

Press Kit



Show Description

JEOPARDY!'s 35th anniversary season premiered September 10, 2018. With a weekly audience of 23 million viewers, **JEOPARDY!** is the top-rated quiz show on television, and has won numerous awards and distinctions over the course of its 30+ years on the air, including the 2017 Emmy for Outstanding Game Show. The show holds the Guinness World Records™ title for the most Emmy® Awards won by a TV game show (34 Emmys); it is also the recipient of a 2011 Peabody Award. **JEOPARDY!** is produced by Sony Pictures Television, a Sony Pictures Entertainment Company; it is distributed domestically by CBS Television Distribution and internationally by CBS Television International, both units of CBS Corp.

Created by Merv Griffin in 1964, **JEOPARDY!** is a daily half-hour quiz show with a unique answer-and-question format. Johnny Gilbert serves as announcer, and Harry Friedman is executive producer.

Format

JEOPARDY! provides a test of knowledge across a variety of interesting subjects such as literature, history, science, the arts, and pop culture. Each game consists of three rounds:

- **Single Jeopardy!:** Includes six categories, each with a column of five clues. The "clues" are sorted by varying degrees of difficulty and are matched by increasing dollar values. Three competing contestants are given a "clue" in the form of an *answer* displayed on the show's game board. Players use a hand-held signaling device and must be the first contestant to ring in and successfully give a response in the form of a *question*.
 - One "Daily Double" (a special clue hidden behind another clue) is available during this round. Only the contestant who uncovers the "Daily Double" can respond to the clue, and before that clue is read, the contestant must declare a wager. The minimum wager is \$5.
- **Double Jeopardy!:** Similar to the first round, Double Jeopardy! features new categories and "clues" with doubled dollar amounts for each "clue."
 - Two "Daily Doubles" are available in the Double Jeopardy! round.
- **Final Jeopardy!:** One category is revealed by host Alex Trebek prior to the commercial break. The contestants write down a wager ranging between zero and up to their cash winnings accumulated at that point during the show. Once the final "clue" is revealed, players have 30 seconds to write a response in the traditional form of a question.

Each daily winner returns to the next day's program as a defending champion. With no limit on appearances, returning champions may continue amassing winnings on **JEOPARDY!** as long as they remain victorious.

Special Programming

JEOPARDY! offers an array of special competitions throughout the season. Examples include:

- **Tournament of Champions:** The **JEOPARDY!** champions who have won the most games during the prior season, plus the winner of the Teachers Tournament, return to the stage to compete against one another for a \$250,000 grand prize.
- **Teachers Tournament:** Introduced in 2011, the Teachers Tournament puts a national spotlight on the importance and impact of educators with 15 of the nation's brightest K-12 teachers.
- **College Championship:** Undergraduate students from colleges and universities across the U.S. vie for a grand prize of \$100,000.
- **Teen Tournament:** High schoolers compete in a two-week tournament for a grand prize of \$100,000

For more information, please visit <u>Jeopardy.com</u>.



Facts & Figures Additional Details, Information, and Miscellany

The Show

- **JEOPARDY!** contestants have won more than \$100 million in prize money since 1984.
- The **JEOPARDY!** Clue Crew has traveled to more than 325 cities, each of the 50 United States, all seven continents and approximately 50 countries around the world to record clues for the show.
- The **JEOPARDY!** production staff has nine writers and seven researchers whose jobs are to create and assemble categories and questions for the series.
- **JEOPARDY!** has been granted trademark status as "America's Favorite Quiz Show®" by the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office.
- Nearly 400 game shows have come and gone since JEOPARDY! premiered in syndication in 1984.

