

## ET4Bs Christmas Quiz 2022 (including answers)

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

1. Despite trying your best to forget them, the following Christmas No 1 novelty records will probably be etched on your brain forever. Put the songs in the order they were originally hits, earliest first?  
a) Mr Blobby by Mr Blobby  
b) There's no-one quite like grandma by St Winifred's school choir  
c) I love sausage rolls by Ladbaby  
d) Can we fix it? by Bob the Builder  
**A: The correct order is (b) (1980), (a) (1993), (d) (2000) and (c) (2019).**
2. Complete this line from the popular carol, Good King Wenceslas: 'Brightly shone the moon that night.....?'  
**A: Though the frost was cruel.** (some things never change, do they).
3. Who was the male co-star of the 1954 film White Christmas, alongside Bing Crosby who sang the record-breaking title tune?  
**A: Danny Kaye.** Rosemary Clooney and Vera Ellen were the female co-stars.
4. Michael Andrews (ft Gary Jules) had a surprise Christmas No 1 in 2003 after their version of the song, *Mad World*, had been featured in which cult film?  
**A: Donnie Darko.** Mad World was of course originally written and performed by Tears for Fears in 1982 – but no points for that (after all, no one likes a smart Alec!).
5. Henry Travers appears opposite James Stewart in many of the key scenes of which classic 1940s Christmas-eve based feel-good film directed by Frank Capra?  
**A: It's a Wonderful Life?** Travers plays Clarence, the angel sent to rescue the main character George Bailey (played by Stewart).
6. In 'When Santa got stuck up the chimney, which part of his anatomy was tickled after getting stuck (and remember, this is supposed to be a family quiz!)?  
**A: His nose.**
7. Which festive character is it said will 'go down in history', according to the popular kids tune.  
**A: Rudolf the red-nosed reindeer.**
8. Which traditional pantomime does the character Buttons appear in?  
**A: Cinderella.**
9. Based on the popular carol, how many ships were seen 'sailing in, on Christmas Day in the morning'?  
**A: Three** (the song is called 'I saw three ships')
10. According to the Christmas favourite *Fairytale of New York*, what were the 'boys of the NYPD choir' singing?  
**A: Galway Bay.** The song Galway Bay is a bona fide Irish standard, but the 'NYPD choir' doesn't actually exist (the Pogues made it up; though the NYPD does have a pipes and drums band, who appeared in the video for the tune).
11. Which two acts have jointly scored the most Christmas number 1 singles in the UK, with 4 each? A point for each.  
**A: Ladbaby and The Beatles** (closely followed by the Spice Girls with 3)
12. What is the well-known opening line to Nat King Cole's classic 'Christmas Song'?  
**A: Chestnuts roasting on an open fire.**
13. The *Inside No 9* episode 'The Devil of Christmas' featured folklore about which Santa Claus' alter-ego, who is said to punish naughty children?  
**A: Krampus.** Check out the *Inside No 9* episode, if you want to know what to be wary of, on 'Krampusnacht' (a spooky alternative to Christmas night)!

14. In 2003, the final (apart from all the repeats of course) '*Only Fools and Horses*' Christmas special aired. Complete the title of the hit episode: Sleepless in...?  
**A: Peckham.**

