn Heights
B Battery Park
C Flushing Meadows
D Forest Hills

Answer: C — Flushing Meadows

Worth adding: The event moved to Flushing Meadows, Queens, in 1978 from its earlier home at Forest Hills, and the centre was renamed for Billie Jean King in 2006.

14. Which of the four Grand Slam tournaments is the oldest, first held in 1877?

A The French Championships
B The US Championships
C The Australasian Championships
D Wimbledon

Answer: D — Wimbledon

Worth adding: Wimbledon began in 1877, well before the US (1881), French (1891) and Australasian (1905) championships.

15. What is the name of the trophy awarded to the Wimbledon ladies' singles champion?

A The Suzanne Lenglen Cup
B The Venus Rosewater Dish
C The Challenge Salver
D The Daphne Akhurst Memorial Cup

Answer: B — The Venus Rosewater Dish

Worth adding: The Wimbledon ladies' champion receives a silver salver decorated with mythological figures, known as the Venus Rosewater Dish, while the men receive a gilt cup.

16. The men's singles trophy at Roland-Garros is known as the Coupe des Mousquetaires, named after a famous group of which nationality?

A French
B Spanish
C Italian
D Australian

Answer: A — French

Worth adding: It honours the "Four Musketeers" — Lacoste, Cochet, Borotra and Brugnon — the French stars who dominated tennis in the 1920s and 30s.

17. Since 1988, on what type of surface has the Australian Open been played?

A Hard court
B Indoor carpet
C Grass
D Clay

Answer: A — Hard court

Worth adding: The event switched from grass at Kooyong to hard courts when it moved to Melbourne Park in 1988, and has used various acrylic hard surfaces since.

18. Which tournament has a strict rule requiring players to wear almost entirely white clothing?

A The Australian Open
B The US Open
C Wimbledon
D The French Open

Answer: C — Wimbledon

Worth adding: Wimbledon's famous dress code dates back to Victorian times, when white clothing was preferred because it showed sweat stains less obviously.

19. Winning all four Grand Slam singles titles in the same calendar year is known as what?

A The Golden Slam
B The Grand Slam
C The Career Slam
D The Super Slam

Answer: B — The Grand Slam

Worth adding: A calendar-year sweep of all four majors is the Grand Slam; adding an Olympic gold medal in the same year makes it a Golden Slam.

ROUND 3 — Team Competitions & Historic Moments

20. In which year was the Davis Cup first contested?

A 1877
B 1923
C 1946
D 1900

Answer: D — 1900

Worth adding: The first tie took place in 1900 between the United States and the British Isles, making it one of the oldest international team competitions in any sport.

21. The Billie Jean King Cup, the premier women's international team event, was previously known by which name?

A The Wightman Cup
B The Hopman Cup
C The Fed Cup (Federation Cup)
D The Bonne Bell Cup

Answer: C — The Fed Cup (Federation Cup)

Worth adding: Founded in 1963 as the Federation Cup, it was shortened to Fed Cup in 1995 and renamed in honour of Billie Jean King in 2020.

22. The Davis Cup is named after Dwight F. Davis, who was what at the time he donated the trophy?

A An Australian tennis coach

B A US Harvard student and player

C The president of the ILTF

D A British newspaper owner

Answer: B — A US Harvard student and player

Worth adding: Dwight Davis was a student at Harvard who both bought the silver trophy and played in the inaugural 1900 competition for the United States.

23. In the famous 1973 "Battle of the Sexes" match, Billie Jean King defeated which former men's champion?

A Bobby Riggs

B Pancho Gonzales

C Jack Kramer

D Rod Laver

Answer: A — Bobby Riggs

Worth adding: King beat 55-year-old former Wimbledon champion Bobby Riggs in straight sets in the Houston Astrodome before a huge global television audience.

24. The famous 1980 Wimbledon men's final, featuring an 18-16 fourth-set tiebreak, was contested between John McEnroe and which player?

A Guillermo Vilas

B Jimmy Connors

C Ivan Lendl

D Björn Borg

Answer: D — Björn Borg

Worth adding: Borg lost that epic tiebreak but won the fifth set 8-6 to claim his fifth consecutive Wimbledon title.

25. The longest match in tennis history, lasting 11 hours and 5 minutes over three days at Wimbledon in 2010, was played between John Isner and which opponent?

A Nicolas Mahut

B Gilles Simon

C Olivier Rochus

D Arnaud Clément

Answer: A — Nicolas Mahut

Worth adding: Isner beat Nicolas Mahut 70-68 in the fifth set, a marathon that helped prompt the later introduction of final-set tiebreaks at the majors.

26. The Open Era, when professionals were first allowed to compete alongside amateurs at the Grand Slams, began in which year?

A 1973
B 1958
C 1962
D 1968

Answer: D — 1968

Worth adding: In 1968 the sport's governing bodies agreed to "open" tournaments to professionals, and the French Championships that year became the first open major.

