Christmas questions

How to play

> These answer lists were written for this home game, not collected in a survey. The points are game scores, not the number of people who gave each answer.

1. Choose a host and two teams. The host keeps the answer sheet out of sight and chooses five to eight questions for the game. Give each team a pencil and paper for its running score.
2. Start each round with a face-off: one player from each team hears the same question. First to raise a hand gives a guess. If it is not the top answer, the other player may guess. The answer worth more points wins; equal points go to whoever answered first. If both miss, try the next pair.
3. The face-off winner chooses whether their team will play the question or pass it to the other team. The playing team then guesses one player at a time, working down its line.
4. Cross off each matching answer and add its points to the round total. A repeat or an answer missing from the list is a strike. Keep going until the team finds every answer or reaches three strikes. Accept clear equivalents, such as ‘tree lights’ for ‘lights.’
5. If the team clears the list, it banks the round total. After three strikes, the other team gets one guess to steal. A match wins the revealed points plus the steal answer's points. If the steal misses, the original team banks only what it revealed.
6. Read a new question and choose new face-off players for the next round. After your chosen questions, the higher running score wins. Use an unused question to settle a tie. The winning team can then try the optional quickfire bonus below.

Give everyone a turn

Put a mix of ages on each team and let a different player take each face-off. Begin with tree decorations, stockings or Christmas dinner so everyone has a familiar subject. Before guests arrive, replace any question about a tradition your family does not share; write its answers and points on the host sheet so both teams play to the same list.

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Questions 1-8

1 · Name something you hang on a Christmas tree.

Ornaments **(38)** · Lights **(24)** · Tinsel **(14)** · Candy canes **(10)** · A star or angel **(8)** · Garland **(6)**

2 · Name something kids leave out for Santa.

Cookies **(45)** · Milk **(30)** · Carrots for the reindeer **(15)** · A letter or note **(10)**

3 · Name one of Santa's reindeer.

Rudolph **(40)** · Dasher **(15)** · Comet **(12)** · Blitzen **(11)** · Prancer **(10)** · Cupid **(8)**

4 · Name a movie people watch at Christmas.

Home Alone **(32)** · Elf **(25)** · The Grinch **(18)** · The Polar Express **(12)** · A Christmas Story **(8)**

5 · Name something you use to build a snowman.

A carrot **(36)** · A hat **(22)** · A scarf **(18)** · Coal or buttons **(14)** · Sticks **(10)**

6 · Name a well-known Christmas song.

Jingle Bells **(35)** · Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer **(20)** · All I Want for Christmas Is You **(18)** · Silent Night **(12)** · Deck the Halls **(8)** · Frosty the Snowman **(7)**

7 · Name something you might find in a stocking.

Candy **(40)** · Small toys **(22)** · Socks **(12)** · A gift card **(10)** · An orange **(8)** · Coal **(8)**

8 · Name a food served at Christmas dinner.

Ham **(32)** · Turkey **(26)** · Mashed potatoes **(16)** · Stuffing **(10)** · Pie **(8)** · Rolls **(8)**

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Questions 9-16

9 · Name something that makes Christmas morning chaotic.

Wrapping paper everywhere **(34)** · Kids up too early **(28)** · Batteries not included **(14)** · Putting toys together **(12)** · Pets in the boxes **(8)**

10 · Name a job Santa's elves do.

Make toys **(45)** · Wrap presents **(22)** · Check the list **(14)** · Feed the reindeer **(10)** · Load the sleigh **(9)**

11 · Name something families do on Christmas Eve.

Open one present **(30)** · Watch a Christmas movie **(22)** · Go to church **(18)** · Leave cookies out **(16)** · Track Santa **(8)**

12 · Name a kind of Christmas cookie.

Sugar cookies **(38)** · Gingerbread **(30)** · Snickerdoodles **(12)** · Peanut butter blossoms **(10)** · Shortbread **(10)**

13 · Name something kids do on a snow day.

Build a snowman **(36)** · Go sledding **(30)** · Have a snowball fight **(20)** · Drink hot chocolate **(8)** · Make snow angels **(6)**

14 · Name something that's usually red at Christmas.

Santa's suit **(35)** · Rudolph's nose **(22)** · Stockings **(14)** · Candy canes **(12)** · Bows **(9)** · Poinsettias **(8)**

15 · Name something that could knock over a Christmas tree.

A cat or dog **(40)** · Someone bumping it **(22)** · A wobbly stand **(14)** · An uneven floor **(14)** · A heavy decoration on one side **(10)**

16 · Name something you need to make a gingerbread house.

Gingerbread **(30)** · Icing **(30)** · Candy **(25)** · A plate or board **(10)** · Patience **(5)**

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Quickfire bonus

Choose two players from the winning team and send the second out of earshot. The first gets 20 seconds to answer all five questions. Bring the second back and give them 25 seconds for the same questions. If they repeat their partner's answer, ask for another while the clock runs. Score each listed top answer at 30, another sensible answer at 10, and a pass or unrelated answer at 0. Equivalent answers count as repeats. Add both players' points and aim for 200 as a separate bonus challenge; the main game's winner is already decided.

1 · Name a Christmas color.

Answer: Red

2 · Name a piece of winter clothing.

Answer: Gloves or mittens

3 · Name a warm holiday drink.

Answer: Hot chocolate

4 · Name a word that rhymes with "snow".

Answer: Go

5 · Name something Santa says.

Answer: Ho ho ho

> Listed top answer: 30. Another sensible nonrepeated answer: 10. Pass, duplicate or unrelated answer: 0. The main game is already decided.