



Your Rights And This Product

You can give this product away for free including adding it to both free and paid memberships. You may not charge for this product. This e-book cannot be broken down for articles or republished in any format. You cannot claim copyright to this product.

This publication is brought to you by



Introduction

When this publication was first written data plan and smart phones were just on the horizon and were not the factor they were today. In that time I have taken in a few trivia contests: some good and some not so good. The not so good ones gave me an idea of to add to this edition.

This e-book is free. I promote my trivia kits in it but you shouldn't have to pay for my promotions. If you have purchased this e-book anywhere then you should contact the seller and demand your money back.

For as long as there have been pubs there has been trivia. After all, The Guinness Book of World Records was written to solve bar arguments. If you have spent any time in a pub then there is a good chance that you have seen a trivia contest.

These contests come in many styles but they have two things in common; people enjoy them and they can make you some money on the side. While putting on a trivia contest may seem like an easy task, there are many pitfalls to avoid if you want your event to be successful.

This e-book will help you to go about setting up a trivia contest without making these mistakes. Good Luck.

The Smart Phone



The biggest problem for a trivia host used to be drunk patrons. Now days the biggest problem is the smartphone. It is not like the good old days when the only way a person could cheat with a cellphone was to go outside and call for help. Not only can it be used to cheat during the game, it can be used to disprove the answers you have given. It is rare when at least person on a team doesn't have a data plan.

So how can you deal with this situation? You can always ignore the situation and hope nobody complains. Then again you can make the question so obscure that even Google doesn't have the answer. Of course neither of these solutions is practical.

Unfortunately, the smartphone has made your job as host more difficult. Your best course of action is simply request that people keep their phones turned off and in their pockets or purses. Treat the contest as though it were a movie.

As the trivia host you must police the situation. If you see someone cheating disqualify the team or impose a less severe punishment such as the loss of points.

It is important that you explain this rule before the contest starts.

Don't Have The Wrong Answer



There will be many people out there taking part in your contest and some of them will have more knowledge of facts than you (smartphones mean that everyone can have more knowledge than you). If you provide an answer which is blatantly wrong you have lost

your credibility which may lead to people questioning the rest of your answers. We will deal with that later. Right now let's look at how you can be guilty of having the wrong answer.

A trivia host once asked, "What was Columbo's first name? When she gave the answer as Phillip, a person at one of the tables objected saying that Columbo's first name was never given.

The host then defended her answer by saying that she got her answer from Trivia Pursuit. And that was when she learned two things. The first was about the lawsuit filed against the creators of Trivial Pursuit by Fred Worth, the author of The Trivia Encyclopedia. To protect his work from being copied, Worth included wrong answers in his book. One of these answers was Phillip. (Long story short: The games creators admitted they used the book for a source but argued that trivia facts can't be copyrighted. The courts agreed and the wrong answers were fixed). The second thing she learned was just because the answer is in a book does not mean that it is right.

Another way to make mistakes is to use out of date material. Sports records have a way of falling and if you want to make sure that your answers are still correct, you need to check the latest records. A way of avoiding this problem is to phrase your question as follows: "Who was he first person to...." This information is not going to change. You are also

safe to ask who first broke Babe Ruth's homerun record because this is not going to change either. You can even ask a question like As of 2009 who... Don't be afraid to ask more modern day questions. Just be sure to check the latest standings.

And the quickest way to make mistakes is to copy your questions of some random site off the internet. You will get answers that say Louis Pasteur cured smallpox and that Juan Ponce de Leon discovered Hawaii. (Edward Jenner found the vaccine for smallpox and James Cook is credited with discovering Hawaii.) If you are using the internet to get your questions, make sure the site is respectable (like ours) and then double-check your answers.

If you are in the awkward position of having to defend your answer you should follow this suggestion. Explain that for the purpose of the contest you have to go with the answer that was given in your source. Feel free to change your wrong answer to the correct one if you have really made an obvious mistake. There should always be some room for compromise.

Some trivia hosts preface their contests by saying that they can only accept the answers they have written down. Don't come off as being arrogant and saying something like the "The trivia master is always right". As if referring to yourself as a Trivia Master isn't arrogant to begin with. It is fine to only accept your answers but explain this in a nice way. If you make sure that your answers are correct then you should not have many problems anyway.

There is no excuse for having the wrong answers.