Awards & Honors

- **JEOPARDY!** holds the Guinness World Records® record for the most Emmy® Awards won by a TV game show (34 Emmys), including the 2017 Emmy for Outstanding Game Show. Both Alex Trebek and executive producer Harry Friedman have received Lifetime Achievement honors from the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences (NATAS).
- Harry Friedman's work on Wheel of Fortune and **JEOPARDY!** has earned him three Guinness World Records®: He is the Guinness World Record holder for *Most game show episodes by a single producer*, *Most Emmy Award nominations for a game show producer* and *Most Emmy Award wins by a game show producer*.
- In 2011, Wheel of Fortune and JEOPARDY! tied for the Outstanding Game Show Emmy, and Harry Friedman became the first producer ever to win two Emmys in the same category in a tie with himself.
- **JEOPARDY!** is the recipient of a 2011 Peabody Award. The awards panel credited the show for its role in "encouraging, celebrating, and rewarding knowledge."
- **JEOPARDY!** was inducted into the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) Broadcasting Hall of Fame in 2018.

 Many publications, including Newsday and TV Guide have ranked JEOPARDY! #1 in their lists of the Best Game Shows of All Time, and in 2016, Rolling Stone named the show to its list of the 100 Greatest TV Shows of All Time.

Contestants

- The most consecutive games won by a single contestant is 74. Ken Jennings set the record during the 2004-2005 season, resulting in winnings of more than \$2.5 million.
- The highest cumulative amount won by a single **JEOPARDY!** player is \$4,455,102 in cash, won by Brad Rutter of Lancaster, Penn. The total amount is a combination of his original appearances in 2002, the Million Dollar Masters Tournament in 2002, the Ultimate Tournament of Champions in 2005, the **JEOPARDY!** IBM Challenge in February 2011 and the "Battle of the Decades Tournament" in May 2014.
- In 2014, Julia Collins won 20 consecutive games, placing her 2nd on the all-time consecutive win list. During her run, she amassed \$428,100 in prize money.
- In 2010, Roger Craig set the record for most money won in a single day: \$77,000. The previous record was \$75,000, set in 2004 by Ken Jennings.
- In 2012, Colby Burnett became the first player to win the Teachers Tournament and the Tournament of Champions in the same year. It was the first dual tournament win since Tom Cubbage won the Season 5 College Championship and went on to win the subsequent Tournament of Champions.
- More than 1.3 million people have taken the online contestant test since JEOPARDY! began
 offering it in 2006. The online test is offered at various times of the year on the show's website at
 Jeopardy.com.

Celebrities and Philanthropy

- Prominent personalities who have presented special clues, categories, or greetings for JEOPARDY! include Barack and Michelle Obama, Joe and Jill Biden, Bill and Hillary Clinton, Oprah Winfrey, Dr. Jane Goodall, Katie Couric, Glenn Close, Lin-Manuel Miranda, Neil deGrasse Tyson, Danica Patrick, Misty Copeland, Plácido Domingo, Rita Moreno, Reese Witherspoon, a host of Nobel laureates, and many more.
- Celebrities who have showed off their smarts as JEOPARDY! contestants include Aaron Rodgers,
 Anderson Cooper, Melissa Harris-Perry, Chuck Todd, Jodie Foster, Ashton Kutcher, Nathan Lane,
 Chris Matthews, Harry Connick, Jr., Neil Patrick Harris, Andy Richter, David Duchovny, Jason
 Alexander, Tom Bergeron, Larry King, Captain Mark Kelly, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Tom Clancy,
 Kirsten Dunst, Naomi Judd, Kelsey Grammer, Debra Messing, Stephen King, and Carol Burnett.
- Since the celebrity tournaments debuted in 1992, more than \$9 million has been donated to 200+ stars' charities.



Top Winners

Through Season 34

These numbers reflect winnings from regular, non-tournament games.

