

Jazz Instruments Trivia: Questions, Answers, and Facts Printable Trivia Pack

Jazz Instruments trivia explores the horns, rhythm sections, and keyboard sounds that helped define one of the world's most influential musical traditions. From early New Orleans ensembles to modern jazz groups, instruments such as the trumpet, saxophone, piano, double bass, and drums have played distinct roles in shaping the genre's style and evolution.

HARD JAZZ INSTRUMENTS TRIVIA

1. Adolphe Sax secured the patent for the saxophone family in what year?

Answer: 1846

2. Despite the use of plastic in many modern models, the clarinet belongs to which instrument family?

Answer: The woodwind family

3. On a trombone, what is the name of the position with the slide fully retracted?

Answer: First position

4. What sits beneath vibraphone bars to help shape the instrument's sound?

Answer: Resonator tubes

5. The Hammond B-3 produces sound with what mechanism instead of strings?

Answer: Tonewheels

6. During most of his Basie years, Freddie Green primarily played what type of guitar?

Answer: An acoustic archtop guitar

7. True or false: The standard modern flute is held vertically in normal playing position.?

Answer: False

8. A B-flat trumpet sounds at what interval relative to written pitch?

Answer: A whole step lower than written

9. Most jazz alto saxophones are what kind of transposing instrument?

Answer: A transposing instrument in E-flat

10. Most jazz tenor saxophones transpose in which key?

Answer: B-flat

11. Most standard jazz notation is read on what kind of staff?

Answer: A five-line staff

12. On a standard grand piano, which pedal is the sustain pedal?

Answer: The rightmost pedal

13. Kenny Clarke is credited here with moving jazz drummers' timekeeping focus from the bass drum to what part of the kit?

Answer: The ride cymbal

14. Which drum-set voice did Gene Krupa help popularize as a featured sound in swing?

Answer: The tom-tom

FUNNY JAZZ INSTRUMENTS TRIVIA

1. If the saxophone had shown up at a 1700s wig party, people would have called time travel. It was actually invented in what decade?

Answer: The 1840s

2. Before the trumpet got its modern setup, it evolved from what older kind of instrument family member that basically skipped the valve memo?

Answer: Valveless brass instruments

3. The modern drum set is basically a musical group project. Its parts originally came from where?

Answer: Different cultures

4. In early New Orleans jazz, which instrument was commonly strumming along before the guitar became the cooler roommate in many bands?

Answer: Banjo

5. Early jazz bands often picked which brass instrument over the trumpet, as if saying, 'No offense, trumpet, but today weâ re feeling different'?

Answer: Cornet

6. Louis Armstrong recorded "West End Blues" in what year?

Answer: 1928

7. Which year gets the bragging rights for the first widely recognized jazz recording by the Original Dixieland Jass Band?

Answer: 1917

8. Coleman Hawkins gave saxophone history a giant nudge with "Body and Soul" in what year?

Answer: 1939

9. Jimmy Smith put "Back at the Chicken Shack" on record in what year, proving chickens apparently had excellent booking agents?

Answer: 1960

10. Who co-composed the Afro-Cuban jazz standard "Manteca"?

Answer: Dizzy Gillespie

11. Which composer is behind "Mood Indigo"â a title so cool it practically arrives wearing a tuxedo?

Answer: Duke Ellington

12. "When the Saints Go Marching In" is strongly linked with which jazz city?

Answer: New Orleans

13. Van Gelder Studio, famous in jazz recording history, is in which state?

Answer: New Jersey

FUN JAZZ INSTRUMENTS TRIVIA

1. Which saxophone is the one that usually shows up looking straight instead of curved?

Answer: The soprano saxophone is commonly straight rather than curved.

2. How many valves does a typical trumpet have?

Answer: A trumpet usually has three valves.

3. True or false: A standard trombone normally comes with no valves.?

Answer: True

4. If a vibraphone and a xylophone had a bar swap contest, what would the vibraphone be bringing to the stage?

Answer: Metal bars.

5. What built-in trick gives many jazz vibraphones their shimmering vibrato effect?

Answer: A motor-driven vibrato effect in the resonators.

6. The Hammond B-3 asks a player to multitask. What is its usual playing setup?

Answer: It is played with two manuals and a pedalboard.

7. In many jazz grooves, which cymbal is the timekeeper doing the steady pinging work?

Answer: The ride cymbal often keeps time in jazz.

8. What do drummers reach for when they want a softer, swishing jazz texture instead of full stick attack?

Answer: Brushes.

9. How many keys are on a standard piano?

Answer: 88 keys.

10. How many strings does a double bass usually carry?

Answer: Four strings.

11. From lowest to highest, which tuning belongs to the standard guitar?

Answer: E-A-D-G-B-E.

12. On a standard saxophone mouthpiece, what little helper clamps the reed in place?

Answer: A ligature.

13. Which mute would a trumpet player likely choose to get a softer sound without going fully silent?

Answer: A cup mute.

JAZZ INSTRUMENTS FAMILY TRIVIA

1. Which instrument is Louis Armstrong most closely associated with?

Answer: Trumpet

2. True or false: Louis Armstrong is best known for playing the trumpet.?

Answer: True

3. Charlie Parker played which kind of saxophone?

Answer: Alto saxophone

4. Wes Montgomery is known in jazz for playing what instrument?

Answer: Guitar

5. Which instrument would you connect with Wes Montgomery in a jazz lineup?

Answer: Guitar

6. Charlie Christian was an early jazz player on which instrument?

Answer: Electric guitar

7. Fats Waller was known for playing which two keyboard instruments in jazz?

Answer: Piano and organ

8. Herbie Mann was especially known for jazz on which instrument?

Answer: Flute

9. Which instrument would Herbie Mann likely bring to a jazz rehearsal?

Answer: Flute

10. What drum is usually part of a standard drum set?

Answer: Snare drum

11. In a typical drum kit, which drum is a regular team member?

Answer: Snare drum

12. A trombone changes pitch using what moving part?

Answer: Slide

EASY JAZZ INSTRUMENTS TRIVIA

1. Who gave the saxophone its name?

Answer: Adolphe Sax gave the saxophone its name.

2. What type of reed does a clarinet use?

Answer: A clarinet uses a single reed.

3. On a saxophone, which part holds the reed?

Answer: The mouthpiece holds the reed.

4. Which saxophone sounds lower: tenor or alto?

Answer: The tenor saxophone sounds lower than the alto saxophone.

5. What device changes the tone color of a brass instrument?

Answer: A mute changes the tone color of a brass instrument.

6. Which hand drum is often heard in Latin jazz?

Answer: The conga is a hand drum often heard in Latin jazz.

7. Which drum kit part can be played with a foot pedal as well as sticks?

Answer: The hi-hat is operated by a foot pedal as well as sticks.

8. In jazz, which two instruments are typically part of the rhythm section?

Answer: Bass and drums are typically part of the rhythm section.

9. A common jazz trio often includes piano, bass, and what else?

Answer: A jazz trio often consists of piano, bass, and drums.

10. Charles Mingus was famous for playing which instrument?

Answer: Charles Mingus played double bass.

11. Count Basie was primarily known as what kind of musician?

Answer: Count Basie was primarily a pianist and bandleader.

12. Thelonious Monk is most famous for playing which instrument?

Answer: Thelonious Monk is one of the most famous jazz pianists.

13. Kai Winding was known for playing what brass instrument?

Answer: Kai Winding was known as a jazz trombonist.

Source: <https://triviagong.com/themes/jazz-instruments>