

The Today Game

The game...

Using whatever source you can, research events that happened on this day in history. It could be a news story, a sporting event, a showbiz catastrophe or simply just the song that topped the charts 1, 3, or 10 years ago to the day.

Write three questions based on the events you have chosen that you think your listeners will relate to. You'll learn just how easy or difficult you need to make your questions as the days go by.

An excellent source of information for these events is the monthly **X-Trax** publication. If you are a radio professional, the publishers will send a free copy every month to your station. Simply phone them on **020 7923 5000** to register. **X-Trax** is also available to amateur presenters in the UK at a highly competitive rate.

Alternatively, you may find show prep web sites are a useful source for this game.

Suggested set-up...

This can be over several links, depending on how much of your show you are going to dedicate to the game.

Link 1

A run down of some of the more humorous events from this day in history adding comedy liners wherever possible. Here are a couple of examples...

Cheryl James, aka "Salt" of the rap and dance duo "Salt and Pepper" from the late 80s early 90s, she's 35 today... (26 March 2004)

Salt often used to get invited to showbiz parties but hated it when the other guests thought it was hilariously funny to throw her over their shoulders but poor old pepper never even used to get invited... word has it she used to get up people's noses.

On this day in 1860... M.L.Byrn patented the corkscrew... (25 March)

It took them another 120 years to actually build the thing at Alton Towers though.

Follow these with something along the lines of...

"If you think you know your history, we're playing The Today Game in the next ten minutes. Three question based on this day for years gone by..."

Link 2

"How do you fancy winning yourself... <whatever prize you are able to give away> if you answer can answer these three questions correctly, that prize could be landing on your doormat tomorrow morning!"

Ask the questions over a suitable music bed and give out the studio phone number.

Link 3

"You've still got about five minutes left to give me a call with your answers to The Today Game questions..."

Briefly run through the questions again and give out the studio phone number.

"I could be calling you back to let you know you're a winner within the next ten minutes..."

Choose the winner, call them back off-air, prep them for going on-air.

Link 4

Put them on-air and go through the questions with them. Let them answer the questions. Let them know that they're a winner, huge congratulations, prize in the post for them.

Run through some of the names of other callers who had the right answers, closing with something along the lines of "you can try again this time tomorrow when we play The Today Game and I'll be giving away..."

Some sample questions follow...

Sunday 7 March 2004

1. Which communications device was patented today in 1876 by Alexander Graham Bell? **The telephone.**
2. Today back in 1933, Clarence Darrow made changes to 'The Landlord's Game', the most notable change being its name. What do we call the game today? **Monopoly. Still the best selling board game.**
3. Who topped the UK charts one year ago today with 'Beautiful'? **Christina Aguilera**

*Some celebs turn to Yoga to relax. Not **Christina Aguilera**. She has revealed that she went through a phase of smashing plates to release tension. "It was good fun. I recommend it to everybody," she says. She won't be invited to one of our dinner parties...*

Sunday 24 August 2003

1. Who became the first British actress to be seen nude on television on this day in 1975? **Annabel Hunt** (Notice how video recorders started to become popular about this time?)
2. 6 years ago today, back in 1997, Will Smith topped the charts with a hit that was the theme to a film in which he also starred, along with Tommy Lee Jones. What was the name of the film, and song for that matter? **Men In Black**
3. *Steve Guttenburg, born on this day in 1958, appeared in the film 'Three Men & A Baby' along with Ted Danson and one other famous actor. Who was it who made up the trio of men?*
Tom Selleck
(Tom Selleck was also originally offered the role of Indiana Jones before it was offered to Harrison Ford but he had to turn it down because he couldn't get out of his Magnum contract.)

Sunday 28 September 2003

1. They topped the charts with 'Just Like A Pill', one year ago today. Who are they? **Pink**
2. She's 43 years old today. Had a bit of a one hit wonder in the 80s with 'The Power of Love'. Who is she? **Jennifer Rush**
3. One year ago today, Edwina Curry revealed that from 1984 to 1988 she had an affair with a politician, who went on to become Prime Minister. Which Prime Minister was it?

John Major

You can imagine the nights of passion can't you? Edwina Curry and John Major!

I wonder if he used to cook her eggs for breakfast in the morning.