### **General Christmas-themed knowledge**

15. Before turkey became the most popular celebratory lunch, which other 'treat' was traditionally eaten at Christmas in the UK? Was it: a) hog's head, b) tripe, or c) cow heels?  
**A: a) Hog's head** (apparently this was eaten with mustard, which made all the difference!)
16. King Charles III is expected to deliver his first Christmas speech on 25 December. Which UK monarch began this annual tradition of broadcasting to the nation and commonwealth? A bonus point if you can guess the year of that first broadcast (two years either way permitted).  
**A: George V (1932)** – this was in the days of radio, rather than TV, of course.
17. In days of old, if you went 'Wassailing' at this time of year, what would you be doing?  
**A: Singing Christmas songs or carols.** Originally a celebration to drink someone's health, but often leading to inebriation!
18. Which 4-letter word, synonymous with Christmas, actually comes from an olde traditional (believed to be pagan) Germanic festival?  
**A: Yule** (accept Yuletide).
19. According to a rather bleak quotation in which CS Lewis book, is the fictional land of Narnia said to be 'Always winter but never Christmas'?  
**A: The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe.**
20. Which Roman mythological god of love shares his name with one of Santa's reindeer?  
**A: Cupid.**
21. The tradition of sending Christmas cards, as we now know them, first became popular in the 19th century. In which country did the tradition originate: Was it: a) USA, b) Germany, or c) UK?  
**A: UK.** Germany invented the Christmas tree, and USA was the first country to put electric lights on it!
22. Approximately how many turkeys are said to be consumed in the UK each year at Christmas? Is it: a) 5 million, b) 10 million, c) 15 million or d) 20 million?  
**A: b) 10 million.** Requiescant in Paxo (again).

### **So that was 2022 – bad as all that?**

These questions commemorate a few famous (and infamous) events, as well as some well-known and revered people who passed away, over the last 12 months.

23. In 2022, Liz Truss suffered the ignominy of being the shortest serving Prime Minister in UK history. How long did her ill-fated tenure last? Was it a total of: a) 40 days, b) 50 days or c) 55 days (the answer required is inclusive of both the first and last days)?  
**A: b) 50 days.** (6 September to 25 October 2022 inclusive).
24. During the short period of Liz Truss's premiership, HM Queen Elizabeth II sadly passed away. How many years young was the Queen at her death?  
**A: 96.**
25. Which West Ham footballer was featured in an online video kicking his cat as a 'joke'?  
**A: Kurt Zouma.** I suppose we all sometimes feel a bit like that (usually after watching the England football team); but not just actually doing it, but posting a film of it online, took things a bit too far.
26. Who performed the UK entry at the 2022 Eurovision Song Contest, finishing 2nd to Ukraine?  
**A: Sam Ryder.**
27. At which location was the first ever UK weather temperature above 40°C recorded, in July 2022? Was it a) Hyde Park, London, b) Royston, Herts, or c) Coningsby, Lincs?

**A: c) Coningsby.** Whilst London declared a state of emergency, the rest of the country put on a fan and opened a cold beer.

28. In more spine-chilling news, the so called *Wagatha Christie* trial concluded, with Rebekah Vardy unsuccessful in her High Court defamation case brought against Colleen Rooney. In the case, Ms Rooney had apparently laid out a trail of false leads, in order to identify (Ms Vardy as) the alleged source of various newspaper leaks. Which of these was NOT quoted in court as one of these false stories: a) Ms Rooney had visited Mexico b) her basement had flooded c) she had crashed her car, or d) she planned to appear on *Strictly come dancing*.

**A: c).** They are of course all false stories ('non-events', like the trial itself, some might say), but c) was not one of those referred to in court by Ms Rooney's team. Good job there was no real news to cover in 2022 then!

29. Whose application to trademark her brand as "Queen of Christmas" was unsuccessful, in 2022?

**A: Mariah Carey.** Similar attempts to trademark "QOC" and "Princess Christmas" in the US were also unsuccessful (after achieving one major festive hit in her 30-odd year career, Mariah doesn't appear to be someone who is hindered by false modesty).

30. 'I saayyy', Leslie Phillips had rather a good innings didn't he, passing away at age 98 in November. Which of these *Carry On* films did he appear in: a) Carry on abroad, b) Carry on constable, or c) Carry on at your convenience?

**A: b) Carry on constable.** He appeared in many of the early Carry On films (which were arguably the funniest of the series). Being typecast as a smooth-talking charmer with a roving eye for the ladies never seemed to harm his reputation, even in more recent times. Ding-dong!

31. *Great Balls of Fire* singer and performer Jerry Lee Lewis passed away in October, aged 87. How old was his under-age cousin, whom he married in 1957, causing an international uproar from which his career never really recovered?

