

The Remote Team Christmas Quiz

Twenty-four questions in four rounds, written for a video call. Nothing needs to be shown on screen, so it survives a bad connection and a screen share that will not start.

4 rounds · 24 questions · about 35 min

How to run it

1. Print the host sheet, or keep it open on a second screen. Every question is written to be read out loud — there is nothing the players need to see, so no screen share and no slides.
2. Put people in breakout rooms of three or four for each round, and bring everyone back to read the answers. A round without breakout rooms turns into one confident person answering everything.
3. Ask for answers in one message at the end of a round, not as they come. Chat answers arriving live are a leaderboard for whoever types fastest.
4. Yes, people can look things up. The quiz is built so that matters less: round two is a description read aloud, round four is ordering, and both are quicker to answer than to search. Do not police it.
5. Twenty-four points in total. If you need a tiebreaker, ask how many named reindeer appear in the poem 'Twas the Night Before Christmas.

ROUND 1 — Quick-fire

One-word answers. Read straight through, no pause, teams write as they go.

1. What is the name of Scrooge's overworked clerk?

Answer: Bob Cratchit

2. Which bird is given on the first day in The Twelve Days of Christmas?

Answer: A partridge

3. In the poem 'Twas the Night Before Christmas, how many reindeer are named?

☐ A Six

☒ B Eight

☐ C Nine

☐ D Twelve

Answer: B — Eight

Worth adding: Eight. Rudolph is not among them — he was invented more than a century later, in 1939.

4. In Italy, what is Father Christmas called?

Answer: Babbo Natale

5. Which spice, sold as curls of bark, goes into mulled wine?

Answer: Cinnamon

6. What is the name of the tall, domed sweet bread eaten in Italy at Christmas?

Answer: Panettone

ROUND 2 — Name the film

Read the description, teams name the film. Works on audio alone, which is the point.

7. A boy who has stopped believing boards a train that pulls up outside his house and takes him to the North Pole.

Answer: The Polar Express

8. An off-duty policeman turns up at his wife's office Christmas party in Los Angeles and ends up alone in the building with a team of armed robbers.

Answer: Die Hard

9. Several loosely linked love stories unfold in London over the five weeks before Christmas.

Answer: Love Actually

10. A man raised by elves at the North Pole travels to New York to find the father who does not know he exists.

Answer: Elf

11. A boy is left behind when his family flies to Paris, and defends the house against two burglars.

Answer: Home Alone

12. A cold-hearted businessman is shown his past, his present and his future by three spirits in a single night.

Answer: A Christmas Carol — any version counts

Worth adding: Accept any adaptation. If a team says Scrooged or The Muppet Christmas Carol, give it to them; they have named the same story.

ROUND 3 — Christmas elsewhere

Good round for a team spread across more than one country — let people answer about home.

13. In the Netherlands, how does Sinterklaas traditionally arrive?

- ☒ **A By steamboat**
☐ B By sleigh
☐ C On horseback over the dunes
☐ D By train

Answer: A — By steamboat

Worth adding: By steamboat, and traditionally from Spain. His arrival is televised live.

14. In Caracas, Venezuela, how did people traditionally travel to early Christmas mass in the days before Christmas?

- ☒ **A On roller skates**
☐ B On horseback
☐ C By boat
☐ D Barefoot

Answer: A — On roller skates

Worth adding: Roller skates — las patinatas, from around the 1950s. Streets were closed to traffic until the morning to make room. Worth saying that the custom has faded a lot over the past twenty years.

15. In Ukraine, trees are sometimes decorated with artificial versions of which creature, after a folk tale about a poor family?

- A Spiders**
 B Doves
 C Bees
 D Foxes

Answer: A — Spiders

Worth adding: Spiders and their webs, strongest in western Ukraine. In the tale a poor widow wakes on Christmas morning to find a spider has spun a web over the tree, catching the light, and the family's luck turns from there.

16. In Mexico, the nine nights of processions leading up to Christmas are called what?

Answer: Las Posadas

Worth adding: Posada means lodging. The procession re-enacts the search for somewhere to stay, and is turned away at door after door by arrangement.

17. In Iceland, children leave a shoe on the windowsill in the thirteen nights before Christmas. Who are they hoping will fill it?

Answer: The Yule Lads

Worth adding: One arrives each night. A badly behaved child gets a potato.

18. In Australia, Christmas Day falls in which season?

Answer: Summer

Worth adding: Which is why the meal is as likely to be a barbecue or cold seafood as a roast. Worth remembering before scheduling anything festive for a team in Sydney.

ROUND 4 — Put them in order

Read all three items, teams write them in order. Quicker to work out than to look up.

19. Oldest first: Die Hard, Elf, Home Alone.

Answer: Die Hard (1988), Home Alone (1990), Elf (2003)

20. Oldest first: Scrooged, It's a Wonderful Life, The Polar Express.

Answer: It's a Wonderful Life (1946), Scrooged (1988), The Polar Express (2004)

21. Earliest in December first: Boxing Day, St Nicholas Day, Christmas Eve.

Answer: St Nicholas Day (6th), Christmas Eve (24th), Boxing Day (26th)

22. Oldest tradition first: Christmas Jumper Day, the first commercial Christmas card, the Norwegian tree in Trafalgar Square.

Answer: The first Christmas card (1843), the Trafalgar Square tree (1947), Christmas Jumper Day (2012)

23. Oldest first: White Christmas is recorded, Silent Night is written, A Christmas Carol is published.

Answer: Silent Night (1818), A Christmas Carol (1843), White Christmas (1942)

24. Smallest number first: the ghosts who visit Scrooge, the reindeer named in 'Twas the Night Before Christmas, the days in the Twelve Days of Christmas.

Answer: Ghosts (4), reindeer (8), days (12)

Worth adding: Four ghosts, not three — Marley comes before the three spirits. This one catches almost everybody.