27. In 1988 tennis returned as a full medal sport to which multi-sport event?

A The Commonwealth Games
B The Pan American Games
C The Olympic Games
D The World Games

Answer: C — The Olympic Games

Worth adding: Tennis was reinstated as a full Olympic medal sport at the 1988 Seoul Games after an absence of more than 60 years.

ROUND 4 — Legendary Players

28. Which player won the calendar-year Grand Slam twice, in 1962 and 1969?

A Ken Rosewall
B Rod Laver
C Roy Emerson
D John Newcombe

Answer: B — Rod Laver

Worth adding: Australian Rod Laver is the only man to sweep all four majors in a single year twice, once as an amateur and once in the Open Era.

29. In 1988, which player completed the "Golden Slam" by winning all four majors plus Olympic singles gold in the same year?

A Chris Evert
B Steffi Graf
C Martina Navratilova
D Monica Seles

Answer: B — Steffi Graf

Worth adding: Steffi Graf won all four Grand Slam titles in 1988 and added gold at the Seoul Olympics, a feat no other singles player has achieved.

30. Which player holds the record for the most Wimbledon women's singles titles, with nine?

- **A** **Martina Navratilova**
- B Billie Jean King
- C Steffi Graf
- D Margaret Court

Answer: A — Martina Navratilova

Worth adding: Navratilova's grass-court serve-and-volley game brought her nine Wimbledon singles crowns between 1978 and 1990.

31. Which Australian won 24 Grand Slam singles titles, the most by any woman?

- A Daphne Akhurst
- B Evonne Goolagong Cawley
- C Nancye Wynne Bolton
- **D** **Margaret Court**

Answer: D — Margaret Court

Worth adding: Margaret Court won her 24 major singles titles across the amateur and Open Eras, one more than Serena Williams.

32. In 1975, which player became the first Black man to win the Wimbledon men's singles title?

- A Yannick Noah
- B Althea Gibson
- **C** **Arthur Ashe**
- D MaliVai Washington

Answer: C — Arthur Ashe

Worth adding: Arthur Ashe outfoxed heavy favourite Jimmy Connors in the 1975 final, and he had already won the first US Open in 1968.

33. In 1956, which player became the first Black athlete to win a Grand Slam singles title, at the French Championships?

- A Evonne Goolagong
- B Zina Garrison
- **C** **Althea Gibson**
- D Ora Washington

Answer: C — Althea Gibson

Worth adding: Althea Gibson broke the colour barrier in international tennis in 1956 and went on to win Wimbledon and the US Championships in 1957 and 1958.

34. Which Swedish player won five consecutive Wimbledon men's singles titles from 1976 to 1980?

- **A** **Björn Borg**
- B Jonas Björkman
- C Mats Wilander
- D Stefan Edberg

Answer: A — Björn Borg

Worth adding: Borg's five straight Wimbledon titles were remarkable because he combined them with clay-court dominance at Roland-Garros.

ROUND 5 — Expert Round

35. Who won the very first Wimbledon men's singles title in 1877?

- A John Hartley
- **B Spencer Gore**
- C Herbert Lawford
- D William Renshaw

Answer: B — Spencer Gore

Worth adding: Spencer Gore, a rackets player, beat a field of 22 entrants in 1877 and famously doubted that lawn tennis would ever catch on.

36. Roland-Garros stadium in Paris is named after Roland Garros, who was famous as what?

- A A stadium architect
- B A French tennis federation president
- C A tennis champion
- **D A pioneering aviator**

Answer: D — A pioneering aviator

Worth adding: Roland Garros was a French aviation pioneer and World War I pilot, honoured when the stadium was built in 1928 to host the Davis Cup.

37. Who is credited with inventing the tiebreak, which was adopted at the US Open in 1970?

- A Harry Hopman
- B Jack Kramer
- C Bill Tilden
- **D James Van Alen**

Answer: D — James Van Alen

Worth adding: American James Van Alen devised the tiebreak as part of his simplified scoring system to stop sets from dragging on indefinitely.

38. Who was the first man to win all four Grand Slam singles titles in the same calendar year, achieving it in 1938?

- A Jack Crawford
- **B Don Budge**
- C Bill Tilden
- D Fred Perry

Answer: B — Don Budge

Worth adding: American Don Budge swept all four majors in 1938, the first time anyone had completed the calendar Grand Slam in singles.

39. In 1953, who became the first woman to complete the calendar-year Grand Slam?

A Louise Brough

B Doris Hart

C Maureen Connolly

D Shirley Fry

Answer: C — Maureen Connolly

Worth adding: Maureen "Little Mo" Connolly won all four majors in 1953 at just 18, before a riding accident ended her career the following year.

40. Which Grand Slam tournament was the first to introduce electronic line-calling review (Hawk-Eye) for players, in 2006?

A The US Open

B Wimbledon

C The French Open

D The Australian Open

Answer: A — The US Open

Worth adding: The US Open pioneered player challenges with Hawk-Eye in 2006, with Wimbledon and the Australian Open following in 2007.