

DECEMBER 2023 NEWS QUIZ

1. Who Was Named Time Magazine's Person of The Year For 2023?

- Taylor Swift.
- Elon Musk.
- King Charles III.

2. What's The Highest-Grossing Tour in History?

- Elton John's Farewell Yellow Brick Road Tour.
- Taylor Swift's Eras Tour.
- The Rolling Stones' No Filter Tour.

3. Who Is the Highest-Paid Athlete In 2023?

- Jon Rahm.
- Cristiano Ronaldo.
- LeBron James.

4. What's "Rizz"?

- Gen Z slang for charm or attractiveness, especially in a romantic context.
- A new fizzy drink flavor introduced by Coca-Cola.
- The sound made by a malfunctioning robot in Spider-Man.

5. Which Country Claimed the Dubious Honor of Becoming the World's Top Opium Producer In 2023, Surpassing Afghanistan?

- Myanmar
- Colombia
- Mexico

6. According to The Testimony of The University of Pennsylvania, Harvard, And MIT Presidents, Does Calling for Jewish Genocide Violate Their Schools' Codes of Conduct?

- Yes.
- No.
- It depends on the context.

7. What Is the EU's AI Act All About?

- A Eurovision song contest exclusively for AI-generated music.
- A comprehensive set of rules to regulate artificial intelligence in the EU.
- An initiative to replace all EU regulators with AI by 2025.

8. What's in The Picture?

- Elon Musk's latest Mars Rover prototype.
- A James Bond movie prop.
- The Cybertruck, Tesla's latest electric pickup truck.

9. What Is Google's Gemini?

- A new Android operating system.
- A multimodal AI model.
- A virtual reality gaming platform.

10. In Her Own Words, Why Did Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo Close Her Twitter/X Account?

- Because she believed it had become a 'gigantic global sewer.'
- To protest the platform's 'ridiculous subscription fees.'
- Due to a 'personal disagreement' with Elon Musk.

11. At What Age Did Influential and Controversial Diplomat Henry Kissinger Die?

- 90 years old.
- 95 years old.
- 100 years old.

12. What Connects TV's "All in The Family" And "The Jeffersons" With the Classic "The Princess Bride"?

- Norman Lear was involved in their production.
- The same actor starred in all three.
- They all featured the same town.

13. What Was Billie Eilish's Gripe with Variety Magazine in Dec. 2023?

- They misquoted her lyrics in an article.
- They focused on her sexuality during a red-carpet interview.
- They incorrectly reported her age.

14. What's Tom Hanks's "Moonwalkers"?

- Hanks's nickname for his grandchildren.
- An immersive documentary experience narrated by Hanks.
- The name of Hanks's latest sci-fi film.

15. Which Movie Won the Most Nominations at the 2024 Golden Globe Awards?

- "Poor Things" - Not So Poor Anymore!
- "Oppenheimer" - An Explosive Success!
- "Barbie" - Dolling Up the Nominations!

16. Which TV Series Broke Records with the Most Nominations at the 2024 Golden Globes?

- "The Crown" - Royal Flush!
- "Stranger Things" - Upside Down Again!
- "Succession" - A Corporate Takeover!

17. If You're Eager to Witness a Legendary Soccer Showdown Between Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo, Which Teams Should You Watch Clash?

- Barcelona vs. Real Madrid
- Manchester United vs. Paris Saint-Germain
- Inter Miami vs. Al Nassr

ANSWERS

1. Who Was Named Time Magazine's Person of The Year For 2023?

- Taylor Swift.

[Taylor Swift was named Time Magazine's Person of the Year for 2023](#), announced on Dec. 6, 2023. This accolade was given in recognition of her significant influence and achievements throughout the year, including [her record-breaking Eras Tour](#) and [re-recording her album "1989."](#) Her selection stands out among a diverse group of past recipients, which include Volodymyr Zelensky (2022), Elon Musk (2021), Joseph R. Biden and Kamala Harris (2020), Greta Thunberg (2019), and others.

2. What's The Highest-Grossing Tour in History?

- Taylor Swift's Eras Tour.

Taylor Swift's Eras Tour rocked the record books by becoming [the first-ever concert tour to gross over \\$1 billion](#), as reported by Pollstar on Dec. 8, 2023. Kicking off on Mar. 17 in Glendale, Arizona, and captivating audiences across 60 dates, Swift sang her way to the top and danced past the competition in merchandise sales, raking in a cool \$200 million. The tour's success didn't stop at the concert venues; it extended to the silver screen, with its film adaptation grossing around \$250 million, [making it one of the highest-grossing concert films ever](#). Swift's 2023 was further illuminated by her reign as [Spotify's most-streamed artist, with over 26.1 billion streams](#). And if that's not enough to 'Shake It Off,' Pollstar forecasts [another billion-dollar encore for the Eras Tour in 2024](#).

