

From the Stacks
By Julie Orf
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US Presidents, World Capitals, famous writers and painters, and pop culture are some of the most common topics on my favorite game show, Jeopardy! Topics about authors, literature, theater, and words are some of my favorite categories. What I love most about Jeopardy is that there is a category for everyone. The chat time with the players is always interesting as well. Learning about their background and their hobbies provides much depth into their knowledge. The two most common occupations of a Jeopardy contestant are teacher and attorney. Many other individuals state “student” as an occupation.

One common reading item of most Jeopardy contestants is an encyclopedia. For many of the older contestants before the internet, reading the encyclopedia, the almanac, and numerous other reference books were excellent sources for their curious minds. Ken Jennings remarked those books were the ones the librarians would not allow him to check out. Matt Amodio said that Wikipedia was one of his favorite reading materials. However, most Jeopardy contestants say that reading is key to their knowledge of facts, information, and trivia.

William MacAdams and Paul Nelson have put together a movie trivia book to stump everyone who thinks they know the art of motion pictures. *701 Toughest Movie Trivia Questions of All Time* is for movie buffs and anyone who just plain loves films. This collection of trivia lets readers sharpen their skills on some of the most challenging nuggets of knowledge from the earliest days of movies through the 1990s.

Sports is another frequent Jeopardy topic! *Got Your Answers* has the definitive insights into the biggest fact-fights still feuding to this day. ESPN personality and New York Times bestselling author Mike Greenberg partners with mega-producer Hembo to help with every sports debate by answering the top 100 questions on every fan’s mind. Sports fandom can bring sports fans together like almost nothing else in today’s world. Nothing is better than a healthy debate about any and every element of sports with friends, family, coworkers, nemeses, or even strangers at your favorite hangout. What is the most coveted trophy in all of sports? Why is Rocky without a doubt the best sports movie of all time? Greeny and Hembo tackle the 100 most-debated questions in the sports-talk world.

The World Almanac and Book of Facts is published annually and is the bestselling reference book of all time. The 2025 edition of *The World Almanac* covers the eventful year of 2024 including the election results from November. This comprehensive, massive book includes sections on world changes and news events, sports and

statistics, pop culture, arts, and entertainment, science and technology, U.S. history and government, world geography, business and economics, and statistics and facts on countless topics, from population and housing costs to education and current affairs. Many serious trivia enthusiasts and Jeopardy! hopefuls read through *The World Almanac* cover-to-cover or in sections throughout the year to build a general knowledge base.

If you are truly interested in being a Jeopardy contestant, study first! Check your eligibility on the Jeopardy website and sign up for an “Anytime Test”. Then, wait! And, wait some more. If you performed well on the test, you will be placed in a contestant pool for two years. An audition is not guaranteed. Create some fun at home, with friends, or with a civic group and respond to the call of trivial fun!