New Year’s trivia

How to play

> The source beside each revealed answer lets you check it. Accept equivalent names and spellings when the team has clearly identified the right answer.

1. Choose one host and two or three teams. The host reads the questions and keeps the answer sheet out of sight. Each of the five categories has five questions worth 100, 200, 300, 400 or 500 points.
2. Write the category names across a sheet of paper, with those five values beneath each name. Teams take turns choosing an unused category and value. The host reads that question and allows 30 seconds for the choosing team to agree on one answer.
3. A correct answer earns its printed value. For a wrong answer or a timeout, give the next team ten seconds and one guess to steal those points. If it also misses, reveal the answer and award no points.
4. Cross off the question and pass the choice to the next team, regardless of who scored. Keep a running total on paper. Play the whole set or agree on a smaller number of categories before you begin.
5. Highest total wins. If teams finish tied, read the closest-answer tie-breaker below and have each tied team write one guess. Closest wins; equally close guesses share the win.

Give everyone a turn

Choose how many categories to play before you start, so you can finish before the countdown. If younger guests need an earlier finish, hold your own countdown and play the last category before that. Mix the teams and rotate the person who gives each answer. The food and celebration questions describe traditions; nobody needs to bring the foods or recreate them to play.

Not affiliated with, endorsed by or sponsored by Family Feud® or Jeopardy!®. Feud-style and quiz-board formats are described generically.

New Year’s trivia

Question categories

Around the World

100 points · In Spain, how many grapes do people eat at midnight on New Year's Eve?

Answer: Twelve (one per chime of the clock)

Reference: Twelve Grapes

200 points · What is another name for Chinese New Year?

Answer: Spring Festival

Reference: Chinese New Year

300 points · What do people in Scotland call their New Year's Eve celebration?

Answer: Hogmanay

Reference: Hogmanay

400 points · Which Australian city is famous for New Year's fireworks over its harbour bridge and opera house?

Answer: Sydney

Reference: Sydney New Year's Eve

500 points · Kiribati's Line Islands are among the first places on Earth to start the new year. Which ocean are they in?

Answer: The Pacific Ocean

Reference: Kiribati

Times Square

100 points · In which city does the famous New Year's Eve ball drop happen?

Answer: New York City

Reference: Times Square Ball

200 points · Times Square is named after which newspaper?

Answer: The New York Times

Reference: Times Square

300 points · About how long does the ball take to drop before midnight?

Answer: One minute (60 seconds)

Reference: Times Square Ball

400 points · Which crystal maker supplies the crystals on the Times Square New Year's Eve ball?

Answer: Waterford

Reference: nye-history-times-square-ball

500 points · The first ball dropped on New Year's Eve in which year?

Answer: 1907 (to welcome 1908)

Reference: nye-history-times-square-ball

New Year’s trivia

Question categories

Traditions

100 points · What do we call the promises people make for the new year?

Answer: New Year's resolutions

Reference: New Year's resolution

200 points · What song is traditionally sung just after midnight?

Answer: "Auld Lang Syne"

Reference: auld-lang-syne

300 points · Which Scottish poet wrote down the words of "Auld Lang Syne"?

Answer: Robert Burns

Reference: auld-lang-syne

400 points · "Auld lang syne" roughly translates as what?

Answer: "Old long since" (for old times' sake)

Reference: auld-lang-syne

500 points · Which California city hosts the Rose Parade on New Year's Day?

Answer: Pasadena

Reference: about-rose-parade

The Calendar

100 points · In the Gregorian calendar, which month begins the year?

Answer: January

Reference: January

200 points · January is named after which Roman god of beginnings and doorways?

Answer: Janus

Reference: Janus

300 points · How many days are in a leap year?

Answer: 366

Reference: Leap year

400 points · What is the name of the calendar most countries use today?

Answer: The Gregorian calendar

Reference: Gregorian calendar

500 points · What is the next leap year after 2026?

Answer: 2028

Reference: Leap year

New Year’s trivia

Final category and tie-breaker

Lucky Foods

100 points · In the southern US, which peas are eaten on New Year's Day for good luck?

Answer: Black-eyed peas

Reference: midnight-magic

200 points · In the South, collard or other greens eaten on New Year's Day are said to stand for what?

Answer: Money

Reference: midnight-magic

300 points · In Japan, what kind of long noodles do people eat on New Year's Eve?

Answer: Soba (toshikoshi soba)

Reference: how-to-celebrate-new-year-like-a-tokyo-local-5-japanese-customs-not-to-miss

400 points · Which fried dough balls are a New Year's Eve treat in the Netherlands?

Answer: Oliebollen

Reference: Oliebol

500 points · Which Greek New Year's cake contains a hidden coin for luck?

Answer: Vasilopita

Reference: st-basils-cake

Tie-breaker: closest answer wins

Tie-breaker · How many minutes are there in a non-leap year of 365 days? Closest wins.

Answer: 525,600 (365 × 24 × 60)

Reference: Common year

Use only for a tied score. Equally close answers share the win.