The AhaBulb Party Game

STUFF EVERY ANGLER SHOULD KNOW

How to play (30 seconds)

1. The reader reads a card and its three answers out loud.
2. Everyone says "One, two, three, Goldilocks!" and holds up 1, 2, or 3 fingers.
3. The reader flips the card and reads the answer and the Why.
4. Everyone who was right takes a point.
5. The reader reads the joke with a straight face. Anyone laughs or groans? The reader takes a point. Nobody got it right? The reader takes a point.
6. Pass the deck left. Most points when the points run out wins.

What you need

These cards and the point tokens on the last two pages. No tokens? Use coins, buttons, pebbles, or marshmallows. 3 to 10 players, ages 8 and up.

Expert rule: Bet It

Before the reader flips the card, you may put one of your points on your answer. Right: take your normal point plus one extra. Wrong: your bet goes back to the pile. That's it.

Printing

Print single-sided, on cardstock if you have it. Cut on the dashed lines. Each card is a 3.5 x 5 inch index card. The answer half is upside down on purpose, so the table can't peek.

Cards 1 to 50 of 100. More cards and the free daily online game at sesk.info. Built 2026-10-14.

FISHING

How many times do you wrap the tag end when tying a clinch knot?

- **A** Once or twice
- **B** Five or six times
- **C** Ten to twelve times

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Five or six times

WHY The clinch knot is wrapped several times, not just once or twice, so it grips. Too few wraps can slip, and too many are hard to seat.

STRAIGHT FACE
What is the difference between a fisherman and a lazy student? One baits his hook, the other hates his book.

SESK.INFO #3728

FISHING

How much line do you fold over to start a Palomar knot?

- **A** About 6 inches
- **B** About 1 inch
- **C** About 2 feet

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A About 6 inches

WHY The Palomar starts with a doubled line, which is why it is such a strong knot. You pass that doubled line through the hook eye.

STRAIGHT FACE
Have you seen the new fishing website? No, it's not online yet.

SESK.INFO #3727

FISHING

What is the double uni knot best used for?

- **A** Joining two lines together
- **B** Tying a lure to a swivel
- **C** Keeping a bobber in place

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Joining two lines together

WHY You wrap each line around the other to make two uni knots. Pulling the standing lines apart slides the knots together into one strong joint.

STRAIGHT FACE
What do you call an underwater social network? Fishbook.

SESK.INFO #3730

FISHING

How much tag end should you leave before starting a clinch knot?

- **A** About half an inch
- **B** About 3 feet
- **C** At least 6 inches

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C At least 6 inches

WHY You need enough spare line to make five or six wraps by hand. A stubby tag end is hard to wrap and easy to fumble.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why do fish swim in schools? Because they can't walk!

SESK.INFO #3729

FISHING

What kind of knot is the Rapala knot?

A A line-joining knot

B A bobber stopper knot

C A non-slip loop knot

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

SESK.INFO #3732

STRAIGHT FACE
What do you call a fish with a tie? SoFISHticated.

C A non-slip loop knot

WHY A loop knot leaves a small open loop at the lure instead of cinching tight to the eye. The lure can wiggle more naturally.

FISHING

Tying a double uni knot with braided line, how many wraps per knot?

A Four

B Eight

C Two

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

SESK.INFO #3731

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did Sally go to the lake after her brothers teased her? To fish for compliments.

B Eight

WHY Braided line is slick, so it needs more wraps to hold. The usual four wraps for mono are doubled to eight for braid.

FISHING

What does a bobber stopper knot do?

A Joins two lines together

B Stops the bobber sliding up the line

C Locks the hook onto the eye

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

SESK.INFO #3734

STRAIGHT FACE
How many fishermen does it take to change a light bulb? One, but you should have seen the bulb. It must have been THIS big.

B Stops the bobber sliding up the line

WHY The knot sits on the main line at the depth you want. The bobber slides up until it hits the knot, setting your bait depth.

FISHING

The arbor knot is used to tie line to what?

A The reel's spool

B A hook eye

C A bobber

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

SESK.INFO #3733

STRAIGHT FACE
How much fishing tackle can a man collect before his wife throws him out? I don't know, but I think I'm nearly there.

