

Purim True or False

Test your knowledge about the zaniest holiday of the Jewish year.
You can print copies of the quiz [with](#) or [without the answers](#) included.

1. The story of Purim is written as a document called the “Scroll of Esther.”

Answer: True. The Scroll of Esther tells the story of Purim and is read on Purim.

2. The Scroll of Esther was written down by Moses.

Answer: False. Some accounts say Esther and other members of her kingdom wrote the Purim story themselves. Other historical data points to the idea that the scroll was written at a later date. Its origins are not completely known.



3. Esther married King Ahasuerus of Persia after his first wife was banished for disobedience.

Answer: False. King Ahasuerus’ first wife was executed for disobeying him.

4. Esther won an ancient version of a beauty contest to become queen.

Answer: True. Much like Cinderella, all the single women of the kingdom were summoned so the king could choose a new wife.

5. Esther converted to Judaism when she married King Ahasuerus.

Answer: False. Esther was born Jewish but initially hid her origins from King Ahasuerus.

6. Giving money or other helpful gifts to at least two people in need is a Purim tradition.

Answer: True. You can give to individual people directly or to charitable organizations.

7. Usually only adults attend Purim services.

Answer: False. Kids love Purim! Dressing up, making noise, and eating cookies are all “kid-approved” Purim traditions.

8. Most people dress up in scary costumes for Purim. Witches and ghouls are both popular Purim costumes.

Answer: False. Cheery costumes are not mandatory on Purim, but they are encouraged.

9. Many girls like to dress as Queen Esther for Purim.

Answer: True. Girls enjoy dressing as Esther and other female characters from the Purim story.

10. Haman, the villain of the Purim story, issued a decree that all Jews living in the Persian kingdom be killed.

Answer: True. Haman sought revenge against the Jewish people when their leader Mordecai made it clear he would not take Haman’s orders.

11. King Ahasuerus tried to talk Haman out of his decree to kill all the Jews in the Persian empire.

Answer: False. King Ahasuerus said the decree was fine with him and Haman could do what he liked.

12. *Purim* means “lots” in ancient Persian.

Answer: True. It refers to the casting of lots. Haman cast lots to decide what day he would order all Persian Jews be killed.

13. Drawing straws is an example of casting lots.

Answer: True. Casting lots is carried out using a physical item or items to decide something. A coin toss is also an example of casting lots.

14. During Purim services, when the name Mordecai is mentioned, people make noise, either verbally or with noisemakers.

Answer: False. Blowing horns, graggers, and booing is reserved for when Haman’s name is said aloud.

15. It is a Purim tradition to send a package with 12 types of food in it to a friend or relative.

Answer: False. Only two different foods are required to make a Purim package.

16. *Graggers* are also known as ratchets.

Answer: True. *Graggers* and *ratchets* are two words for the same type of noisemaker that is commonly used on Purim.

17. Drinking alcohol is prohibited on Purim.

Answer: False. Purim parties are very festive and usually include wine.

18. *Hamantaschen* are cookies shaped liked hexagons.

Answer: False. Hamantaschen are triangular to represent the triangular hat worn by Haman.

19. A traditional Purim sweet is called *ozney Haman*, but it is rarely made anymore.

Answer: True. Ozney Haman is Hebrew for “Haman’s ears.”

20. Traditionally Hamantaschen are filled with dried apricots.

Answer: False. Today Hamantaschen are filled with a variety of ingredients including fruits and jams, but originally they were filled with poppy seeds. Queen Esther ate them because they were kosher, unlike much of the food served in the palace.

21. The story of Esther took place in Persia, which is present-day Israel.

Answer: False. The story of Esther took place in what is now Iran.

22. All Jewish people take the day off of work and school for Purim.

Answer: False. There are no work or school restrictions associated with Purim.

23. Purim is the most boisterous and lively of the Jewish holidays.

Answer: True. Purim is known as a time to take a “reality break.” Costumes, food, wine, and shouting at times are all seen as ways to depart from everyday reality and immerse oneself in the holiday of Purim.

24. Esther was Mordecai’s daughter.

Answer: False. Esther was Mordecai’s cousin, although he raised her after her parents died.

25. Mordecai encouraged Esther to keep her Jewish origins a secret from King Ahasuerus.

Answer: True. Mordecai thought that Esther would be in danger if she revealed she was Jewish. She also might gain some influence over the king that could help the Jewish people at some time.

26. King Ahasuerus disliked Mordecai much like Haman did.

Answer: False. Mordecai once foiled would-be assassins attempting to kill King Ahasuerus. When the king found this out, he admired Mordecai and was in his debt.

Trick Question:

Becoming intoxicated on Purim is mandatory for adults.

Answer: Hard to say. It is written in the Purim scroll that people should drink enough alcohol so they wouldn’t be able to see straight enough to tell Haman and Mordecai apart. Some Jewish scholars say this should not be taken literally and that getting too drunk could cause you to abandon other Purim obligations.



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(Questions Only)

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