

Charlie Mercer's

Bonus Round

30 Brand-New Questions from the 50s to the 90s

A free gift for readers of Trivia for Seniors

How to play: circle a, b, c or d, then check the Answer Key at the back. Great on your own, with family, or read aloud at a group or care-home quiz night.

A Note from Charlie

Hello, friend!

Thank you for spending time with *Trivia for Seniors*. I had so much fun putting that book together that I couldn't stop, so here are 30 brand-new questions you won't find anywhere in it.

We'll spin the radio dial, flip through the TV channels and wander down the toy aisle, from the days of American Bandstand all the way to Y2K. Some answers will pop right into your head. Others might take a good think (and maybe a friendly argument).

Print as many copies as you like, grab a pencil, and enjoy!

Warmly,

Charlie Mercer

Round 1: Music & Radio

Question 1: When “American Bandstand” went national on ABC in 1957, who was the host welcoming teenagers to the dance floor?

- a) Ed Sullivan
- b) Dick Clark
- c) Perry Como
- d) Lawrence Welk

Question 2: Before Elvis Presley made it a smash in 1956, “Hound Dog” was a No. 1 R&B hit for which blues singer?

- a) Etta James
- b) Ruth Brown
- c) Big Mama Thornton
- d) Dinah Washington

Question 3: Patsy Cline’s 1961 hit “Crazy” was written by which future country legend?

- a) Merle Haggard
- b) Kris Kristofferson
- c) Johnny Cash
- d) Willie Nelson

Question 4: Aretha Franklin's 1967 No. 1 hit "Respect" was first recorded in 1965 by which soul singer?

- a) Otis Redding
- b) Sam Cooke
- c) Wilson Pickett
- d) James Brown

Question 5: Frankie Valli's soaring falsetto led which group on 1962's "Sherry" and "Big Girls Don't Cry"?

- a) The Platters
- b) The Four Seasons
- c) The Drifters
- d) The Four Aces

Question 6: Starting in 1970, which radio show had Casey Kasem counting down the nation's biggest hits every week?

- a) Your Hit Parade
- b) Solid Gold
- c) American Top 40
- d) Soul Train

Question 7: The Jackson 5, who topped the charts in 1970 with "I Want You Back," grew up in which Indiana city?

- a) Indianapolis
- b) Gary
- c) Fort Wayne
- d) South Bend

Question 8: Which radio broadcaster ended his tales with “And now you know the rest of the story”?

- a) Walter Cronkite
- b) Garrison Keillor
- c) Paul Harvey
- d) Edward R. Murrow

Question 9: The 1985 all-star charity single “We Are the World” was written by Michael Jackson and which singer?

- a) Stevie Wonder
- b) Kenny Rogers
- c) Billy Joel
- d) Lionel Richie

Question 10: Whitney Houston’s 1992 smash “I Will Always Love You” was written and first recorded by which country star?

- a) Dolly Parton
- b) Tammy Wynette
- c) Loretta Lynn
- d) Reba McEntire

Your score for this round: _____ out of 10

Round 2: TV & the Movies

Question 1: On “The Howdy Doody Show,” what was the section where the children in the studio audience sat called?

- a) The Kiddie Corner
- b) The Peanut Gallery
- c) The Jelly Bean Row
- d) The Popcorn Pit

Question 2: Which 1959 Marilyn Monroe comedy ends with the famous line “Well, nobody’s perfect”?

- a) The Seven Year Itch
- b) Gentlemen Prefer Blondes
- c) How to Marry a Millionaire
- d) Some Like It Hot

Question 3: Sheriff Andy Taylor and Deputy Barney Fife kept the peace in which fictional North Carolina town?

- a) Mayberry
- b) Hooterville
- c) Hazzard
- d) Bedford Falls

Question 4: The castaways of “Gilligan’s Island” set out on their ill-fated three-hour tour aboard which boat?