3. Who Is the Highest-Paid Athlete In 2023?

- Jon Rahm.

Jon Rahm, the Spanish golf sensation, [became the highest-paid athlete in 2023 following his headline-grabbing move to LIV Golf](#). This seismic shift occurred on Dec. 6, 2023, when [Rahm confirmed his switch from the PGA Tour to Saudi-funded LIV Golf](#). The deal, reportedly worth over \$300 million, catapulted Rahm into an earnings stratosphere few athletes have ever reached. This is especially true at the young age of 29. Rahm's decision was [influenced by the PGA Tour's secret merger talks with the PIF and a sense of betrayal among players](#).

4. What's "Rizz"?

- Gen Z slang for charm or attractiveness, especially in a romantic context.

["Rizz" emerged from the word "charisma"](#) and gained viral popularity in 2023, particularly after actor [Tom Holland's mention of having "limited rizz."](#) Its widespread use on social media platforms like TikTok led to [billions of views of the hashtag "rizz."](#) Recognizing its impact and popularity, [Oxford University Press named "rizz" as the word of the year for 2023.](#)

5. Which Country Claimed the Dubious Honor of Becoming the World's Top Opium Producer In 2023, Surpassing Afghanistan?

- Myanmar

[Myanmar has taken the lead in the global opium production race.](#) It surpassed Afghanistan in 2023, [thanks to a dramatic 95% drop in Afghanistan's opium production](#) following the Taliban's ban on poppy cultivation in 2022. [Myanmar produced a whopping 1,080 metric tons of opium](#), primarily due to economic and political chaos following [the military coup in February 2021.](#) This upheaval turned many Myanmar farmers towards lucrative, albeit illegal, poppy farming.

6. According to The Testimony of The University of Pennsylvania, Harvard, And MIT Presidents, Does Calling for Jewish Genocide Violate Their Schools' Codes of Conduct?

- It depends on the context.

When asked during a Congressional hearing on Dec. 5, 2023, whether calling for the genocide of Jews constituted a violation of their schools' conduct codes, the trio of university presidents - Liz Magill of Penn, Claudine Gay of Harvard, and Sally Kornbluth of MIT - [opted for a lawyerly shimmy rather than a straightforward answer.](#) Magill's response, echoed by her peers, suggested that such a declaration could be considered harassment, but it's a ["context-dependent decision."](#) This nuanced stance sparked a firestorm of controversy, [leading to Magill's resignation on Dec. 9, 2023,](#) amid [rising tensions over antisemitism on college campuses.](#)

7. What Is the EU's AI Act All About?

- A comprehensive set of rules to regulate artificial intelligence in the EU.

[The EU's AI Act](#) is a groundbreaking legislative framework. It's all about setting comprehensive rules to regulate artificial intelligence within the European Union. This historic agreement, reached after what must have felt like an [eternity of 37-hour negotiations,](#) marks the EU's leap

into uncharted territory as the first major world power to enact such laws. The Act focuses on [high-risk AI applications](#), particularly in areas like law enforcement and essential public services, ensuring that our future robot overlords are kept in check. The deal, which was clinched in late 2023, [takes effect in 2025](#).

8. What's in The Picture?

- The Cybertruck, Tesla's latest electric pickup truck.

This futuristic vehicle, which looks like it rolled straight out of a sci-fi movie set, is Tesla's bold foray into the electric pickup truck market. Announced in 2019 with a promised price tag of around \$40,000, [the Cybertruck's production and delivery faced a two-year delay](#). Finally, in 2023, Tesla began delivering this shiny, stainless steel beast [with a starting price of \\$60,990](#). The design was partly inspired by [a car-turned-submarine from the 1977 James Bond movie "The Spy Who Loved Me."](#) Despite its delayed start and higher-than-expected price, the Cybertruck has garnered significant interest, with [over a million reservation holders putting down \\$100 deposits](#).

9. What Is Google's Gemini?

- A multimodal AI model.

Google's Gemini, unveiled on Dec. 6, 2023, [is a multimodal AI model](#). It can understand and process various information forms, including text, audio, and visuals. This AI model [comes in three versions - Nano, Pro, and Ultra](#) - each designed for different levels of complexity and tasks. The Pro version has already been integrated into Google's AI assistant Bard, while the Nano version is set for mobile devices. [The most powerful, Ultra, is expected to debut in 2024](#). Gemini's development was part of [Google's response to OpenAI's ChatGPT success](#).

10. In Her Own Words, Why Did Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo Close Her Twitter/X Account?

- Because she believed it had become a 'gigantic global sewer.'

