

## New Year's Trivia

### Multiple Choice Questions:

1. In what year was the first-known New Year's Day celebration?
  - a. 1545
  - b. 1982
  - c. 2,000 B.C
  - d. 300 B.C.
2. What does Auld Lang Syne translate to in English?
  - a. For old times' sake
  - b. Days gone by
  - c. Times gone past
  - d. Leave the past behind
3. Which type of calendar marks January 1st as New Year's Day?
  - a. Gregorian
  - b. Egyptian
  - c. Ptolemaic
  - d. Chinese
4. What percentage of Americans say a prayer on New Year's Eve?
  - a. 5%
  - b. 61%
  - c. 23%
  - d. 85%
5. Which civilization is thought to have introduced the baby as a symbol for the New Year?
  - a. Greek
  - b. Haraappan
  - c. Mayan
  - d. Roman
6. Eggs given as gifts or eaten on New Year's are a symbol of what?
  - a. Prosperity
  - b. Love
  - c. Productivity
  - d. Luck
7. Which legume is typically consumed for good luck in the U.S. on New Year's?
  - a. Peanuts
  - b. Lima beans
  - c. Black-eyed peas
  - d. Lentils
8. Ring-shaped treats symbolize coming full circle according to which culture?
  - a. Dutch
  - b. Japanese
  - c. South African
  - d. Brazilian

9. The New Year's Eve ball was born out of a 1907 ban on what?
  - a. Alcohol
  - b. Fireworks
  - c. Books
  - d. Child labor
10. Which famous leader established January 1st as the first day of the year?
  - a. Cleopatra
  - b. Julius Caesar
  - c. Augustus
  - d. Saint Peter

**True or False Questions:**

1. Approximately 1 million people in the world watch the Times Square ball drop on TV.
2. In Japan, eating long noodles on New Year's is believed to guarantee you a long life.
3. In Spain people celebrate the new year by eating 12 olives.
4. The most common New Year's resolution in the U.S. is to get healthy.
5. The original Times Square New Year's Eve ball weighed 1 ton.
6. Eating pork on New Year's Day symbolizes progress.
7. Fewer than 10% of Americans fulfill their New Year's resolution.
8. Babylonians made the first New Year's resolutions by promising to pay off debts.
9. Italians ring church bells at midnight to ring in the New Year.
10. New Year's Eve and New Year's Day fall on the same days of the week each year.

**Open-Ended Questions:**

1. What percentage of Americans make New Year's resolutions?
2. In ancient times loud noises at New Year's celebrations were said to ward off what?
3. Not kissing the person next to you at midnight is said to ensure you a year of what?
4. The majority of Americans only keep their New Year's Resolution for how many weeks?
5. In some Latin American cultures wearing this color underwear on New Year's is said to lead to peace and harmony in your life.
6. Most New Year's traditions are followed because they promise to bring what?
7. Instead of a ball drop, in 1942 and 1943, the Times Square Celebration featured what act?
8. The Times Square ball features a new this every year.
9. What famed poet is credited with transcribing and rewriting the song Auld Lang Syne?
10. What percentage of Americans admit to falling asleep before midnight on New Year's Eve?

## New Year's Trivia Answers

### Multiple Choice Answers:

1. C. The earliest known celebration took place in Mesopotamia according to [CNN](#).
2. A. According to [Scotland.org](#), the song's lyrics express looking back over the events from a year.
3. A. CNN reports the Gregorian calendar starts each year in January, while others are based on astronomical or agricultural events.
4. B. Over half of Americans pray on New Year's Eve and Day according to an [infographic](#) on history.com.
5. A. Ancient Greeks paraded a baby in a basket to honor the God of Fertility on the first day of the new year according to [The Holiday Spot](#).
6. C. Eggs bring new life, making them a symbol of productivity according to CNN.
7. C. Black-eyed peas symbolize financial success because they resemble coins according to [History.com](#).
8. A. In the Netherlands, [The Old Farmer's Almanac](#) says these donut-like treats are called olie bollen.
9. B. For safety reasons, New York City banned the shooting of fireworks off a building in 1907. This led to the creation of a lighted ball reports [timessquarenyc.org](#).
10. B. History.com says Caesar had help from early astronomers and mathematicians in deciding to make January 1st the start of each new year because the old calendar was no longer syncing with the sun.

### True or False Answers:

1. False. About 1 billion people across the world watch on television according to history.com.
2. True. According to [Today](#), the goal is to eat them without breaking them.
3. False. They eat grapes. Originally, says The Holiday Spot, it was thought to help ensure a good grape harvest.
4. True. Losing weight, exercising, and quitting smoking are some of the most popular resolutions for getting healthy according to data analyzed by [NBC News](#).
5. False. The official website of times square reports it was made of wood and metal and weighed 700 lbs.
6. True. Because pigs only root forward, never backward, says history.com, they symbolize progress.
7. True. Only 8% of Americans keep their resolution for the entire year according to the history.com infographic.
8. True. History.com reports they hoped this would get them in the good favor of the gods.
9. False. The ringing is meant as a farewell to the past year according to The Old Farmer's Almanac.
10. False. In America, January 1st is always New Year's Day but it falls on a different day of the week each year according to [timeanddate.com](#).

### Open-Ended Answers:

1. Nearly half of Americans -45%- make some kind of resolution on New Year's Eve reports a [history.com](#) infographic.
2. Demons and evil spirits. The Old Farmer's Almanac says in ancient Thailand guns were fired, while in China they used fireworks.
3. Loneliness. This beloved tradition has unclear roots, says [USA Today](#), but is one of the most popular.
4. Nearly 75% of people keep them for only 2 weeks according to [history.com's](#) infographic.
5. According to [The Underwear Expert](#), white underwear brings peace while red brings love and yellow brings success.
6. Most traditions promise some sort of luck to participants according to [The Holiday Spot](#).
7. A moment of silence for World War II was instituted according to CNN.
8. CNN reports that the ball gets a new design for the crystal pattern that covers it each year.
9. Scottish poet Robert Burns sent the poem to a music museum in 1788 claiming to be the first to write down the ancient song, according to [Scotland.org](#).
10. [History.com's](#) New Year's infographic reports nearly one quarter -22%- admit they just can't say up until midnight.