- a) The Sea Breeze
- b) The Pelican
- c) The S.S. Minnow
- d) The Lucky Lady

Question 5: In 1965’s “The Sound of Music,” Julie Andrews played Maria, the governess to which family’s seven children?

- a) The von Trapps
- b) The Schraders
- c) The Muellers
- d) The Hoffmans

Question 6: At the end of each episode of “The Carol Burnett Show,” Carol tugged her ear as a secret hello to whom?

- a) Her mother
- b) Her grandmother
- c) Her daughter
- d) Her husband

Question 7: In “Rocky” (1976), the boxer’s famous training run ends with a triumphant climb up the steps of which Philadelphia landmark?

- a) Independence Hall
- b) City Hall
- c) The Liberty Bell Center
- d) The Philadelphia Museum of Art

Question 8: In 1980, millions of viewers waited months to learn who shot which “Dallas” villain?

- a) Bobby Ewing
- b) J.R. Ewing
- c) Cliff Barnes
- d) Jock Ewing

Question 9: The four friends on “The Golden Girls” shared a house in which city?

- a) Tampa
- b) Palm Springs
- c) Miami
- d) Phoenix

Question 10: In 1994’s “Forrest Gump,” Forrest’s mama always said life was like a box of what?

- a) Cookies
- b) Crayons
- c) Matches
- d) Chocolates

Your score for this round: _____ out of 10

Round 3: Everyday Life

Question 1: Silly Putty, a hit toy of 1950, was sold inside what kind of container?

- a) A small tin can
- b) A plastic egg
- c) A glass jar
- d) A cardboard tube

Question 2: When Mr. Potato Head arrived in 1952, what did kids stick his eyes, ears and nose into?

- a) A real potato
- b) A rubber ball
- c) A plastic potato
- d) A cardboard cutout

Question 3: Which shaving cream advertised with short rhyming verses on a row of small signs along the highway?

- a) Barbasol
- b) Gillette
- c) Burma-Shave
- d) Noxzema

Question 4: Saleswoman Brownie Wise made which company's home "parties" a 1950s sensation?

- a) Avon
- b) Tupperware
- c) Fuller Brush
- d) Mary Kay

Question 5: Which drawing toy with a red frame and two white knobs hit stores in 1960?

- a) Lite-Brite
- b) Spirograph
- c) Etch A Sketch
- d) Magna Doodle

Question 6: When ZIP Codes arrived in 1963, the Post Office promoted them with a cartoon mail carrier named what?

- a) Mr. ZIP
- b) Postman Pete
- c) Stamp Sam
- d) Mr. Mailbox

Question 7: In 1975, which novelty "pet" sold for \$3.95 in a cardboard carrier box, complete with a training manual?

- a) Sea-Monkeys
- b) Chia Pet
- c) Pet Rock
- d) Mood ring

Question 8: For the 1976 Bicentennial, the U.S. Mint gave special designs to the quarter, the half dollar and which other coin?

- a) The penny
- b) The nickel
- c) The dime
- d) The dollar

Question 9: After an outcry over “New Coke” in 1985, the original formula came back under what name?

- a) Coca-Cola Classic
- b) Coke Gold
- c) Coke Heritage
- d) Coke Vintage

Question 10: The “Y2K bug” that caused so much worry in 1999 came from computers storing years with only how many digits?

- a) Four
- b) Three
- c) One
- d) Two

Your score for this round: _____ out of 10

Answer Key

Round 1: Music & Radio

Answer 1: b) Dick Clark.

Fun Fact: The show began in 1952 as a local Philadelphia program called “Bandstand.”

Answer 2: c) Big Mama Thornton.

Fun Fact: The song was written by the young songwriting team of Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller.

Answer 3: d) Willie Nelson.

Fun Fact: Cline recorded it in 1961 while still recovering from a serious car accident.

Answer 4: a) Otis Redding.

Fun Fact: Aretha’s version won her two Grammy Awards in 1968.