[Mayor Anne Hidalgo announced on Nov. 27, 2023, that she was quitting X](#), formerly known as Twitter. She criticized the platform for devolving into a source of disinformation, hatred, anti-Semitism, and racism, heightening tensions and conflicts in society. Or, as she put it, [a 'global sewer' destroying democracies](#). Several major advertisers [paused their campaigns on X](#) due to similar concerns about the platform. Hidalgo's stance may be rooted in the [criticism she received for a partially taxpayer-funded trip to Tahiti](#). This trip was intended to view a 2024 Olympics surfing site, but it was also noted that she visited her daughter, who lives there.

11. At What Age Did Influential and Controversial Diplomat Henry Kissinger Die?

- 100 years old.

Henry Kissinger, a towering figure in 20th-century diplomacy, [died at age 100 on Nov. 29, 2023](#). [Born on May 27, 1923, in Fürth, Bavaria, Germany](#), Kissinger's life was a century-spanning saga that saw him flee Nazi persecution as a teenager, serve in the US Army during World War II, and rise to become [one of the most influential - and polarizing - diplomats in American history](#). His tenure as [Secretary of State and National Security Advisor under Presidents Nixon and Ford](#) was marked by significant achievements: The détente policy with the Soviet Union, opening relations with China, and [controversies like the Vietnam War and the Cambodia bombing](#).

12. What Connects TV's "All in The Family" And "The Jeffersons" With the Cult Classic "The Princess Bride"?

- Norman Lear was involved in their production.

The legendary TV producer and writer Norman Lear [was the creative force behind iconic sitcoms like "All in the Family" and "The Jeffersons."](#) His company, Act III Communications, also [produced the beloved film "The Princess Bride."](#) Lear's unique ability to blend humor with social commentary made him a pivotal figure in the entertainment industry, leaving a lasting impact on both television and film. [Lear was also responsible for "Maude," "Good Times," and "Mary Hartman, Mary Hartman."](#) He died at 101 at his Los Angeles home on Dec. 6, 2023.

13. What Was Billie Eilish's Gripe with Variety Magazine in December 2023?

- They focused on her sexuality during a red-carpet interview.

Billie Eilish expressed her frustration with Variety for [focusing on her sexuality during a red-carpet interview](#) at the Variety Hitmakers event on Dec. 2, 2023. Despite her casual response during the interview, where she mentioned she liked both men and women but [did not believe in the concept of "coming out,"](#) she [later criticized the magazine](#) in an Instagram post. Eilish's post highlighted her annoyance at the magazine for "outing" her on the red carpet instead of discussing more significant topics.

14. What's Tom Hanks's "Moonwalkers"?

- An immersive documentary experience narrated by Hanks.

Tom Hanks's "Moonwalkers" is an ["immersive documentary experience" that takes viewers on a journey to the moon](#), narrated by Hanks himself. This project leverages cutting-edge technology to recreate the awe and wonder of the Apollo missions, allowing audiences to feel like they are right there alongside the astronauts. The "experience" [opened on Dec. 6, 2023, in London's Lightroom](#). It combines NASA footage, images from Andy Saunders' "Apollo Remastered," and an original orchestral score.

15. Which Movie Won the Most Nominations at the 2024 Golden Globe Awards?

- "Barbie" - Dolling Up the Nominations!

In a twist that might have surprised even Ken, ["Barbie" led the 2024 Golden Globe nominations with nine](#). This fantastical comedy, [directed by Greta Gerwig](#), proved that life in plastic is indeed fantastic. With much fanfare, the nominations were announced on Dec. 11, 2023, placing "Barbie" at the pinnacle of Hollywood's awards season buzz.

16. Which TV Series Broke Records with The Most Nominations at the 2024 Golden Globes?

- "Succession" - A Corporate Takeover!

[HBO's "Succession" dominated the TV categories at the 2024 Golden Globes, announced on Dec. 11, 2023, scooping up nine nominations](#) and setting a new record for a TV show. This drama about a dysfunctional media family's power struggles proved a critical darling in its final season, surpassing LA Law's eight nominations in 1990.

17. If You're Eager to Witness a Legendary Soccer Showdown Between Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo, Which Teams Should You Watch Clash?

- Inter Miami vs. Al Nassr

Get ready for a thrilling encounter as [Lionel Messi's Inter Miami takes on Cristiano Ronaldo's Al Nassr on Feb. 1, 2024](#), in the Riyadh Season Cup. This isn't just any match; it's a reunion of two soccer legends who have faced off 35 times before, with [Messi leading the personal duel at 16:10 \(with 9 draws\)](#). This match is part of [Inter Miami's first international tour](#), including stops in El Salvador and Hong Kong.