The Questions Are Too Hard



The answers always seem simpler when you have them in front of you. And just because the answer may seem easy to you doesn't mean that the answer is indeed simple. A trivia host is not someone who is smarter than everyone else although he or she may know more facts. If you want a way to show off how

smart you are, hosting trivia is not it. If your questions are too hard you will encounter some unhappy players. And you can never judge the knowledge of players you haven't met yet.

I once hosted a contest where the first question I asked was "What famed wall was captured by the Israelis in 1967. Now as far as questions go it was far from the most difficult. But as soon as I asked it, a father and son team got up and left. Now even if the father of the team had been as dumb as a stump and even if the apple didn't fall far from the tree, it did teach me a lesson.

You know the myth about placing a frog in a pan of water and slowly bringing it to a boil. The frog will not jump out as it cannot sense slow changes. It is not true by the way but the metaphor might be. If you start off your contest with easy questions and work your way up to harder questions the participants will play along quite happily.

So the first two questions in every round should insult the players intelligence. They should be as close to a gimme as possible. It sets a positive tone for the game. Your questions can grow more difficult after that. Our kits consist of six rounds of six questions and are designed so that almost any team will score at least 12 points out of thirty six. You are there to provide entertainment not to embarrass people.

A Question Can Be Easy Or Hard?



Sometimes your questions are too easy and that can be fine. The main thing is that the majority of your questions can't be too easy. If you are finding that most of the teams are scoring 7 or above out of 10 then you might want to make your questions a little tougher.

In the Trivia Professor's pre-made trivia contests the questions start off easy and become more difficult. Most teams will be tied after the first two easy questions. The weaker teams will fall off at the next two more difficult questions and the last two harder questions will determine the winner.

Depending on how you ask a question, most can be used in more than one category. Let us look at Blackbeard as an example.

Easy

What famous pirate was nicknamed named for a facial feature?

Medium

By what name was the pirate Edward Teach better known?

Hard

What was Blackbeard's real name?

To answer the first question a person needs to only know of Blackbeard. It does not matter if they know of any other pirates at all. To answer the second question a person can know of more than one pirate and narrow down their selections and choose one answer. To answer the hard

question a person needs to know the answer. What are the odds that someone will simply guess Edward Teach.

So if you ever find yourself with too many questions that seem too easy or difficult, a simple re-asking of the question can help solve the problem.

Be Careful Of How You Phrase A Question



Your questions need to be valid. One of the few things you will learn in an education class is how to validate a question. Let us take a look at the question, how tall is Mount Everest? Now you might not think that there is anything wrong with this question. On your answer sheet you have 29,029 feet. Now someone has answered 8848 metres. Well that is correct as well. If they answered 348,348 inches then they have also answered correctly. Since you did not specify what the measurement should be, you are now responsible for converting their answers. If you asked the question, In feet, how tall is Mount Everest then the contestants are responsible for any conversions that may be required.

The same holds true for temperature. Unless you have both answers down on your sheet you had better state if you are using Celsius or Fahrenheit. An invalid question is: At what temperature does water boil? Well it boils at 212 degrees Fahrenheit and 100 degrees Celsius. But unless you are prepared to accept both answers, you will want to specify what measurement you use. The only time this would not be a problem is if the answer was -40. This temperature is the same in both Fahrenheit and Celsius. But then some genius might answer the question 233 degrees Kelvin, which would also be right.

Always be specific when you ask your question. On the surface there might not seem to be anything wrong with the question of who was the first player to score 50 goals in 50 games. But let us look at the problems with this question.

1) It does not specify a sport. You might assume it refers to hockey but other sports including soccer have goals.

2) It does not specify a league. It could be taken to mean who was the first person locally to score 50 goals in 50 games.

3) It does not specify a time period. Were these fifty games spread out over numerous seasons?

The correct form of this question would be: Who was the first NHL player to score 50 goals in 50 games in one season. (Maurice Richard)

Granted, phrasing the question in the proper format makes the question a little more wordy but it paves the way for a smoother contest.

Use One Answer Questions



No question is more unfair than a multiple choice question such as name the Little Women (Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy) This complicates things when it comes to correcting the question. Is each name worth $\frac{1}{4}$ of a point or a full point each? If you never heard of Little Women, you are not missing out on one point but four? If you look at it carefully, what is being asked in this question is:

Question 1: Name one of the little women.