<u>Top 25 – Number of Wins</u>

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Rank	Name		Season	Amount	Wins
1.	Ken	Jennings	21	\$2,520,700	74
2.	Julia	Collins	30	\$428,100	20
3.	Dave	Madden	22	\$430,400	19
4.	Matt	Jackson	32	\$411,612	13
5.	Austin	Rogers	34	\$411,000	12
5.	Seth	Wilson	33	\$265,002	12
6.	Arthur	Chu	30	\$297,200	11
7.	Jason	Keller	28	\$213,900	9
8.	Dan	Pawson	24	\$170,902	9
9.	Buzzy	Cohen	32	\$164,603	9
10.	Tom	Nissley	27	\$235,405	8
11.	Ben	Ingram	29	\$176,534	8
12.	Tom	Kavanaugh	22	\$142,602	8
13.	Drew	Horwood	29	\$138,100	8
14.	Joon	Pahk	28	\$199,000	7
15.	Tom	Walsh	20	\$184,900	7
16.	Greg	Seroka	31	\$180,401	7
17.	Josh	Hill	34	\$163,721	7
18.	Ryan	Fenster	34	\$156,497	7
19.	Justin	Bernbach	25	\$155,001	7
20.	Keith	Whitener	29	\$147,597	7
21.	Stephanie	Jass	29	\$147,570	7
22.	Tim	Aten	33	\$107,499	7
23.	Roger	Craig	27	\$230,200	6
24.	Larissa	Kelly	24	\$222,597	6
25.	Jared	Hall	30	\$181,001	6

<u>Top 25 – Dollar Amount</u>

Rank	Name		Season	Amount	Wins
1.	Ken	Jennings	21	\$2,520,700	74
2.	Dave	Madden	22	\$430,400	19
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18.	Andrew	Pau	32	\$170,202	6
19.	Buzzy	Cohen	32	\$164,603	9
20.	Josh	Hill	34	\$163,721	7
21.	Ryan	Fenster	34	\$156,497	7
22.	Justin	Bernbach	25	\$155,001	7
23.	Alex	Jacob	31	\$149,802	6
24.	Jason	Zollinger	26	\$148,404	6
25.	Keith	Whitener	29	\$147,597	7
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Alex Trebek Host

Alex Trebek has been the host of **JEOPARDY!** since the syndicated debut of America's Favorite Quiz Show® in 1984. He has become one of television's most enduring and iconic figures, engaging millions of viewers worldwide with his impeccable delivery of "answers and questions."

Trebek has won five Daytime Emmy® awards for Outstanding Game Show Host as well as a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. He holds a Guinness World Records™ record for Most Game Show Episodes Hosted by the Same Presenter; he has hosted nearly 8,000 episodes of **JEOPARDY!** (and counting). In 2013, he was named a member of the *Broadcasting & Cable* Hall of Fame, and in 2018, he and **JEOPARDY!** were inducted into the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) Broadcasting Hall of Fame. Trebek and **JEOPARDY!** received a 2011 Peabody Award for "encouraging, celebrating and rewarding knowledge."

Born in Sudbury, Ontario, Trebek attended the University of Ottawa, where he earned a degree in philosophy. After university, Trebek worked for the CBC, covering national news and special events for radio and television. He made his American television debut in 1973 as the host of NBC's game show "Wizard of Odds," and after several other hosting roles, he became the host of **JEOPARDY!**.

He is one of the few celebrities to have been honored with a coveted star on both the Hollywood Walk of Fame and the Canadian Walk of Fame. In 2017, Alex was named an officer of the Order of Canada, his native country's second-highest civilian honor.

Trebek has maintained strong ties to the University of Ottawa: he has created scholarships, sponsored a Lecture Series, and supported the construction of Alumni Hall, which, in May 2015, was named in his honor. He was conferred an Honorary Doctorate, and he received the Meritas Tabaret Award for Alumni Achievement, the top award bestowed upon University of Ottawa alumni.

He is a long-time supporter of World Vision and has traveled to many third-world countries on behalf of that organization.

Trebek lives in Los Angeles with his wife, Jean. They have two adult children: Emily, a real estate developer in Los Angeles, and Matthew, the owner of OSO, a Mexican restaurant, and Lucille's, a restaurant/bar, both in Harlem, New York.



Harry Friedman Executive Producer

Harry Friedman is television's most prolific game show producer of all time. In his current position as Executive Producer of the two most lasting and successful syndicated programs ever, **Wheel of Fortune** and **JEOPARDY!**, he has produced more than 9,000 episodes of the iconic shows to date. His decadesspanning career is marked by his unique ability to honor the traditions of the past while keeping an eye towards the future, tweaking both programs just enough to keep them current and on the cutting edge. Under his stewardship, **Wheel of Fortune** and **JEOPARDY!** have transcended the game show category and are among the most buzzworthy programs of any type on television today.