**A: 13.** The story broke when Lewis was touring the UK, and scandalised both the US and UK (even in those 'different' times). For good measure, it later transpired Lewis was also still married to his previous wife.

32. Before his international success in the *Harry Potter* films, Robbie Coltrane (who died in October) had established himself as a popular headline actor, in mainly comic roles. However, one of his straight roles gave him his biggest TV success, with the character of Fitz in *Cracker* earning him three consecutive BAFTA awards for Best Actor. What was his character's name, 'Fitz', short for? Was it: a) Fitzgerald, b) Fitzpatrick or c) Fitzwilliam?

**A: a) (Dr Eddie) Fitzgerald.** Random fact: his first big TV break was starring in Granada TV's early-1980s comedy sketch show *Alfresco* alongside Emma Thompson, Stephen Fry, Hugh Laurie and Siobhan Redmond, with much of the material contributed by Ben Elton.

33. London born Angela Lansbury later moved to the US, where she starred in *Murder, she wrote*, set in the fictional idyllic town of Cabot Cove (which, counter-intuitively, proved to have the highest per capita murder rate in history). Before then, which of these classic family films did Angela star in: a) Mary Poppins (1964), b) Chitty Chitty Bang Bang (1968), or c) Bedknobs and Broomsticks (1971)?

**A: c) Bedknobs and Broomsticks.**

34. Raymond Briggs died in August having written the book, and introduced (on its original release in 1982), the Channel 4 Christmas short film favourite, *The Snowman*. Which two UK stars (both sadly now also deceased) subsequently recorded alternative introductions to the film (a point for each)?

**A: Mel Smith and David Bowie.**

35. Olivia Newton-John passed away in August after a long illness. One of the relatively lower points of her (otherwise highly successful) career was singing the UK entry in the 1974 Eurovision Song Contest. Was the song called: a) Long live love, b) A little more love, or c) I honestly love you?

**A: a) Long Live Love.** This was in the days when the artist was pre-selected and the UK public

(in its dubious wisdom) were left to choose the song. Needless to say ONJ disliked the song chosen, and it 'bombed' (in relative 1970s terms) into 4<sup>th</sup> place - but it's unlikely she could really have competed with the winner, Abba's *Waterloo*, anyway.

36. Avuncular actor and singer Bernard Cribbins died in July at age 93. After making novelty records such as *Right Said Fred*, he moved onto film, stage, and TV, featuring regularly in *The Wombles* and *Jackanory* amongst many other programmes. What was the name of his sometimes grumpy but kind-hearted character in the 1970 film favourite *The Railway Children*? Was it a) Jenks, b) Sparks, or c) Perks?

**A: c) (Albert) Perks.** Bernard remained active in show business until shortly before his death. Random additional fact: one of his hit records *Gossip Calypso* was written by Trevor Peacock, aka Jim Trott in *The Vicar of Dibley* (no, no, no, no, no, no...yes, it's true).

37. Lester Pigott passed away in May after a stellar career as a jockey. He still holds the record for the number of times he won the Epsom Derby? Was this: a) 7 times, b) 8 times, c) 9 times or d) 10 times?

**A: c) 9 times.** Although he will always be remembered for his 1987 tax evasion conviction, he stated that the common fable, that he had settled one of his (several) Inland Revenue tax investigations from money held in a *still undisclosed* offshore bank account, was an urban myth.

38. Tough guy actor Denis Waterman passed away in May, aged 74. Establishing himself initially as a child actor, which schoolboy character (from the books created by Richmal Crompton) did he play on TV in the early 1960s?

**A: William Brown** (accept 'William' or 'Just William', as it's Christmas)

39. Smoothie Peter Bowles had a highly successful career as a character and leading-man actor, more or less up to his death in March, starring regularly in series such as *To the Manor Born*, *Rumpole of the Bailey*, *Only When I Laugh* and *Perfect Scoundrels*, to name just a few. In the more recent TV series *Victoria* (loosely based on the life of Queen Victoria), which role did he play: a) Prince Albert, b) Benjamin Disraeli, or c) the Duke of Wellington?

