

Weekly Word Game 12/14/25

Happy Hanukkah!

Estimated play time: Approximately 15 minutes
Number of players: Unlimited
Supplies needed: Scoring board/pad; noisemakers
Suitable for visually impaired players.

Overview:

Many Yiddish words and phrases have found their way into everyday English. To celebrate Hanukkah, let's see how much Yiddish you know. (*Note: We posted this game last year, but decided to bring it back for Hanukkah this year – only slightly updated – because it's fun!*)

Note to the game host: This quiz can be challenging for some players. It might help if you give them the first letter of the answer as a hint.

Instructions:

1. This game can be played by individuals or in teams.
2. Read the first definition. Discussion is permitted among teammates. Prior to the start of the game, a method to signal when a team is ready to answer must be determined. Ringing bells and New Year's blowers are just two inexpensive noisemakers. Raised hands work, but the host must be vigilant to watch for whose hand went up first. The host always has the final say in any disputes.
3. After a player/team is recognized as the first to signal, they may give an answer. If the first answer is incorrect, the other teams may "buzz" in and answer.
4. Scoring: Give 10 points for each correct answer.

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QUESTIONS

1. A minor or temporary malfunction, usually connected to equipment or technology.
2. A clumsy person.
3. To snack.
4. Guts; daring; audacity – as in, “They crashed the White House party! Wow, they’ve got _____!”
5. To converse informally; make small talk; chat.
6. A sweet cheese-filled crepe.
7. A nose – especially a large one. (This was also Jimmy Durante’s nickname.)
8. To spread, such as cream cheese on a bagel.
9. Conforming to Jewish dietary laws; or, as it is now more widely used, appropriate or legitimate.
10. Smoked salmon – goes great with a bagel and a schmear.
11. To complain habitually; to gripe. As a noun, it’s a person who is always complaining.
12. A talkative woman; a gossip.
13. A slightly vulgar word for worthless merchandise – i.e., crap.
14. It means nothing – emphatically nothing – as in, “I got _____ for Hanukkah this year!”
15. To carry or drag around an object; or, to make a tedious journey.
16. Rear end; butt.
17. Crazy; nuts; nonsense.
18. To pester; nag; whine. As a noun, it’s a pest or a whiner.
19. A good guy; a decent human being.
20. A rag.

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ANSWERS

1. Glitch
2. Klutz
3. Nosh
4. Chutzpah
5. Schmooze
6. Blintz
7. Schnozz
8. Schmeer
9. Kosher
10. Lox
11. Kvetch
12. Yenta
13. Dreck/Schlock
14. Bupkis
15. Shlep
16. Tush (tushy or tuchus)
17. Meshuga
18. Noodge
19. Mensch
20. Schmattah