

ET4Bs Christmas Quiz 2021 (including answers)

Christmas-themed Entertainment (TV, Films, Theatre and Music)

1. In which festive song did Nat King Cole sing about 'Chestnuts roasting on an open fire'? **A: The Christmas Song** (sorry, that's a bit of a trick question to begin with!)
2. Caribbean based TV show *Death In Paradise* is set to air its first holiday special at Christmas 2021. Who plays the starring role of DI Neville Parker? **A: Ralf Little** (almost half a world away from his first big role, in *The Royle Family*)
3. In the 2003 Christmas-themed movie *Love Actually*, which popular real life TV duo play themselves interviewing the aging rock dinosaur character Billy Mack (played by Bill Nighy)? **A: Ant and Dec** (with Billy deferentially addressing each of them as 'Ant or Dec')
4. Animated film favourite *The Snowman* was shown on Channel 4 TV for the first time at Christmas of which year? **A: 1982** (the year Channel 4 began broadcasting)
5. What is the alternative Latin title of the Christmas carol '*Oh come all ye faithful*'? **A: Adeste Fideles** (one for those with a classical education, or a religious upbringing perhaps)
6. In '*How the Grinch stole Christmas*', what was wrong with the title character's heart? **A: It was too small.** Quite like a few tax inspectors we know, really.
7. In which Shakespeare 'comedy' play might viewers have originally seen a man dressed as a woman fall in love with a woman dressed as a man, at Christmas? **A: Twelfth Night.** When this was first played publicly in or about 1601, all women's characters were likely to have been played by men on stage (as acting was a disreputable job for a woman). Thus the character Olivia (a woman, albeit she would have been played by a man) falls in love with 'Viola' (she thinks Viola is a man because 'she' is intentionally disguised as 'Cesario'). Forsooth and verily, how we laughed so heartily! And we think 21st century gender politics is hard to fathom!
8. Complete the next line from this extract of Wham!'s classic song *Last Christmas*: "Tell me baby do you recognise me?" **A: Well, it's been a year, it doesn't surprise me.** The song is said to be the best selling UK single *not* to make No 1.
9. In the popular kids song *When Santa got stuck up the chimney*, what did he have in his sack, as a result of getting stuck? **A: Soot**
10. According to which Christmas song are we invited to "don we now our gay apparel"? **A: Deck the Halls with Boughs of Holly** (rumours of cross-dressing were little more than speculation, in those days)
11. Who played a 'Bad Santa' in the title role of that film? **A: Billy Bob Thornton**
12. Which 1940's Christmas-based feel good movie is set in the town of Bedford Falls? **A: It's a wonderful life**
13. Sissy Spacek (born Christmas Day in 1949) won an Oscar playing which real life country singer in the 1980 film *Coal Miner's Daughter*? **A: Loretta Lynn**
14. Born Christmas Day 1908, Denis Charles Pratt gained fame under what name, after a 1976 TV film depicted his flamboyant lifestyle? **A: Quentin Crisp.** The TV film was of course 'The Naked Civil Servant'.
15. What are the names of the Two Little Boys in Rolf Harris's 1969 Christmas No 1 (a point for each)? **A: Joe and Jack**
16. "They sold me a dream of Christmas, they sold me a silent night, they told me a fairy story, till I believed in the Israelite". Whose disillusioned view of the festive season was this? **A: Greg Lake** (in his 1975 hit 'I believe in Father Christmas'). The final words to the song are perhaps the most acerbic: "Hallelujah, Noel, be it heaven or hell, the Christmas we get we deserve".

