

26 Years, 26 Letters

a letter-based quiz by Matt Jones

As we near the end of 2025, keep in mind that going into '26, there have been 26 years so far starting with a 2 (that is, covering the span of 2000-2025). And there are 26 letters of the English alphabet. So it makes sense to present a pop culture quiz involving one-letter answers, where every question covers one of those years, and every letter of the alphabet is used once as an answer throughout the quiz. See how many you can figure out! (A grid has been provided to help keep track.)

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

'00	'01	'02	'03	'04	'05	'06	'07	'08	'09	'10	'11	'12		
'13	'14	'15	'16	'17	'18	'19	'20	'21	'22	'23	'24	'25		

- What's the last letter of the title of a History Channel game show premiering October 2, **2000** (a letter that figures prominently in the names of the first rounds) that was hosted by Marc Summers, reuniting him with his announcer Harvey from the Nickelodeon game show Double Dare?
- What lime green letter makes up the background of a **2001** movie poster with the tagline "3% Body Fat. 1% Brain Activity."?
- What letter is asked about in a surprise cameo in "Men in Black II" (released July 3, **2002**)? "Wait a minute, that's not what you promised me." "You're breaking up. I can't hear you." "Zed, hello?" "I'll call you back." "I could be Agent ____."
- Released on February 10, **2003**, the free browser-based multiplayer role-playing game Kingdom of Loathing brought us countless adventure quests, all punnily presented along with rudimentary black and white stick figure sketches. Early on in the game, you encounter the Alphabet Giant, who "hurls gigantic letters instead of stones. Unless the letters spell out the word "stones," of course, in which case he hurls both letters and stones." If you beat the giant, you have a 41.3% chance of this item drop: "You acquire an item: original ____". What letter fills in the blank?
- What American magazine publication, an insert of an existing publication (and distinct from the existing one, with its own staff), was launched August **2004**, but since 2010 has launched country-specific editions in Qatar, Japan, China, Spain, Singapore and Australia?
- What middle initial is associated with a character created as a one-shot in 1955 but gained a second life as a company mascot starting in the 1990s (until officially retired July 22, **2005**, with that company later subsumed in a merger a year later)?

- During what season/series was the only episode so far in which panelist fixture Alan Davies did not fully appear in a regular-series episode of "QI" (not counting one-off specials)? In that solitary November 24, **2006** episode he appeared (pre-recorded) for only the first few minutes, as he was actually in Paris attending the UEFA Champions League Final between Barcelona and Arsenal during the recording. With his chair empty for the rest of the episode, his voice could be heard during the "General Ignorance" round.
- What letter can be seen on a red hoodie on a **2007** movie poster with the tagline "the original entourage.", the first in a live-action film series and the first to feature the main characters animated by CGI?
- What is the first letter of the title of the debut single that hit number one on the Billboard Hot 100 on July 5, **2008**, thereby becoming the 1,000th #1 song on the Billboard Hot 100 of the rock era (officially beginning with 1955's "Rock Around the Clock" by Bill Haley & His Comets)?
- On Australian comedy panel quiz show "Talkin' 'Bout Your Generation", for the first few seasons, the three two-person teams were captained each week by (in order) Australian TV presenter Amanda Keller, Australian comedian and "The Weekly" host Charlie Pickering, and Australian comedian/actor Josh Thomas. Their guest teammates for the premiere episode (May 5, **2009**) were (in same order) Australian journalist/TV presenter George Negus, American comedian Arj Barker, and Australian actress Ruby Rose. Team Thomas and Rose were there representing which letter?
- Of the original 20 contestants of Alex Horne's **2010** Edinburgh Festival Fringe show titled "The Task Master" (the one that eventually inspired the UK TV show Taskmaster) there's only one contestant whose first and last names start with the same letter. What is that letter? Despite most contestants going on to appear on the UK version, that one contestant in question is the only one (to date) to instead appear as a contestant on an entire season of a non-UK version of Taskmaster.
- What's the current mononym of the winner of the Isabelle Stevenson Award at the 65th Tony Awards in **2011**?
- Featured on Season 4 (**2012**), what's the only character in the entire series of the Canadian animated TV series Total Drama (the one parodying competitive reality TV shows like Survivor and The Amazing Race) that didn't have a voice actor, since he was labelled "The Strong, Silent Genius"? (Note: This is from the main US broadcast version--the Quebec version uses a different letter for the character name.)
- What's the nickname of the bandleader whose group released the February 28, **2013** single "New Alphabet"/"I'm Your Brave Little Soldier"?
- What letter is central to an Internet meme originating from an on-screen instruction in a **2014** Activision military video game sequel, with that instruction later morphing into a comment popular in streaming websites? The Playstation version of the game instead featured a square instead of the letter.

- What is the single letter title assigned to a **2015** book in a detective series that began years prior--the only book in the incomplete series to ditch the pattern of all the other 4-word titles in the series?
- What's the middle initial of the actor who plays the adult version of a TV character introduced in **2016** as part of a set of three siblings (whose birth and backstory we're introduced to in Season 1), but by Season 5 we find out he was actually born on August 30, one day before the other two (as it was presumed all three were born August 31)?
- What main character appears on the poster of a **2017** A24 movie, wherein that character's actor is visually unrecognizable for the majority of the movie?
- Known for crossover events, the three shows in NBC's Chicago series ran the episodes "Going to War", "When to Let Go" and "Endings" back-to-back-to-back on October 3, **2018**. What's the initial in the name of an actress that appears in all three episodes?
- What is the surname of the fictional pop star in a June 5, **2019** episode of a series (the last of three released that season), one where the pop star (played by a real-life pop star) performs songs that are poppier adaptations of existing songs by Nine Inch Nails?
- In the Bluey episode "Burger Shop" (original Australian air date October **2020**), what letter forms a makeshift mustache?
- What was the final (fifth) letter of the solution to what's officially labelled "Wordle #0" (June 19, **2021**) from the original Wordle website, well before the current owner bought out the site and took over ownership roughly one year later?
- As seen in Australia Post's **2022** series "The Great Aussie Coin Hunt 3: Celebrating Australia from A-Z", what's the only letter that represents a phrase printed on the coin starting with the word "The"?
- The final 12th season of Letterkenny premiered December 25, **2023**, where in the final season cold open the extended cast does one more "Alphabet Aerobics" monologue, following the alphabetically-initialed pattern of similar cold opens used in the premier episodes of Seasons 2 and 3. Which letter is the only segment introduced by a character in a cowboy hat?
- In the poker-themed roguelike deck building game Balatro (officially released February 20, **2024**), the symbol on the round token representing the Boss Blind "The Tooth" strongly resembles what letter?
- In a promotional video, Cookie Monster eats a giant red letter to commemorate a particular **2025** milestone for Sesame Street. What letter is he eating?