QUIZ PACK FOR THE HOST · YEAR IN REVIEW 2026

The Red Lion Christmas Quiz: The Big 2026 Quiz

4 rounds · 40 questions | Edition: pub / friends | Difficulty: medium

2026

Tonight's rounds

1. 2026: The World in Review
2. 2026: The Sporting Year
3. 2026 in the UK
4. Christmas Around the World

The 2026 questions cover events from 1 January to 8 October 2026. November and December were still ahead when the quiz was put together.

Every fact was checked against the source printed under the answer.

What's inside

- ✓ Host guide: questions, answers, fun facts
- ✓ Tie-breaker and closing words
- ✓ Scoreboard
- ✓ Answer sheet — make one copy per team
- ✓ Slides for a TV or projector: separate PDF (link in your email)

FOR THE HOST ONLY — KEEP THESE PAGES AWAY FROM THE TEAMS!

How to run the quiz

1. Split the guests into teams of 2–6. Give each team an answer sheet and a pen.
2. Read the welcome, then each round's intro. Read every question twice, or show it on the slides.
3. After each round, teams swap sheets for marking while you read out the answers and fun facts.
4. Write the points on the scoreboard and announce the standings before the last round.
5. Still a tie at the end? Use the tie-breaker — the closest number wins.

Scoring

1 point per correct answer. Accept small spelling slips and the alternatives listed. The host's decision is final.

> **WELCOME — READ ALOUD**
>
> Good evening, everyone, and welcome to the big 2026 quiz! Tonight we look back at a year full of surprises: sport, science, music and a few things you have probably already forgotten. Then we warm up with some festive rounds. Pens ready, phones away — and may the best team win!

SAMPLE

ROUND 1

2026: The World in Review

Open answers

READ ALOUD

Let's see how much you remember. Listen carefully — every question is read twice.

1 **Which Slovak city was a European Capital of Culture in 2026?**

ANSWER: Trenčín

Also accept: Trencin

Did you know? *Trenčín's programme was built around the theme of 'Curiosity', with a big three-day opening on 13–15 February.*

Source: culture.ec.europa.eu

2 **Which famous British nature broadcaster celebrated his 100th birthday on 8 May 2026?**

ANSWER: David Attenborough

Also accept: Attenborough

Did you know? *For his birthday, London's Natural History Museum named a newly identified Chilean wasp after him: Attenboroughnculus tau.*

Source: nhm.ac.uk

3 **Oulu was one of the two European Capitals of Culture in 2026. In which country is it?**

ANSWER: Finland

Did you know? *Oulu, a northern port city near the Arctic Circle, opened its year with a festival on 16–18 January, including ice hockey.*

Source: culture.ec.europa.eu

SAMPLE

ROUND 2

2026: The Sporting Year

Open answers

READ ALOUD

Let's see how much you remember. Listen carefully — every question is read twice.

1 **Which player won both the French Open and the US Open men's singles titles in 2026?**

ANSWER: Alexander Zverev

Also accept: Zverev

Did you know? *They were his first two Grand Slam titles; he beat Flavio Cobolli in Paris and Ben Shelton in New York.*

Source: wikipedia.org

2 **Which team did Spain beat in the 2026 World Cup final?**

ANSWER: Argentina

Did you know? *Spain won 1–0 after extra time on 19 July 2026.*

Source: wikipedia.org

3 **Which American car brand joined Formula 1 in 2026 as the brand-new 11th team?**

ANSWER: Cadillac

Did you know? *It was the first new team on the grid since Haas in 2016; its drivers are Sergio Pérez and Valtteri Bottas.*

Source: wikipedia.org

SAMPLE

ROUND 3

2026 in the UK

Open answers

READ ALOUD

Let's see how much you remember. Listen carefully — every question is read twice.

1 **In the 2026 Boat Race, which university's women's crew won for the first time since 2016?**

ANSWER: Oxford

Also accept: Oxford University

Did you know? *Cambridge still won the men's race by four lengths, their fourth men's victory in a row.*

Source: wikipedia.org

2 **Which English darts star retained his PDC world title at Alexandra Palace in January 2026?**

ANSWER: Luke Littler

Also accept: Littler

Did you know? *Littler thrashed Gian van Veen 7–1 in the final and collected £1 million in prize money.*

Source: wikipedia.org

3 **Scotland beat England 31–20 at Murrayfield in February 2026 to win which famous rugby trophy?**

ANSWER: The Calcutta Cup

Also accept: Calcutta Cup

Did you know? *Huw Jones scored two tries and captain Sione Tuipulotu lifted the trophy at Murrayfield.*

Source: skysports.com

SAMPLE

ROUND 4

Christmas Around the World

Multiple choice A–D

READ ALOUD

Let's see how much you remember. Listen carefully — every question is read twice.

1 **Which husband of Queen Victoria helped make the Christmas tree fashionable in Britain?**

A Prince Albert
B Prince Philip
C King George III
D King Edward VII

ANSWER: A — Prince Albert

Also accept: Albert

Did you know? *In 1848 The Illustrated London News described the royal Christmas trees at Windsor Castle, and the fashion spread.*

Source: wikipedia.org

2 **Who composed the music for the Christmas ballet 'The Nutcracker', first performed in 1892?**

A Tchaikovsky
B Vivaldi
C Mozart
D Beethoven

ANSWER: A — Tchaikovsky

Also accept: Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Did you know? *It premiered in Saint Petersburg; the Sugar Plum Fairy's dance features the twinkling sound of the celesta.*

Source: wikipedia.org

3 **How many Yule Lads visit Icelandic children in the days before Christmas?**

A 9
B 12
C 13
D 7

ANSWER: C — 13

Also accept: Thirteen

Did you know? *They leave small gifts in shoes on windowsills, but naughty children may find a rotten potato instead.*

Source: wikipedia.org

SAMPLE

Tie-breaker

Each team writes down one number. The closest answer wins.

? **In which year was the royal Christmas message first shown on television?**

ANSWER: 1957

Did you know? *Queen Elizabeth II gave that first televised message; it is usually broadcast at 3pm on Christmas Day.*

Source: wikipedia.org

CLOSING WORDS — READ ALOUD

That's it — the last answer has been marked! Thank you all for playing so fairly and laughing so loudly. Congratulations to the winners, and to everyone else: there is always next year. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

SAMPLE

Scoreboard

	Team	1	2	3	4	Total
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						

SAMPLE

Answer sheet

The Red Lion Christmas Quiz: The Big 2026 Quiz · Copy one per team.

Team name: _____

Round 1 · 2026: The World in Review

Points ☐

1 _____ 2 _____

3 _____

Round 2 · 2026: The Sporting Year

Points ☐

1 _____ 2 _____

3 _____

Round 3 · 2026 in the UK

Points ☐

1 _____ 2 _____

3 _____

Round 4 · Christmas Around the World

Points ☐

1 (A) (B) (C) (D) 2 (A) (B) (C) (D) 3 (A) (B) (C) (D)

Tie-breaker

? _____

SAMPLE