General (yule-tidy) knowledge

17. What colour are the berries in a mistletoe plant? **A: White.** Remember Government guidance now says that kissing, whether under the mistletoe or indeed elsewhere, is unhygienic and should be avoided at all costs!
18. Which of Santa's reindeer shares it's name with a female fox? **A: Vixen**
19. What is the usual name for a female turkey? **A: Hen** (Requiescant In Paxo)
20. Which country first began the tradition of putting up Christmas trees? **A: Germany**
21. In what 17th century year were Christmas festivities banned by Parliament, apparently on the orders of happy chappie Oliver Cromwell (accept 10 years either way)? **A: 1644.** This was the initial Act, though in 1647 a further 'ordinance' was published making Christmas celebration punishable (BTW does any of this seem familiar, in the current pandemic?).
22. The original St Nicholas was the Bishop of Myra in the 3rd Century. In which modern day country was Myra? **A: Turkey** (Requiescant In Paxo - again – Christmas being the season for repeats)
23. Before the traditional Santa or Father Christmas began wearing red, which colour did he more typically wear in England? **A: Green.** Apparently this was a sign of the anticipated return of Spring. The red costume came about as recently as the 1930s, when Coca Cola adopted the colour, and people liked it (incidentally the drink's popularity at that time was nothing to do with it containing cocaine – this ingredient had been eliminated from the recipe 30 years earlier, allegedly!)
24. Joseph, husband of Mary, does not speak directly, according to the New Testament. Is that true or false? **A: True** (all references to him are made in the third person)
25. In which classic novel does The Pequod set off for a sea voyage on a 'cold Christmas' day. **A: Moby Dick** (by Herman Melville, published 1851)
26. Which Dickens character says "You'll want all day tomorrow, I suppose"? **A: Ebenezer Scrooge** (to Bob Cratchit, on Christmas Eve, in Dickens' A Christmas Carol)
27. Which Christmas song was the cue for all the remaining US troops and staff to evacuate Saigon in 1975? **A: White Christmas** (by Bing Crosby)
28. Which famous silent film star died at Christmas 1977? : **Charlie Chaplin**
29. In which year did the Queen's Christmas Speech describe it as her Annus Horribilis? **A: 1992.** With typical British understatement she described this as "not a year on which I shall look back with undiluted pleasure".
30. Which English king was crowned on Christmas Day? **A: William I** (also accept William the Conqueror). The year of course was 1066.
31. Who is credited with the discovery of Christmas Island in 1777? **A: Captain** (James) **Cook**
32. In which London park does a traditional Christmas swim take place at the Serpentine lake? **A: Hyde Park.** Apparently the event has been attracting participants since 1864 (mostly from the local insane asylum, one assumes).

All about 2021 – was it as forgettable as everyone says?

These questions commemorate a few famous events and people who have passed away, over the last 12 months.

33. Which two England football players successfully *scored* in the 'Euro 2020' final penalty shootout (a point for each)? **A: Both the Harrys, Kane and Maguire** (Rashford, Sancho and Saka being unsuccessful). 55 years of hurt, and counting!

34. In the 2021 Eurovision Song contest final, what position did the United Kingdom finish, out of the 26 finalist countries. Was it a) 20th, b) 22nd, c) 24th, or d) 26th? **A: d) 26th** (to be fair, the only reason we finished in that position was that there was nothing lower!). There were actually 4 countries who scored the dreaded 'NUL points' in the jury vote (Germany, Spain, Netherlands and UK) but only the UK entry (Embers by James Newman) had the ignominy of achieving a matching zero score in the televote.
35. Which building in Washington was invaded by (so-called) supporters of Donald Trump on 6th Jan, resulting in a tragic loss of 5 lives? **A: The US Capitol Building.** Trump has of course been mocked roundly, for his grammatical faux pas in a more recent statement ("Anybody that doesn't think there wasn't massive election fraud in the 2020 Presidential election is either very stupid, or very corrupt"). Double negatives tend to work pretty well in pop music (for example, 'I can't get no satisfaction'), but not so politics.
36. How old was Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh upon his death in April 2021: a) 97, b) 98 or c) 99? **A: c) 99.** The Prince was always good for an entertaining, unrehearsed, off the peg, and occasionally off-colour quote. He once described himself as a practitioner of 'Dontopedalogy' which he said is "the science of opening your mouth and putting your foot in it".
37. In April 2021, 39 former employees had their various convictions for dishonesty quashed after the Post Office finally admitted the scale of errors likely to have arisen in its own software. What was the name of its unreliable accounting IT system, which had led directly to these wrong convictions? **A: Horizon.** The true scale of these miscarriages of justice is expected to be revealed when the findings of a public enquiry become known.
38. The new £50 polymer banknote was released in June, featuring the face of which famous cryptologist (if you're rich enough to own one, points deducted if you are caught peeking!)? **A: Alan Turing**
39. In October the bank limit for accepting contactless payments was increased, from £45 per transaction to what new limit? **A: £100** per transaction
40. In April, how many European football clubs threatened initially (and unwisely) to form a breakaway super league? **A: 12.** Unlike HMRC, we won't name and shame them here.
41. Which comedian, who died in August, created a book called 'The Tiger who came for a Pint' (a parody on the pre-school kids book 'The Tiger who came to Tea')? **A: Sean Lock.** With typical surreal observation, Sean claimed that the book mixed together his two favourite things, tigers and alcohol. When asked what sort of Christmas presents he would like Sean said "my family got me psychiatric gift vouchers...which I was disappointed with, as I had asked for a crossbow".
42. Late drummer Charlie Watts was known for being rather more reticent than his high-profile Rolling Stones bandmates. In the 1960s he published a cartoon entitled "*Ode to a high flying Bird*" as a tribute to which jazz saxophonist who had died in the previous decade? **A: Charlie Parker** ('Bird' being Parker's nickname)
43. No, no, no, no, no, no, yes, Trevor Peacock (aka Jim Trott in *The Vicar of Dibley*) sadly passed away in March. Also an accomplished musician, complete the title of this 1960s hit Trevor wrote for Herman's Hermits: Mrs Brown....? **A: You've got a lovely daughter.** Trevor also wrote for Adam Faith, Bernard Cribbins, Billy Fury, and Joe Brown, in the same era.
44. Johnny Briggs passed away in February, after a varied acting career. Having joined the cast of *Coronation Street*, to play what would become his most famous role of Mike Baldwin, which married female character did Mike have an affair with in the early 1980s? **A: Dierdre Barlow** (Anne Kirkbride) who was still married to Ken Barlow (William Roache) at the time. The plot was a ratings winner - but unfortunately the perception of Ken's character as being 'boring' rather stuck with him after that.
45. The late Jim Steinman who died in April, was most famous as the creative force behind many of Meatloaf's biggest hits. Complete the title of this hit he co-wrote for Bonnie Tyler in the