Friedman is an Emmy® Award winner, a Peabody Award winner, and a three-time Guinness World Record® holder; he also has received the Lifetime Achievement Award from The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences and has been inducted into the NAB Broadcasting Hall of Fame.

At the helm of **Wheel of Fortune** and **JEOPARDY!** he has earned three Guinness World Records: he holds the records for most Emmy® Award nominations for a game show producer with 47 and most Emmy® Award wins by a game show producer with 14. He was also recently recognized by Guinness World Records for having produced more game show episodes than any other individual: 12,075 episodes and counting. In 2011, both shows tied for the Outstanding Game Show Emmy® Award, and Friedman became the first producer ever to win two Emmys in the same category in a tie with himself.

In 2007, Friedman was honored by the National Association of Television Program Executives with the prestigious Brandon Tartikoff Legacy Award. Later that year, he was inducted into the *Broadcasting & Cable* Hall of Fame.

A 2012 *Daily Variety* Daytime TV Impact Honoree, Friedman is known for staying ahead of the curve by creating innovative game elements and incorporating the latest technology into both shows. In September 2006, **Wheel of Fortune** and **JEOPARDY!** made television history when they became the first syndicated programs to broadcast in High Definition. Friedman also shepherded the development of **Wheel of Fortune** and **JEOPARDY!** mobile games, as well as versions for Facebook, Nintendo Wii, PlayStation, and Amazon Echo.

A member of the Writers Guild of America-West and the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, Friedman lives in Los Angeles with his wife, Judy. Together, they are champions of philanthropy. The pair supports Omaha's Children's Hospital and Medical Center, the National Disaster Search Dog Foundation, and multiple scholarship funds for deserving college students. Friedman is also a co-founder and board member of the Marlene F. Landy Cancer Foundation, which provides support to cancer patients while undergoing treatment. To date, more than 400 families have received assistance.

Additionally, the Friedmans have established The Harry and Judy Friedman Family Foundation, a private foundation supporting programs that aim to assist children by reducing hunger and increasing educational opportunities. The foundation also supports veterans of the U.S. Armed Services and programs dedicated to the rescue and humane treatment of animals.

Career

Long before the concept of student internships was created, Friedman, an Omaha native, began hanging around the city's television stations, learning by watching and doing whatever management permitted.

In 1971, Friedman arrived in Los Angeles and, without contacts, gave himself six months to find a job. With less than 24 hours remaining on his self-imposed deadline, he landed a part-time question-writer spot on "The Hollywood Squares," marking the beginning of his long, valued relationship with Heatter-Quigley Productions. Over the following 11 years, Friedman wrote and produced thousands of episodes of the popular series and was also actively involved in the development of several other game shows. He first joined **Wheel of Fortune** as producer in 1995, adding producer duties for **JEOPARDY!** in 1997. In 1999, he was elevated to executive producer for both series.

Friedman's other writing and producing credits range from network primetime specials, such as "American Yearbook" for CBS, to documentaries and home video. He also has worked with such companies as FOX, Dick Clark Productions, Stephen J. Cannell Productions, Buena Vista Television/ABC, Orion Television, The Playboy Channel, Laurel Entertainment, Vin Di Bona Productions, A&E Network, Krofft Productions, Rosner Television and Four Star Productions.

JEOPARDY!

Under Friedman's direction, **JEOPARDY!**, America's Favorite Quiz Show[®], has become the most honored syndicated game show in television history. **JEOPARDY!** has won a total of 34 Emmy Awards, including the 2017 Emmy for Outstanding Game Show. In 2011, Friedman guided **JEOPARDY!** to win its first-ever Peabody Award. The awards panel credited the show for its role in "encouraging, celebrating and rewarding knowledge."

Friedman has continued to broaden the show's scope with an expanded list of challenging categories and clues that reflect popular culture and a variety of special tournaments. In 2003, he lifted **JEOPARDY!**'s five-day limit rule for contestants, allowing returning champions to continue amassing winnings as long as they remain victorious. This rule change led the way for the memorable 74-consecutive-day run of Utah software engineer Ken Jennings, during which he won a record \$2.5 million. Series viewership increased an impressive 30 percent during the streak, at times outperforming primetime programs while making it one of the most talked-about shows in the country.

