Funny Trivia for Seniors

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. What food is the 1952 Oscar Mayer Wienermobile at The Henry Ford shaped like?
   - A. A hot dog in a bun
   - B. A slice of pizza
   - C. An ear of corn
   - D. A banana split

   Correct answer: A. A hot dog in a bun
   The museum’s 1952 vehicle has a giant hot dog perched in a bun. Wienermobiles traveled to stores, parades, and festivals to promote the brand.

2. On the classic sitcom Mister Ed, what kind of animal could talk to Wilbur Post?
   - A. A parrot
   - B. A sheepdog
   - C. A horse
   - D. A mule

   Correct answer: C. A horse
   Mister Ed is the talking horse. The Television Academy’s archive includes interviews with Alan Young, who played Wilbur.

3. Richard James watched a spring seem to walk after it fell from a shelf. Which toy came from that surprise?
   - A. Yo-yo
   - B. Slinky
   - C. Hula Hoop
   - D. Jump rope

   Correct answer: B. Slinky
   James was working on springs to steady ship equipment. He and his wife Betty turned the spring’s unexpected motion into the Slinky toy.

4. Which drink did Rhode Island choose as its official state drink in 1993?
   - A. Orange soda
   - B. Root beer
   - C. Hot apple cider
   - D. Coffee milk

   Correct answer: D. Coffee milk
   Rhode Island chose coffee milk. The state also describes a local drink called a cabinet, made by blending coffee milk with vanilla ice cream.

5. Imagine a host means to say funny bone but says bunny phone. What name fits that swap of starting sounds?

A. Palindrome
B. Spoonerism
C. Rhyme
D. Tongue twister

Correct answer: B. Spoonerism
The starting sounds of funny and bone trade places. That kind of exchange between words is a spoonerism.

6. Jim Henson made the first Kermit puppet from an old coat and jeans. What did he cut in half for the eyes?

A. A ping-pong ball
B. A wooden spool
C. A bath sponge
D. A cork stopper

Correct answer: A. A ping-pong ball
Each eye was half of a ping-pong ball. The early Kermit appeared on Sam and Friends in 1955.

7. In 2013, Oregon set aside August 9 to celebrate Boring, Oregon, and its pairing with which Scottish community?

A. Stirling
B. Aberfeldy
C. Elgin
D. Dull

Correct answer: D. Dull
Oregon’s act calls the occasion Boring and Dull Day. The name comes straight from the two communities.

8. What could shoppers do in Clarence Saunders’s patented layout for Piggly Wiggly before reaching the checkout?

A. Ask a clerk to select their entire order by phone
B. Have every item brought out to the front counter
C. Pick goods from the shelves themselves
D. Bid against other shoppers for the next basket

Correct answer: C. Pick goods from the shelves themselves
The patent describes a route through the displays so shoppers could choose their own goods and then take them to a checking and payment station.

9. The Library of Congress keeps an 18th-century kitchen-machine drawing made by Thomas Jefferson. What was the machine designed to make?

A. Macaroni
B. Butter
C. Waffles
D. Ice cream

Correct answer: A. Macaroni
Jefferson sketched plans for a macaroni machine while touring northern Italy in 1787. He later asked his secretary to buy a pasta machine there.

10. What did the special equipment for the 1960 film Scent of Mystery deliver to individual theater seats?

A. Recorded hints about the plot
B. Color slides from deleted scenes
C. Hot air during desert scenes
D. Scents timed to the film

Correct answer: D. Scents timed to the film
The Smell-O-Vision system sent odors through tubing to the seats. Signals on the soundtrack triggered the scents, some of which mattered to the mystery.

11. A newspaper playfully said early Edison talking dolls had a governess to teach them their lines. What work lay behind that story?

A. Store clerks recited from behind a curtain when a doll was lifted.
B. Governesses spoke through concealed tubes during demonstrations.
C. Performers spoke the lines into a recorder for the dolls.
D. A keyboard let shopkeepers make a doll speak one letter at a time.

Correct answer: C. Performers spoke the lines into a recorder for the dolls.
The National Park Service describes women speaking lines to make the dolls' phonograph records. The story about lessons made the recording work sound like school for dolls.

12. The 19th-century Hansen Writing Ball had keys on a rounded dome. How did its differently angled typebars print at the same spot?

A. They struck in a circle while the paper spun underneath.
B. They angled inward to a common point on the paper.
C. They embossed a strip wrapped around the outside of the dome.
D. They printed onto separate strips that the machine joined.

Correct answer: B. They angled inward to a common point on the paper.
The Science Museum Group describes 54 typebars on a hemisphere. Each approaches from a different angle, but all reach the same printing point.

13. At Cambridge, a camera watched the Trojan Room coffee pot. Which timeline gets its two debuts right?

A. The lab and the web both got access in 1993.
B. Web viewers saw it in 1991. The lab got access in 1993.
C. The lab and the web both got access in 1991.
D. Lab viewers saw it in 1991. Web viewers got access in 1993.

Correct answer: D. Lab viewers saw it in 1991. Web viewers got access in 1993.
Researchers set up a local view in 1991. They made the images available on the World Wide Web in November 1993.

14. Mary Anderson’s 1903 patent describes a device swept across glass and controlled from inside a vehicle. Which museum label best fits that description?

A. An early windshield wiper with an inside control
B. An early rearview mirror with an adjustable angle
C. A glass heater powered by the vehicle
D. A sun visor that folds up from the dashboard

Correct answer: A. An early windshield wiper with an inside control
Anderson’s patent describes a cleaner that sweeps the window while the operator stays inside. The device could also be removed when the weather cleared.

15. Congress commissioned a statue of George Washington for the Capitol Rotunda. Which caption explains Horatio Greenough’s surprising choice for the seated figure?

A. Washington’s pose reproduced the figure on a U.S. dollar coin.
B. Washington’s pose copied a painted portrait of King George III.
C. Washington’s pose took inspiration from a statue of Zeus.
D. Washington’s pose came from a photograph of him in the Rotunda.

Correct answer: C. Washington’s pose took inspiration from a statue of Zeus.
Greenough modeled the Washington figure after Zeus. The resulting marble statue arrived in 1841 wearing a toga, an unusual sight in the Capitol.