A The reel's spool

WHY An arbor knot anchors the line to the reel's spool so it can be wound on. It is the first knot when you spool a new reel.

FISHING

What does the barb on a fish hook do?

- **A** Ties the line to the hook
- **B** Measures the hook size
- **C** Keeps the fish from unhooking

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Keeps the fish from unhooking

WHY The barb is a small backward-pointing projection near the point. Once the hook is set, it makes it harder for the fish to slip off.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the fish cross the road? Cause it was hooked!

SESK.INFO #3735

FISHING

Which part of a hook do you tie your line to?

- **A** The eye
- **B** The point
- **C** The gap

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A The eye

WHY The eye is the small loop at the top where line or a lure attaches. Everything else on the hook is about holding the fish.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why are fish cleverer than humans? Ever seen a fish spend a fortune trying to hook a human?

SESK.INFO #3736

FISHING

On the fishing hook size scale, which hook is the smallest?

- **A** Size 1
- **B** Size 32
- **C** Size 19/0

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Size 32

WHY Hook sizes count down from 32 to 1, getting bigger, then the aught sizes (1/0 up to 19/0) keep getting bigger.

STRAIGHT FACE
What do you call a fish that knows addition? An Octoplus.

SESK.INFO #3737

FISHING

Which hook sizes suit deep-sea fishing for big fish like yellowfin tuna?

- **A** Tiny sizes like 28
- **B** Size 1 or 2
- **C** Large aught sizes like 9/0

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Large aught sizes like 9/0

WHY Big, strong fish need big, strong hooks with a wide gap. The aught sizes get larger as the number before the slash rises.

STRAIGHT FACE
What do you call a fish that needs help with its vocals? Autotuna.

SESK.INFO #3738

FISHING

Where does a circle hook usually catch a fish?

- **A** Lip or corner of the mouth
- **B** Deep in the stomach
- **C** In the gills

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Lip or corner of the mouth

WHY A circle hook's point curves inward, so it tends to set in the corner of the mouth as the fish turns. That means fewer gut-hooked fish.

STRAIGHT FACE
How did the fish's tail get stuck in the anchor chain?
It was just a fluke!

SESK.INFO #3739

FISHING

Why are barbless hooks good for catch and release?

- **A** They never hook any fish
- **B** They come out easily with less injury
- **C** They hold fish more tightly

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B They come out easily with less injury

WHY With no barb to catch, the hook slides out faster. A quicker release means the fish spends less time out of the water.

STRAIGHT FACE
What do fish use for money? Sand dollars!

SESK.INFO #3740

FISHING

Which fishing line stretches to absorb shocks?

- **A** Braided line
- **B** Wire leader
- **C** Monofilament

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Monofilament

WHY Mono has some give, which cushions a fish's sudden runs and head shakes. That is part of why it is popular for beginners.

STRAIGHT FACE
Where do fish go to do yoga? The river bend.

SESK.INFO #3741

FISHING

Which fishing line doesn't stretch and lets you feel every nudge?

- **A** Braided line
- **B** Monofilament
- **C** Fluorocarbon

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Braided line

WHY Braid has no stretch, so bites and bottom bumps travel straight to your rod tip. Mono and fluorocarbon have more give.

STRAIGHT FACE
Where do football players go shopping in the offseason? The tackle shop.

SESK.INFO #3742

FISHING

Which line is described as completely invisible underwater and very abrasion resistant?

- **A** Braided line
- **B** Fluorocarbon
- **C** Wire leader

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Fluorocarbon

WHY Fluorocarbon is very hard for fish to see and stands up to scrapes from rocks and teeth. That is why it is often used as a leader.

STRAIGHT FACE
Fluorocarbon is so invisible, I spent an hour looking for it. It's a real vanishing act.

SESK.INFO #3743

FISHING

What is a bobber mainly used to do?

- **A** Drop a lure to the bottom
- **B** Cut weeds off the line
- **C** Hold bait at a desired depth

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Hold bait at a desired depth

WHY A bobber floats on the surface and keeps your baited hook at the depth you set. When it dips or moves, a fish may be biting.

STRAIGHT FACE
What do you call a lazy crayfish? A slobster.

SESK.INFO #3744

FISHING

What is a sinker's main job?