Answer 5: b) The Four Seasons.

Fun Fact: Their story became the Broadway hit “Jersey Boys,” which won the 2006 Tony Award for Best Musical.

Answer 6: c) American Top 40.

Fun Fact: Casey signed off every show with “Keep your feet on the ground, and keep reaching for the stars.”

Answer 7: b) Gary.

Fun Fact: “I Want You Back,” “ABC,” “The Love You Save” and “I’ll Be There” all went to No. 1, one after another.

Answer 8: c) Paul Harvey.

Fun Fact: His son, Paul Harvey Jr., created and wrote the series, which began on ABC Radio in 1976.

Answer 9: d) Lionel Richie.

Fun Fact: The all-star vocals were recorded in one marathon overnight session, right after the 1985 American Music Awards.

Answer 10: a) Dolly Parton.

Fun Fact: Dolly wrote it in 1973 as a heartfelt goodbye to her mentor and business partner, Porter Wagoner.

Round 2: TV & the Movies

Answer 1: b) The Peanut Gallery.

Fun Fact: The show ran on NBC from 1947 to 1960, with Buffalo Bob Smith as host.

Answer 2: d) Some Like It Hot.

Fun Fact: Tony Curtis and Jack Lemmon spend much of the film disguised as women in an all-girl band.

Answer 3: a) Mayberry.

Fun Fact: A young Ron Howard played Andy's son, Opie.

Answer 4: c) The S.S. Minnow.

Fun Fact: Creator Sherwood Schwartz named the boat after FCC chairman Newton Minow, who had called TV "a vast wasteland."

Answer 5: a) The von Trapps.

Fun Fact: The film won five Academy Awards, including Best Picture.

Answer 6: b) Her grandmother.

Fun Fact: Her grandmother, whom she called Nanny, raised her.

Answer 7: d) The Philadelphia Museum of Art.

Fun Fact: Sylvester Stallone wrote the script, and the film won the Oscar for Best Picture.

Answer 8: b) J.R. Ewing.

Fun Fact: The shooter, revealed that November, turned out to be his sister-in-law, Kristin Shepard.

Answer 9: c) Miami.

Fun Fact: All four stars won Emmy Awards for their roles.

Answer 10: d) Chocolates.

Fun Fact: Tom Hanks won Best Actor for the role, his second Oscar in a row.

Round 3: Everyday Life

Answer 1: b) A plastic egg.

Fun Fact: After The New Yorker wrote about it in 1950, orders topped 250,000 in just three days.

Answer 2: a) A real potato.

Fun Fact: A plastic potato body was added to the set in 1964.

Answer 3: c) Burma-Shave.

Fun Fact: The company kept putting up new rhymes until the campaign ended in 1963.

Answer 4: b) Tupperware.

Fun Fact: Earl Tupper's first Tupperware bowl went on sale in 1946.

Answer 5: c) Etch A Sketch.

Fun Fact: It was invented by a Frenchman, André Cassagnes, and brought to America by the Ohio Art Company.

Answer 6: a) Mr. ZIP.

Fun Fact: ZIP Codes officially began on July 1, 1963.

Answer 7: c) Pet Rock.

Fun Fact: It was dreamed up by advertising man Gary Dahl.

Answer 8: d) The dollar.

Fun Fact: The quarter showed a colonial drummer, and all three coins carried the double date 1776-1976.

Answer 9: a) Coca-Cola Classic.

Fun Fact: The comeback was announced on July 11, 1985, less than three months after New Coke's launch.

Answer 10: d) Two.

Fun Fact: Many programs could have read "00" as 1900 instead of 2000.

Your grand total: _____ out of 30

Thanks for Playing!

I hope these questions brought back a few happy memories. Pass these pages around the table, share them with a friend, or save them for your next quiz night.

For more fun from me, come and visit

triviacharlie.com

Until next time, keep those memories rolling!

Charlie Mercer