

Martial Arts Trivia Trivia: Questions, Answers, and Facts
Printable Trivia Pack

Martial Arts Trivia trivia explores combat traditions that developed across Asia and beyond, from ancient training systems to globally recognized sports such as judo, karate, and taekwondo. This page offers a concise, editorial look at easy, funny, and challenging facts that highlight how martial arts have shaped culture, competition, and popular imagination.

HARD MARTIAL ARTS TRIVIA

1. Name the Tokyo institution Jigoro Kano established in 1882 that became central to judo's development.?

Answer: Kodokan

2. In what year did Gichin Funakoshi's Tokyo demonstration introduce karate to mainland Japan?

Answer: 1922

3. Morihei Ueshiba, later associated with aikido, was born in what year?

Answer: 1883

4. Mas Oyama was born in Korea in which year?

Answer: 1923

5. Which martial arts philosophy did Bruce Lee found in 1967?

Answer: Jeet Kune Do

6. Whose student was Bruce Lee, according to the fact that Lee's teacher was based in Hong Kong for much of his teaching career?

Answer: Ip Man

7. Which Guangdong city is closely associated with Ip Man?

Answer: Foshan

8. Donnie Yen was born in which Chinese city?

Answer: Guangzhou

9. Before the octagon became a global fixture, the first UFC event took place in what year?

Answer: 1993

10. Taekwondo became an official Olympic medal sport in what year?

Answer: 2000

11. In submission grappling history, ADCC was first held in which year?

Answer: 1998

12. Which opened first: Lumpinee Boxing Stadium or the year 1956? Name the stadium tied to that opening year.?

Answer: Lumpinee Boxing Stadium

13. Rajadamnern Stadium opened in what year?

Answer: 1945

14. Shotokan derives its name from Gichin Funakoshi's pen name. What was that pen name?

Answer: Shoto

FUNNY MARTIAL ARTS TRIVIA

1. Before karate got its cleaner-sounding later interpretation, what did the word originally mean?

Answer: It originally meant "Chinese hand."

2. Jigoro Kano proved you do not need giant-villain height to change history. About how tall was he?

Answer: About 5 feet 2 inches tall.

3. Which star built a screen style out of martial arts plus perfectly timed slapstick chaos?

Answer: Jackie Chan.

4. What year did 'Drunken Master' help popularize comedy kung fu for many global audiences?

Answer: 1978.

5. Which very real technique sounds like it was named by an action-movie trailer narrator: the what armbar?

Answer: The flying armbar.

6. If someone casually mentions the judo move nicknamed the 'stomach throw,' which throw are they talking about?

Answer: Tomoe nage.

7. In sumo, what gets tossed into the ring before a bout as a purification ritual?

Answer: Salt.

8. What is the proper name for a sumo wrestler's topknot hairstyle?

Answer: Chonmage.

9. Capoeira can bring music to a fight-adjacent circle. What is the single-string musical bow called?

Answer: Berimbau.

10. What is the name of the capoeira practice circle where the action happens?

Answer: Roda.

11. When a karate instructor says this word, the universal translation is basically 'okay, everybody freeze.' What is it?

Answer: Yame.

12. Which judo command means 'begin,' the verbal version of a starting pistol without the

pistol?

Answer: Hajime.

13. In taekwondo, what is the term for the roundhouse kick?

Answer: Dollyo chagi.

FUN MARTIAL ARTS TRIVIA

1. If Muay Thai had a bucket-list arena in Bangkok, which famous stadium would be on it?

Answer: Rajadamnern Stadium

2. Which arena is famously associated with Muay Thai and is one of the sport's best-known stadiums?

Answer: Lumpinee Boxing Stadium

3. What city grew into a major international hub for Brazilian jiu-jitsu competition?

Answer: Abu Dhabi

4. Martial arts fans often say "ADCC" out loud but what does that abbreviation commonly refer to?

Answer: Submission Fighting World Championship

5. Before becoming a major MMA star, which athlete won Olympic bronze in judo in 2008?

Answer: Ronda Rousey

6. Who first became widely known as a mixed martial arts fighter before branching into broader fame?

Answer: Gina Carano

7. Which Swiss kickboxer became especially known for success in K-1?

Answer: Andy Hug

8. In taekwondo, which usually earns more points: a body kick or a head kick?

Answer: Head kicks

9. True or false: In kendo, the protective armor competitors wear is called bogu.?

Answer: True

10. In escrima, what material are the commonly used sticks typically made from?

Answer: Rattan

11. What's the name of the wooden practice sword used in Japanese martial arts?

Answer: Bokken

12. Which traditional Okinawan weapon is basically the long staff in the room?

Answer: Bo

13. Which weapon consists of two sticks connected by a cord or chain?

Answer: Nunchaku

MARTIAL ARTS FAMILY TRIVIA

1. In what year was the original film 'The Karate Kid' released?

Answer: 1984

2. Which series continues the story of 'The Karate Kid' characters?

Answer: Cobra Kai

3. Bruce Lee's final completed film was which martial arts classic?

Answer: Enter the Dragon

4. Who directed 'Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon'?

Answer: Ang Lee

5. Who directed the wuxia film 'Hero'?

Answer: Zhang Yimou

6. Before becoming a movie star, Jackie Chan trained at what academy?

Answer: China Drama Academy

7. True or false: Hong Kong has long been a major production center for martial arts cinema.?

Answer: True

8. Who portrayed Ip Man in the 2008 film 'Ip Man'?

Answer: Donnie Yen

9. Which star led the 2003 action film 'Ong-Bak: Muay Thai Warrior'?

Answer: Tony Jaa

10. In 'Bloodsport,' Jean-Claude Van Damme plays which character?

Answer: Frank Dux

11. Which actress is known for martial arts action films of the 1980s and 1990s?

Answer: Cynthia Rothrock

12. Who starred in 'Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon' and later won wide international acclaim for many film roles?

Answer: Michelle Yeoh

EASY MARTIAL ARTS TRIVIA

1. Who founded judo in 1882?

Answer: Jigoro Kano

2. Which martial arts pioneer is widely called the father of modern karate?

Answer: Gichin Funakoshi

3. Who founded aikido?

Answer: Morihei Ueshiba

4. What is the name for a martial arts training hall?

Answer: dojo

5. In martial arts, what does ukemi refer to?

Answer: The skill of falling safely

6. What is a focused shout used during a technique called?

Answer: kiai

7. Capoeira developed in which country?

Answer: Brazil

8. Muay Thai is the national sport of what country?

Answer: Thailand

9. Bruce Lee was born in which city?

Answer: San Francisco

10. Jean-Claude Van Damme is from which country?

Answer: Belgium

11. Who founded Kyokushin karate?

Answer: Mas Oyama

12. Which Japanese prefecture is strongly associated with the development of karate?

Answer: Okinawa Prefecture

13. What belt is widely recognized as a symbol of advanced rank in martial arts?

Answer: black belt

Source: <https://triviagong.com/trivia/martial-arts-trivia-trivia>