- **A** Take bait down to the fish
- **B** Keep bait on the surface
- **C** Attract fish by noise

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Take bait down to the fish

WHY Sinkers add weight so your bait drops down to where the fish are feeding. A bobber does the opposite job, holding bait up at a set depth.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why are fish boots the warmest ones to wear?
Because they have electric eels!

SESK.INFO #3745

FISHING

Which hook does Take Me Fishing call the most popular for beginners?

- **A** The treble hook
- **B** The J-shaped bait hook
- **C** The 19/0 hook

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B The J-shaped bait hook

WHY The classic J hook is simple and works well with live bait. Other types, like circle and treble hooks, suit particular jobs.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the husband go fishing on Valentine's Day? To catch his wife a bouquet of flounders!

SESK.INFO #3746

FISHING

Which of these is natural bait rather than an artificial lure?

- **A** Crankbait
- **B** A metal spoon
- **C** Leeches

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Leeches

WHY Natural bait is real food, like worms, leeches, minnows, crayfish and crickets. Lures are man-made imitations.

STRAIGHT FACE
Didn't you see the no-fishing sign, son? I'm not fishing, sir. I'm teaching these worms how to swim!

SESK.INFO #3747

FISHING

What do fishing license fees help pay for?

- **A** Fisheries management, habitat and education
- **B** Private fishing club dues
- **C** Repaving highways

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Fisheries management, habitat and education

WHY License money goes to state wildlife agencies. They use it to manage fish populations, protect habitat and teach people how to fish.

STRAIGHT FACE
How do fish go into business? They start on a small scale!

SESK.INFO #3748

FISHING

Which taxes fund the federal Sport Fish Restoration program?

- **A** Grocery sales
- **B** Fishing tackle and motorboat fuel
- **C** Movie tickets

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Fishing tackle and motorboat fuel

WHY Anglers and boaters pay these taxes, and the money goes to state fish and wildlife agencies. It pays for fishery projects, boating access and aquatic education.

STRAIGHT FACE
What music should you listen to while fishing? Something catchy!

SESK.INFO #3749

FISHING

On a state's free fishing day, what still applies?

- **A** Nothing, anything goes
- **B** Only catch and release
- **C** Other fishing rules still apply

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Other fishing rules still apply

WHY Free fishing days just waive the license. Limits, seasons and gear rules remain in force, so check your state agency.

STRAIGHT FACE
What did the fish say when he posted bail? I'm off the hook!

SESK.INFO #3750

FISHING

In Florida, anglers under what age are exempt from fishing licenses?

A Under 12

B Under 16

C Under 18

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Under 16

WHY Florida exempts young people under 16 from recreational freshwater and saltwater licenses. Many other states set different ages.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why don't fish pass their exams? Because they work below C-level.

SESK.INFO #3752

FISHING

In most cases, do you need a state license to fish a private pond?

A Usually no, but follow the owner's rules

B Yes, a federal license

C Yes, a saltwater license

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Usually no, but follow the owner's rules

WHY On private property the state usually does not step in, so no license is needed. Rules vary by state, so check if you are unsure.

STRAIGHT FACE
What is the richest fish in the world? A goldfish.

SESK.INFO #3751

FISHING

In Florida, which fish is measured by fork length rather than total length?

A Cobia

B Red drum

C Snook

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Cobia

WHY Florida measures some fish to the fork of the tail instead of the tip. Cobia, amberjack and king mackerel use fork length.

STRAIGHT FACE
Where are most fish found? Between the head and the tail!

SESK.INFO #3754

FISHING

In Florida, do you need a license if you plan to catch and release?

A No, release means no license

B Only if you keep a fish over 20 inches

C Yes, unless exempt

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Yes, unless exempt

WHY Florida's rule covers trying to catch fish, not just keeping them. Casting a line counts, unless you qualify for an exemption.

STRAIGHT FACE
What do you name a Sith Lord who likes to go fishing? Darth Wader.

SESK.INFO #3753

FISHING

Statewide in Texas, what is the minimum length for a largemouth bass?

- **A** 10 inches
- **B** 14 inches
- **C** 18 inches

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B 14 inches

WHY Texas sets a general minimum length so young bass can grow. Many lakes have different special rules, so check before you keep one.

