Television Trivia

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. Who played Lucy Ricardo on the original sitcom I Love Lucy?
   - A. Lucille Ball
   - B. Vivian Vance
   - C. Ann Sothern
   - D. Eve Arden

   Correct answer: A. Lucille Ball
   The Television Academy credits Lucille Ball as Lucy Ricardo. Vivian Vance played Lucy’s friend and neighbor Ethel Mertz.

2. What starship does Captain James T. Kirk command in Star Trek: The Original Series?
   - A. U.S.S. Defiant
   - B. U.S.S. Voyager
   - C. U.S.S. Enterprise
   - D. U.S.S. Discovery

   Correct answer: C. U.S.S. Enterprise
   The U.S.S. Enterprise is the ship commanded by Kirk in the original 1966–1969 series.

3. Which Florida city does ABC’s series retrospective identify as home to Dorothy, Blanche, Rose, and Sophia on The Golden Girls?
   - A. Daytona Beach
   - B. Miami Beach
   - C. Palm Beach
   - D. Sarasota

   Correct answer: B. Miami Beach
   ABC identifies Miami Beach as the setting for the home the four roommates share.

4. Which educational television series debuted in 1969 following the creation of the Children’s Television Workshop?
   - A. The Electric Company
   - B. Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood
   - C. Reading Rainbow
   - D. Sesame Street

   Correct answer: D. Sesame Street
   Sesame Street first aired in November 1969. The Children’s Television Workshop developed it to bring early learning to preschoolers on television.

5. Which NBC comedy stars Kristen Bell as Eleanor, who arrives in an afterlife neighborhood and believes she was sent there by mistake?

A. 30 Rock
B. The Good Place
C. Parks and Recreation
D. Brooklyn Nine-Nine

Correct answer: B. The Good Place
Bell plays Eleanor in The Good Place. Her mistaken arrival sets the story of the comedy in motion.

6. During which war is the original M*A*S*H television series set?

A. The Korean War
B. The Vietnam War
C. The Gulf War
D. World War II

Correct answer: A. The Korean War
Series developer Larry Gelbart described the Korean War as the historical backdrop for the fictional hospital in the series.

7. Who created the original version of The Twilight Zone, which debuted on CBS in 1959?

A. Irwin Allen
B. Alfred Hitchcock
C. Gene Roddenberry
D. Rod Serling

Correct answer: D. Rod Serling
Rod Serling created the anthology series and introduced its stories on air.

8. Which actor played the Doctor when Doctor Who first aired in November 1963?

A. Jon Pertwee
B. Patrick Troughton
C. William Hartnell
D. Tom Baker

Correct answer: C. William Hartnell
The BBC’s official Doctor Who episode guide credits William Hartnell in the first story, An Unearthly Child, which began in November 1963.

9. Who co-created Seinfeld with the comedian who played the title character?

A. Larry David
B. Jerry Stiller
C. Jason Alexander
D. Michael Richards

Correct answer: A. Larry David
Larry David and Jerry Seinfeld created and wrote the sitcom together. Jerry Seinfeld played a fictionalized version of himself.

10. Who hosted the original network premiere of Jeopardy! in March 1964?

A. Jack Narz
B. Alex Trebek
C. Bob Barker
D. Art Fleming

Correct answer: D. Art Fleming
The show’s own retrospective records Art Fleming as the host of its first game on March 30, 1964.

11. Which 1968 television film starred Peter Falk as Columbo before the regular series began in 1971?

A. Murder by the Book
B. Ransom for a Dead Man
C. Prescription: Murder
D. Suitable for Framing

Correct answer: C. Prescription: Murder
Falk played the detective in the 1968 television film Prescription: Murder. The regular Columbo series followed in 1971.

12. Who won the 2014 Emmy for Outstanding Writing for a Drama Series for the Breaking Bad episode ‘Ozymandias’?

A. Vince Gilligan
B. Moira Walley-Beckett
C. Peter Gould
D. Thomas Schnauz

Correct answer: B. Moira Walley-Beckett
The Television Academy lists Moira Walley-Beckett as the winning writer for that episode.

13. Who narrated the original British version of the BBC’s 2006 nature series Planet Earth?

A. Morgan Freeman
B. Sigourney Weaver
C. Kenneth Branagh
D. David Attenborough

Correct answer: D. David Attenborough
The BBC’s annual report for the period credits David Attenborough as the narrator of Planet Earth.

14. Buffy the Vampire Slayer began on The WB. Which network took over the original series in 2001?

A. UPN
B. Fox
C. CBS
D. The CW

Correct answer: A. UPN
Buffy aired on The WB from 1997 to 2001 and continued on UPN from 2001 to 2003.

15. In the Library of Congress finding aid for Alex Haley’s papers, a shooting schedule covers the first ten days of filming and a separate item contains annotated script pages. Which productions are those two records from, respectively?

A. Roots for both records
B. Roots: The Next Generations, then Roots
C. Roots, then Roots: The Next Generations
D. Roots: The Next Generations for both records

Correct answer: C. Roots, then Roots: The Next Generations
The finding aid attributes the shooting schedule to the 1977 Roots miniseries. It identifies the annotated script pages as material for the sequel, Roots: The Next Generations.