In 2011, Friedman oversaw "JEOPARDY! The IBM Challenge," a historic exhibition match that pitted two of the show's most successful and celebrated contestants – Jennings and Brad Rutter – against an IBM computer named Watson. Thanks to this unique partnership, JEOPARDY! served as a vital testing ground for the next generation of artificial intelligence. The three-day exhibition scored the series' highest ratings in five years, surging 30 percent from the previous year, making Watson a pop culture icon and a part of the American lexicon. The advanced technology that IBM developed to create Watson is now being used at many leading cancer research institutes.

Friedman's ideas have reached far beyond the famous Stage 10 at Sony Studios where **JEOPARDY!** is taped. He was instrumental in the creation of the Clue Crew, a team of roving correspondents who travel the world delivering visual clues for the millions of viewers back home. Additionally, Friedman plays a very active role in **JEOPARDY!**'s digital and social initiatives. Friedman was also the driving force behind streaming network Crackle's weekly quiz show "Sports Jeopardy!", which launched in 2014 and for which he served as executive producer.

Wheel of Fortune

At Wheel of Fortune, Friedman has kept the show fresh and exciting while staying true to the original concept Americans have come to love. Some new elements Friedman has implemented through the years include: the "Express Wedge," "1/2 Car Tag," "Free Play," "Toss-Up" puzzles, brand integration opportunities, the "Mystery Round," the "Wild Card" and the "Million Dollar Bonus Wedge." He also oversaw the introduction of a new, highly sophisticated set, which incorporates state-of-the-art lighting, as well as a modernized puzzleboard with LCD screens giving Vanna White the ability to make letters appear with only a touch of her hand.

Friedman doesn't forget the viewers at home. He is responsible for giving fans more ways to play, interact with the show and win. Friedman oversaw the development and launch of games for various mobile devices and game consoles. Also, he has implemented extensions of **Wheel of Fortune** on social media. Twitter followers can participate in a daily "Twitter Toss-Up," where the **Wheel of Fortune** Twitter account posts two partially solved puzzles per day, and the Twitter community competes to see who will solve the puzzles first. Facebook fans are invited to participate in various Facebook Live events where they can vote on Vanna's dresses, compete against one another to guess toss-up puzzles or even test their skills against former contestants. Fans that want to peek behind-the-scenes at **Wheel of Fortune** should follow the show on Instagram, where they can find the best selection of photos and candid moments from the set.

WheelofFortune.com is accessible via mobile and desktop giving viewers a destination to engage with the show. The site allows viewers to play the "Toss-Up Challenge" and **Wheel of Fortune** Bingo, enter to win luxury vacations or prizes from show partners, learn more about Vanna White, and join the Wheel Watchers Club.

The Wheel Watchers Club, the first-ever, long-term, online viewer engagement program in television history, and its extension, the SPIN ID, were both developed by Friedman. To date, more than 12 million people have signed up.

Additionally, Friedman conceptualized the *Wheelmobile*, a mobile tour conducting contestant search events across the country providing fans the chance to audition for the show.



Jimmy McGuire Clue Crew

Jimmy McGuire is proud to be an original member of the **JEOPARDY!** Clue Crew, and Season 35 marks his 18th season with the show. His natural enthusiasm and innate curiosity are evident when he's on camera, delivering clues from some of the world's most fascinating destinations.

Jimmy is a Pittsburgh native, who, prior to joining the Clue Crew, worked as a segment producer and reporter for a local television newsmagazine after graduating from Ohio University. He is a huge football fan, so one can imagine his excitement when he got the chance to throw passes with his favorite team—the Steelers—for a **JEOPARDY!** category, an experience he counts among the highlights of his time with the show.

The Clue Crew has shot clues in more than 325 cities worldwide, 50 states, 46 countries and on all seven continents. Jimmy counts Rome, Tokyo, Dublin, Paris, Copenhagen, Stockholm and Rio de Janeiro among his favorite international locations. In April 2017, he had the "trip of a lifetime" circumnavigating the Baltic Sea aboard the National Geographic Orion with Lindblad Expeditions, a 14-day adventure of 1,700 nautical miles that took him to eight countries to record clues for Season 34. Later that year, he accompanied Alex Trebek on a trip to the Galápagos Islands, another journey that Jimmy counts among his most memorable experiences.