STRAIGHT FACE
What kind of fish plays the guitar? A bassist.

SESK.INFO #3755

FISHING

In Texas, how big is the possession limit compared with the daily bag limit?

- **A** The same as
- **B** Half as much
- **C** Twice the daily bag limit

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Twice the daily bag limit

WHY The possession limit is how many you may have at any time. In Texas it is generally double the daily bag limit.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why are goldfish orange? Because the water makes them rusty.

SESK.INFO #3756

FISHING

Before handling a fish you plan to release, what should you do?

- **A** Wet your hands first
- **B** Dry your hands on a towel
- **C** Rub sand on your hands

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Wet your hands first

WHY Wet hands are gentler on a fish than dry ones. Handle it as little as possible and keep it close to the water.

STRAIGHT FACE
What do romantic fish sing to each other? Salmon-chanted evening!

SESK.INFO #3757

FISHING

How long should a fish you plan to release stay out of water?

- **A** Up to five minutes
- **B** No longer than you can hold your breath
- **C** As long as you need for photos

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B No longer than you can hold your breath

WHY Fish can't breathe out of water. If you can't do it comfortably, neither should the fish.

STRAIGHT FACE
What kind of fish helps you hear better? A herring aid.

SESK.INFO #3758

FISHING

What does a descender device do for a fish caught from deep water?

- **A** Returns it quickly to depth
- **B** Weighs it
- **C** Removes the hook

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Returns it quickly to depth

WHY Fish pulled up fast can suffer barotrauma, a gas buildup that keeps them from swimming down. A descender sends them back to depth.

STRAIGHT FACE
What was the Tsar of Russia's favorite fish?
Tsardines.

SESK.INFO #3760

FISHING

How should you hold a heavy fish for a photo?

- **A** Hang it by the jaw
- **B** Hold it by the gills
- **C** Support its weight along its body

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Support its weight along its body

WHY A heavy fish can be injured if it hangs from its jaw. Supporting the body spreads the weight and protects its organs.

STRAIGHT FACE
What did the sardine call the submarine? A can of people.

SESK.INFO #3759

FISHING

Wyoming Game and Fish says released trout die much more often above what water temperature?

- **A** 55 degrees F
- **B** 85 degrees F
- **C** 70 degrees F

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C 70 degrees F

WHY Warm water holds less oxygen, and a fight uses a lot of it. Wyoming Game and Fish says to fish mornings and land fish quickly.

STRAIGHT FACE
Where do fish wash? In a river basin!

SESK.INFO #3762

FISHING

To revive a tired fish before release, which way should you face it?

- **A** Away from the current
- **B** Into the current
- **C** Upside down

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Into the current

WHY Moving water pushes oxygen across the gills. Facing the fish into the flow helps it recover before it swims off.

STRAIGHT FACE
How do you make a fish laugh? Tell a whale of a tale.

SESK.INFO #3761

FISHING

In Minnesota, which of these is illegal?

- **A** Draining your livewell
- **B** Transporting caught fish in water
- **C** Cleaning your gear

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Transporting caught fish in water

WHY Water can carry tiny invasive animals and plants. Minnesota requires draining water from containers holding your catch.

STRAIGHT FACE
Two fish are in a tank. One says to the other, 'Can you drive this thing?'

SESK.INFO #3764

FISHING

In Minnesota, where should you put unwanted bait?

- **A** In the trash
- **B** Back in the lake
- **C** Onto the shore

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A In the trash

WHY Bait animals and plants can spread to waters where they don't belong. Releasing bait into Minnesota waters is illegal.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did Batman and Robin quit going fishing together? Because Robin ate all the worms!

SESK.INFO #3763

FISHING

If you catch a known invasive fish, what should you do?

- **A** Never put it back in the water
- **B** Release it far from shore
- **C** Move it to a nearby pond

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Never put it back in the water

WHY Sending an invasive fish back means it can keep breeding and harming native species. Check your state's rules for what to do with it.

STRAIGHT FACE
What do you get if you cross a trout with an apartment? A flatfish.

SESK.INFO #3766

FISHING

Michigan says to dry boats and gear for how long before launching in another water body?

- **A** One hour
- **B** Thirty days
- **C** Five days

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Five days

WHY Hitchhiking plants, mussels and eggs can survive on damp gear. Drying for several days helps stop them.