mid-1980s: 'Holding out for...'?" **A: A Hero.** As a writer and/or producer, Jim made significant contributions to the chart careers of many and varied artistes including Celine Dion, Barry Manilow, Boyzone, and The Sisters of Mercy. Rock'n'roll dreams (always) come through!

46. Christopher Plummer of course starred opposite Julie Andrews in the bank holiday film favourite *The Sound of Music*. Which of these classic songs from the film did his character (Captain Von Trapp) sing in: a) My favorite things, b) Something good, or c) Sixteen going on seventeen? **A: b) Something good.** Though Christopher's singing parts in the movie were in fact dubbed by American 'playback singer' Bill Lee.
47. Born in Chester in 1940, Ronald Pickup was a ubiquitous character actor, who remained active in film, TV and theatre from 1964 until his death in February 2021. In the 1973 taut suspense thriller *The day of the Jackal*, did Ronald portray: a) a document forger, b) a gunsmith, or c) a policeman? **A: a) forger** (who came to a sticky and painful end at the hands of the Jackal character, played by Edward Fox). PS: In our view, if you are looking for the worst film remake ever, try watching the 1997 big budget Hollywood version *The Jackal*, (or better still, *don't try it*). By comparison to the original, it's a real 'turkey' (whether viewed at Christmas or any other time).
48. Controversial record producer Phil Spector passed away in January? Which of these Beatles albums did Spector produce (at the behest of John Lennon but to the disquiet of Paul McCartney): a) The Beatles (aka 'the white album'), b) Abbey Road, or c) Let it Be? **A: c) Let it Be.** George Martin later dryly observed the album was originally produced by him (Martin), but later 'over-produced' by Spector.
A few years ago James Walsh of UK rock band StarSailor was quoted as saying: "The great thing about Phil Spector, and also his weakness, is he's a kind of one-trick pony. But his one trick is pretty impressive, like a dog that could talk" (perhaps an example of mixing metaphors there, but we get the picture).
49. Comic actress Una Stubbs passed away in August, after a distinguished near-60 year career in film, TV and theatre. A prominent role in which early-1960s Cliff Richard film helped to launch her career: a) The Young Ones, b) Summer Holiday, or c) Wonderful Life? **A: b) Summer Holiday.** The film was so bad that it's been shown constantly on TV, as prime time Christmas day viewing, ever since.
50. Captain Sir Tom Moore, who of course helped raise the nation's spirits during the early part of the pandemic with his heart-warming charitable efforts, sadly passed away in February (at the time he was 100 years young). A WWII veteran; was his war service mainly in: a) North Africa/Italy, b) UK/France, or c) the Far East? **A: c) The Far East** (India and Burma primarily)