In the U.S., his travel has spanned the country from Hawaii to Martha's Vineyard, and everywhere in between. One of his favorite moments from recent seasons was recoding clues at Daytona International Speedway the week before the famous Daytona 500. With that addition, he has now recorded clues at some of the most famous racetracks in the world, including the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, site of the Indy 500, and Churchill Downs, home of the Kentucky Derby.

When not filming clues for **JEOPARDY!**, Jimmy enjoys life with his wife, Kim, and "bonus" daughter, Madison, as well as playing golf, CrossFit exercise, and taking drum lessons.

To learn more about Jimmy, please visit https://www.jeopardy.com/about/clue-crew/jimmy-mcguire, and follow the Clue Crew on JEOPARDY!'s Instagram.



Kelly Miyahara Clue Crew

Kelly Miyahara is celebrating her 14th season with **JEOPARDY!**, and says that being a member of the Clue Crew is her dream job.

Kelly has traveled the world with Alex Trebek and had the honor of participating in his two most recent USO tours to Japan and Europe. Growing up, her mom's favorite TV show was **JEOPARDY!**, but she never dreamed that one day she'd join Alex to be a part of it.

A "regular day's work" for Kelly might involve carefully climbing onto the hood of a South African safari vehicle to film with a pride of lions, speaking from behind the United Nations General Assembly podium, or "flying a hull" with America's Cup Champions Team Oracle USA, and she finds all of it exhilarating.

After graduating from the School of Business at the University of Washington, Kelly sought adventure overseas. She's backpacked on a budget, worked as an English teacher, a French waitress, and an au pair, while discovering her love for world culture, language and travel.

Aside from **JEOPARDY!**, Kelly is an IRONMAN triathlete who loves sweating out a new physical challenge as much as she enjoys beach bumming somewhere tropical. Kelly is a passionate advocate for charitable causes, a family girl who loves spending time with loved ones and considers "food" one of her favorite hobbies.

Kelly lives in Los Angeles with her husband, Nestor, and their young son, Theo.

To learn more about Kelly, please visit https://www.jeopardy.com/about/clue-crew/kelly-miyahara, and follow the Clue Crew on JEOPARDY!'s Instagram.



Sarah Whitcomb Foss Clue Crew

Sarah Whitcomb Foss began exploring exciting clue locations in 2001 as an original member of the **JEOPARDY!** Clue Crew. Since then, her **JEOPARDY!** travels have taken her to 35 countries and all seven continents.

As a former news anchor and reporter, Sarah is always eager to put her journalism skills to use, seeking out intriguing locations for the Clue Crew to visit. She has proven over the years that she is willing to journey to the ends of the earth for her job: Sarah has flown over Hawaii's erupting Kilauea volcano, been catapulted off a Navy aircraft carrier in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, gone scuba diving with sharks, ridden aboard the famous Orient Express, hiked through ancient Moai statues on Easter Island and has snowboarded, skydived and parasailed—all in the name of the Clue Crew.

Two of her favorite trips with the Clue Crew were to the Arctic and Antarctica, where she recorded clues about global warming and its impact on wildlife in the polar regions. Determined not to miss out on a once-in-a-lifetime experience, Sarah decided to jump (quickly) into the water at both locations, making her one of a small group of people to have done polar plunges at both the North and South Poles.

Sarah loves hearing from fans about which clues have been their favorite and loves finding out that a clue from a specific destination made someone decide to travel there.

When she's not busy exploring the globe for **JEOPARDY!**, Sarah enjoys traveling with her family. Her daughter, Taylor, who just turned five, has flown on more than 100 different airplanes, and her new baby daughter, Reagan, is already starting to tag along. Sarah and her husband, Chris, also love cheering on their college alma mater, the University of Southern California.

To learn more about Sarah, please visit https://www.jeopardy.com/about/clue-crew/sarah-whitcomb-foss, and follow the Clue Crew on JEOPARDY!'s Instagram.