STRAIGHT FACE
Who cleans the bottom of the ocean? A mer-maid.

SESK.INFO #3765

FISHING

On a largemouth bass, how far does the upper jaw extend?

- **A** Just short of the nostril
- **B** Past the eye
- **C** Only to the middle of the eye

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Past the eye

WHY A big mouth is the clue. On a smallmouth, the jaw only reaches about the middle of the eye.

STRAIGHT FACE
What is a fish's favorite musical instrument? A bass drum.

SESK.INFO #3767

FISHING

Smallmouth bass are more closely linked to what kind of habitat?

- **A** Weedy mud ponds
- **B** Deep ocean reefs
- **C** Rocky habitat and rivers

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Rocky habitat and rivers

WHY Smallmouth favor rocky spots and rivers. Largemouth are more often in weedier water or reservoirs with standing timber.

STRAIGHT FACE
Which fish dresses the best? The swordfish. It always looks sharp!

SESK.INFO #3768

FISHING

What marks a bluegill?

- **A** A dark flap on the gill cover
- **B** A forked tail with spots
- **C** Four whiskers on each side

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A A dark flap on the gill cover

WHY The ear flap is the best clue. Minnesota DNR describes it as a dark blue tab at the rear edge of the gill cover.

STRAIGHT FACE
What do you get when you cross a banker with a fish? A loan shark!

SESK.INFO #3769

FISHING

What tells a pumpkinseed sunfish apart from a bluegill?

- **A** A forked tail
- **B** Orange spot on the ear flap
- **C** A long whisker

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Orange spot on the ear flap

WHY Sunfish look alike and even hybridize. The orange spot on the ear flap tip is a Minnesota DNR clue for pumpkinseed.

STRAIGHT FACE
Where do fish work? At the offfish.

SESK.INFO #3770

FISHING

When do channel catfish mostly feed?

- **A** At noon
- **B** Only in winter
- **C** At night

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C At night

WHY Channel catfish use taste and smell to find food after dark. That is why night fishing can pay off.

STRAIGHT FACE
A man was fishing in the jungle. 'Have you had any bites?' asked another angler. 'Yes, lots, but they were all mosquitoes.'

SESK.INFO #3771

FISHING

What are a catfish's whiskers (barbels) mainly for?

- **A** Tasting to find food
- **B** Steering
- **C** Hearing

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Tasting to find food

WHY Barbels are covered in taste sensors. They help bottom feeders find food in muddy water.

STRAIGHT FACE
What kind of fish chase mice? Catfish.

SESK.INFO #3772

FISHING

Which pattern marks a northern pike?

- **A** Dark bars on a light body
- **B** Light spots on a dark body
- **C** No spots at all

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Light spots on a dark body

WHY A muskie is the reverse: dark spots or bars on a light background. Remember: pike has light spots.

STRAIGHT FACE
What do you call a big fish who makes you an offer you can't refuse? The Codfather!

SESK.INFO #3773

FISHING

When is walleye fishing usually best?

- **A** In bright midday sun
- **B** Only at noon
- **C** In low light

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C In low light

WHY Walleye have a light-gathering layer in their eyes, so they hunt well in dim light. Baitfish move out of cover then too.

STRAIGHT FACE
What fish sounds like a telephone? Herring, herring... herring, herring.

SESK.INFO #3774

FISHING

Wisconsin DNR says largemouth fishing is best when water is what temperature?

- **A** 35 to 45 degrees F
- **B** 55 to 75 degrees F
- **C** 90 to 100 degrees F

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B 55 to 75 degrees F

WHY Largemouth are warm-water fish. In Wisconsin the best fishing is late spring and early fall, when water is in that range.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why do penguins eat fish? Because donuts get soggy before they can catch them.

FISHING

Where do largemouth bass hide in the daytime?

- **A** Under lily pads or in the shade
- **B** On open, sunny sand flats
- **C** In 50 feet of water

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Under lily pads or in the shade

WHY Largemouth ambush prey from cover. Shade, weeds and weed edges that drop into deeper water are the best spots to try.

STRAIGHT FACE
What was the name of Tom Sawyer's fish?
Huckleberry Fin!

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AhaBulb POINT

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