Question 2: Name another of the little women.

Question 3: Name another of the little women.

Question 4: Name another of the little women.

A much better question is what book about 4 girls was written by Louisa May Alcott? Turning one question into four is a sign of a lazy trivia host

This applies to two part questions as well where each answer is worth a half point.

As the judge in what answers are right or wrong you might feel the need to award a half point for an answer. And depending on the question it can be justified but it can lead to a slippery slope. For example, the question is who played PI Thomas Magnum and someone answers Fred Selleck. What do you do? Well even if they got the last name right the answer is obviously wrong. If they answered Mr. Selleck then it would not be unjustified to award them a half point.

How To Structure Your Trivia Contest



Never forget that the purpose of a trivia contest is to get people to show up and buy a few drinks. The longer they stay in the bar the more money they will spend. Having said that, two hours is about as long as you would want to stretch out a contest.. The following is how to run a good

contest:

Step1: People show up and register for the contest. If there is an admission charge it is usually your job to collect the money.

Step 2: Give the players a pen and a piece of paper with numbered blank spaces. Ask each team to choose a team name and to write the team name down on the paper.

Step 3: Ask a question or two to make sure everyone can hear you and be sure to give people enough time to answer each question. Sometimes the team needs to debate the answers.

Step 4: After the round has ended ask your quarter questions. Make sure you wait until the end of a round so you don't confuse people. Make sure you let them know that it is a quarter question and not a team question.

Step 5: Start the next round.

Step 6: At the halfway point take in all the questions and correct them. This should not take more than a half hour. Some trivia hosts re-distribute the sheets and let the teams correct each other's answer. This is not a good idea because you do not get the same results. Some teams may mark

harder or easier than other teams. If you correct the answers, then the corrections will be uniform.

Step 7: Hand the questions back to the team and announce who the leaders are. Then give the answers and make sure you did not make any mistakes in adding up the scores or marking an answer wrong. Step 8: Continue with the contest. Ask your quarter questions after each round.

Step 9: When the last questions have been answered, take in the answer sheet and correct the answers. Hand back the sheets and give the correct answers. Ask if there have been any mistakes. If not announce the winners.

Dealing With Ties

You should always assume your trivia contest will end in a tie and plan accordingly. This way you are not left scrambling to come up with a tie-breaking question. A tie-breaking question should be asked at the end of each round and only be used if two or more teams are tied at the end of the night. Just explain to the players that the question will not count as a point unless a tiebreaker is required. The tiebreaker should be towards the medium to difficult spectrum of questions.

Some people can come up with a question off the top of their heads while others cannot. But that is only half the problem. You must be able to come up with the correct answer as well. Trying to come up with a tie breaker on short notice is not that easy. So plan for it in advance.

What Are Quarter Questions?



A quarter question (commonly known as a beer question) is a question that does not count against the score. If a person gets the question right then they win a prize (Usually a drink) If they give the wrong answer then they have to pay a quarter. Now most pubs will donate some drink tickets or other prizes. The quarter questions are where you make your money. So be

smart and make sure that you get lots of quarters. If you get only 15 wrong answers for 6 quarter questions you will have made \$22.50. If there are 30 wrong answers to 6 questions you have earned \$45.00. The trick is to ask the right kind of question.

The question cannot be so obscure that people cannot gauge what the correct answer would be. Question such as how many miles to the moon may as well be what number am I thinking of. You would also not want to ask too easy of a question such as what country has the highest mountain. The question has to be hard enough that no one knows the answer outright but not so hard that it puts people off from trying to guessing the correct answer.

A good question is as follows: The top ten money making movies of all time have just be released. I am looking for numbers 4 and 8. If someone guesses a movie that is on the list but not the ones you are looking for tell them one number their guess was.

Another good quarter question is: What animal is responsible for the most human deaths worldwide each year. (The mosquito)

Still another is what animal kills the most Canadians each year. (Deer)

Yes I am going to talk about our kits again. While each kit does come with 36 team questions, it also includes 12 of these all important quarter questions.

.

Keep It Simple

Some trivia contests have music questions and there is nothing wrong with that. But in some cases the host plays you a part of a song and you either name the song, the singer or both. The problem arises with the sound system. Unless the system is top of the line, the sound will not be clear to everyone in the room. Those sitting closer to a speaker might be able to hear more clearly than those sitting further away. And then there is the problem of the CD player or the sound system not working.