**A: c) Duke of Wellington.**

40. Record breaking Aussie spin-bowler Shane Warne died suddenly in March, aged just 52. In an unusual statistical feat, he *twice* took the same career best figures of 8 wickets for 71 runs against England, at the same ground. Was that ground: a) Melbourne Cricket Ground, b) Adelaide Oval, or c) The Gabba, Brisbane?

**A: c) The Gabba.**

41. Anna Karen, who passed away in February, played 'Aunt Sal' in *Eastenders* and, before that she played Stan Butler's dowdy sister Olive in *On the Buses* (how we laughed – well maybe not, our expectations of TV comedy were more limited in those days!). Is it true or false that Anna appeared alongside Barbara Windsor in the film *Carry on Camping* (1969)?

**A: True** – they apparently became firm friends after the film. Anna was more glamorous in real life than her ultra-frumpy role in *On the Buses* might suggest, and apparently worked as a stripper in her early career.

42. Consummate joker Barry Cryer passed away in January. Is it true or false that Barry had a UK number 1 single in the 1950s with *The Purple People Eater*?

**A: False.** Sheb Wooley had the main UK hit with the song, though Barry had the distinction of achieving No 1 in Finland with his cover version.

Barry Cryer wrote for nearly everyone – it would be easier to list those comedians he did NOT write for than those he did. So here's a couple of his jokes for good Christmas measure: "Picasso was burgled and did a drawing of the robbers. Police arrested a horse and two sardines."

"The police stop a staggering man at 2am and ask him where he's going? 'To a lecture' he responds. 'At 2am' say the police 'what's this lecture on, and who's giving it?'. 'Smoking and drinking,' the man says - 'And who's giving it - my wife.'"

43. Force of nature performer Marvin Lee Aday, aka Meat Loaf, died in January 2022 (following quite soon after the death of his main writing collaborator, Jim Steinman, in 2021). Taken from his smash late-1970s album *Bat out of Hell*, which song is introduced by the (spoken) question 'On a hot summer night, would you offer your throat to the wolf with the red roses?'
- A: You took the words right out of my mouth** (with the next, spoken, line being 'I bet you say that to all the boys'). Legend has it that his stage name Meat Loaf was established when, as a new-born baby, his face was all red and (according to his father) he looked like raw meat. Random additional fact No 2: he stated that he had met President John F Kennedy in Dallas, earlier in the actual day of JFK's assassination.
44. Sidney Poitier who died in January became the first black actor to win a Best Actor Academy Award in the 1960s. For which of these trail-blazing films was he NOT Oscar nominated for Best Actor: a) *Blackboard Jungle*, b) *The Defiant Ones* or c) *Lilies of the field*?
- A: a) Blackboard Jungle** (1955). He was nominated for *The Defiant Ones* (1958) and won the award for *Lilies of the field* (1963).
45. Actress Ruth Madoc, passed away only recently in early-December. What was the name of her (nice but dim) character in *Hi de hi*, which provided her most famous TV role?
- A: Gladys Pugh.** Random additional fact - Ruth took her stage surname from Philip Madoc, her first husband (also a successful actor).
46. Multi-talented singer/songwriter Christine McVie passed away in November aged 79. What was her maiden name before she married fellow Fleetwood Mac member John McVie? Was it: a) Ideal, b) Wonder, c) Marvel or d) Perfect?
- A: d) Perfect.** John McVie once admitted (half joking, we think!) that, by the time the *Rumours* album became a big hit in the late 1970s, the only two members of the band probably not sleeping together were himself and Mick Fleetwood. That's rock 'n' roll for you - I suppose we're all a long time dead!

As to whether 2022 was 'as bad as all that'; for an interesting take on the idea of nostalgia you might want to listen to Gladys Night's spoken intro to her 1974 hit *The way we were*. In it she says that, no matter how bad these current times seem (the mid-1970s witnessed regular strikes, shortages, hyper-inflation and, at one point in the UK, a mandatory three-day working week), they will nonetheless still in time 'become the good old days for our children'.