If you just ask questions that do not need props then you do not need to worry about equipment failure. Your microphone might stop working but you can always speak louder.

How Much To Charge

This question really depends on where you are hosting the contest. The standard fee is usually somewhere between two and five dollars per player. Keep in mind the higher the cost to enter your contest, the better the prize needs to be.

For example, if you charge only two dollars for your event then most people will not even care if there is a prize. What is two dollars for an evening of entertainment? Still, why some people wouldn't think twice about spending fifteen dollars to see a movie, there is no way they would pay that amount to play trivia.

Trivia contest have a perceived entertainment value that is on the low side. The same way people who pay over a hundred dollars for software for their computer hesitate to spend two dollars on an app. There may not be a rhyme or reason to this, but if you charge too much to enter you will find that you have priced yourself out of the market



How Do You Go About Getting Hired As A Trivia Host?

Unless you have a reputation as a trivia expert, you will most likely have to approach the manager of an establishment and suggest they run a trivia contest. Tell the manager that you will take care of the questions and answers and run the contest. The standard rule for running a trivia contest is that the establishment does not pay you to run the contest but will supply the drinks for the quarter

questions.

You agree to do the following:

Supply questions and answers

Provide all the supplies

Run all aspect of the contest

Award the prizes at the end of the contest

The establishment should provide the following:

A reasonably quiet section to hold the contest

Provide the prizes for the quarter questions

Provide a prize for the winning team

Be responsible for security

Now some establishments may be hesitant to provide prizes for both the quarter questions and the winning team. If this is the case, suggest the admission fee be awarded as the prize.

If the establishment has no problem with providing a prize for the winning team then you should negotiate the admission fee as part of your pay.

Once you have proven that you can run a successful trivia contest and start bringing in bigger crowds, then you can re-negotiate the terms. If you are approached by an establishment to host a contest then feel free to set a flat fee for providing this service.

If there are several trivia contests being held in your area, simply being the best host might not be a good enough reason for people to attend your contest. Sometimes it helps to be unique and that mean hosting an unique trivia. One way to do this is to host a theme trivia contest. Just make sure that the theme is not too obscure. Hosting a science fiction trivia is fine. Hosting a thirteenth century philosopher trivia is not.



Team Sizes

Since you charge by the individual, your bottom dollar will not be affected by the size of the team. Still it is no fun for a team of two to face off against a team of 12. This seems hardly fair.

A good rule of thumb is that a team needs at least two players and can have no more than six.

So what do you do when a group of ten or more shows up and plans to play as one team? Simply tell them that there is a team size limit of six players per team and suggest they split up into two teams.

Simply put the more teams the better. It makes your event seem like a success to the establishment. I have been to a trivia that only had three teams. Yet two of these teams had more than ten people. Instead of three teams it could have easily been six teams.

Unruly Interruptions



This more than anything else has the potential to ruin your event. Since you are in a place where people are drinking, you will find some of the players might become inebriated and begin to cause a disturbance. And you will most likely have little luck trying to reason with a drunk person.

Likewise, sometimes a person who is not playing will shout out answers just to be a jerk. Or sometimes the person is mistaken and think it is a quarter question where he or she can win a drink. Explain to the person that it is a team questions and ask that he or she refrain from yelling out answers when it is not a quarter question.

You are a trivia host not a bouncer. This is a discussion you need to have with the manager of the establishment. It needs to be their responsibility to deal with the disturbance as soon as it becomes a problem. If the establishment does not agree to this condition you would be wise to look for one that will.

Sample Questions

Round One

1. What country was formed in the year 1867? (Canada)
2. What is the name of the pig in Charlotte's web? (Wilbur)
3. In miles per second (rounded off to the nearest thousand) what is the speed of light? (186,000)
4. How often is the World Cup soccer championship held? (Every 4 years)
5. What was the Shadow's real identity? (Lamont Cranston)
6. Where would you find an image of Robert E. Lee carved into a granite mountain? (Stone Mountain Georgia)

If you would like to host your own trivia contest but do not want to be bothered with the trouble of finding valid questions, we have the solution. We offer ten different out of the box trivia contests. Simply print off the questions and answer sheets and you are ready to go. Buy one or all ten. Or you can visit my site to play free trivia.

You can purchase these products at www.mytrivia.space