

Jan 5 News Quiz

1. When Does Ukraine Celebrate Christmas?

- December 25th.
- January 7th.
- February 29th.

2. How Did Russia Greet Ukraine in the Early Hours of the New Year 2024?

- With festive fireworks display over Kyiv.
- By launching a record 90 drone attacks.
- Sending a giant "Happy New Year" banner over Donetsk.

3. Under What Specific Conditions Did Pope Francis Say Priests Could Bless LGBTQ Couples?

- Only if the couple promises to attend church every Sunday.
- If the couple agrees to take part in a reality TV show about their lives.
- If the blessings are not part of regular Church rituals or services.

4. Which Film Had the Biggest December 25 Debut Ever?

- "Frozen 2"
- "The Color Purple"
- "Sherlock Holmes"

5. Why Did Apple Pause Sales of Its Series 9 And Ultra 2 Smartwatches in the United States Before Christmas 2023?

- To update the software for a surprise New Year's feature.
- Due to a patent dispute over the blood oxygen feature.
- As part of a marketing strategy to boost post-holiday sales.

6. What Is 'Zombie Deer Disease'?

- Chronic Wasting Disease affecting deer, elk, and moose.
- A fictional disease from a horror movie.
- A rare condition that turns deer into nocturnal creatures.

7. Which New Feature Is Amazon Prime Video Rolling Out in 2024?

- 3D Hologram Celebrity Shows.
- Time Travel Tuesdays with Historical Documentaries.
- Ads.

8. What 2024 Event Connects Mickey and Minnie Mouse with Tigger?

- They were all featured in "Wish."
- They started a band together.
- They entered the public domain, allowing creative uses without permission.

9. Who's Record Was Broken by Taylor Swift's "1989 (Taylor's Version)" Album?

- Doja Cat's record for the most cat references in a pop album.
- Elvis's record for most weeks at No. 1 on the Billboard album chart by a solo artist.
- The Beatles' legendary 132-week reign at the top of the Billboard album chart.

10. After Queen Elizabeth II Died, Who's Europe's Longest-Serving Monarch?

- Queen Margrethe II of Denmark.
- King Harald V of Norway.
- King Julien XIII of Madagascar.

11. Who's in This "Thirst Tap" Picture?

- Helen Mirren.
- Martha Stewart.
- Meryl Streep.



12. Whose Statue Is This?

- Shakira, the Colombian Hip-Shaking Sensation.
- Beyoncé, Queen of Pop and Hip Swivel.
- Celine Dion, with a Heart That Goes On and On.



ANSWERS

1. When Does Ukraine Celebrate Christmas?

- ❑ December 25th, joining the global Secret Santa exchange.

In a move more surprising than finding out your secret Santa is actually Santa, [Ukraine officially shifted its Christmas celebration to December 25th in 2023](#). This historic change, [signed into law by President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in July 2023](#), marked a significant departure from the traditional January 7th date, aligned with the Russian Orthodox Church's calendar. The decision was a statement of cultural identity and national autonomy amidst the ongoing conflict with Russia.

2. How Did Russia Greet Ukraine in the Early Hours of the New Year 2024?

- ❑ By launching a record 90 drone attacks.

In a rather grim start to the New Year, Russia marked Jan. 1, 2024, by [launching a record number of 90 Shahed-type drones over Ukraine](#). Ukrainian forces intercepted most of these drones, but [debris from a downed drone in Odesa led to the death of a 15-year-old boy](#) and injuries to several others. [A museum in Lviv was severely damaged](#), and university buildings in Dubliany were also affected.

3. Under What Specific Conditions Did Pope Francis Say Priests Could Bless LGBTQ Couples?

- ❑ If the blessings are not part of regular Church rituals or services.

In a landmark decision that reflects Pope Francis' pastoral vision for a more inclusive Church, the Vatican announced on Dec. 18, 2023, that [Roman Catholic priests can administer blessings to same-sex couples](#). However, there's a catch: [these blessings must be given only if they are not part of regular Church rituals or liturgies](#). This means that while the church extends a hand of welcome, it's careful not to blur the lines with the traditional sacrament of marriage. This decision marks a significant step in Pope Francis' efforts to make the church more welcoming to LGBTQ individuals.

4. Which Film Had the Biggest December 25 Debut Ever?

- ❑ "The Color Purple"

On Dec. 25, 2009, "Sherlock Holmes" didn't just solve mysteries; it broke records! Directed by Guy Ritchie and starring Robert Downey Jr. as the iconic detective, [the film raked in \\$24.6 million on its opening day, Christmas Day](#). This made it the biggest Dec. 25 release ever. Its

record stays unbeaten, with "The Color Purple" (2023) [coming in second](#) with an impressive \$18 million Christmas day opening, but not enough to dethrone the detective.

5. Why Did Apple Pause Sales of Its Series 9 And Ultra 2 Smartwatches in the United States Before Christmas 2023?

- ❑ Due to a patent dispute over the blood oxygen feature.

In a twist that's more legal drama than tech thriller, Apple announced it would [pause sales of its Series 9 and Ultra 2 smartwatches in the United States starting Dec. 21, 2023, online and Dec. 24 in stores](#). This decision came after [the International Trade Commission ruled in October 2023 that these models infringed on patents held by Masimo](#), a medical technology company, specifically the blood oxygen feature used to detect people's pulse rate. On Dec. 25, [an appeals court temporarily paused enforcement of that ruling](#) while the legal fight ensues.

6. What Is 'Zombie Deer Disease'?

- ❑ Chronic Wasting Disease affecting deer, elk, and moose.

['Zombie Deer Disease' is a colloquial term for Chronic Wasting Disease \(CWD\)](#), a neurological disorder that affects deer, elk, and moose. First identified in Colorado in 1967, [CWD has since spread to numerous US states and other countries](#). The disease causes symptoms like weight loss, lack of coordination, and drooling, [making animals appear zombie-like](#). Currently, there have been no confirmed cases of CWD transmitted to humans. However, scientists warn of its potential as a "slow-moving disaster" for human health.

7. Which New Feature Is Amazon Prime Video Rolling Out in January 2024 in the US And February in the UK?

- ❑ Ads.

In a move that might make you miss the good old days of ad-free binge-watching, [Amazon Prime Video is introducing ads into its streaming service starting Jan. 29, 2024, in the US and Feb. 5, 2024, in the UK](#). For those who prefer their drama without commercial cliffhangers, there's an option to keep the screen ad-free - but it comes with a price tag. In the US, viewers can avoid ads by paying an extra \$2.99 monthly, while [UK viewers must shell out £2.99 per month](#).

8. What 2024 Event Connects Mickey and Minnie Mouse with Tigger from "The House at Pooh Corner"?

- ❑ They entered the public domain, allowing creative uses without permission.

In 2024, the earliest versions of [Mickey and Minnie Mouse, as depicted in "Steamboat Willie," along with Tigger](#) from "The House at Pooh Corner," [entered the public domain](#). This happened after [their 95-year copyright term expired](#). Entering the [public domain](#) means that these characters can now be used in new creative works without permission from Disney or the rights holders.

9. Who's Record Was Broken by Taylor Swift's "1989 (Taylor's Version)" Album?

- ❑ Elvis's record for most weeks at No. 1 on the Billboard album chart by a solo artist.

Taylor Swift's "1989 (Taylor's Version)" played a crucial role in [breaking the record for most weeks at No. 1 on the Billboard album chart by a solo artist](#). In 2023's final week, this album's No. 1 spot contributed to Swift's total of 68 weeks at the chart's top. This [surpasses the previous record held by Elvis Presley, who had 67 weeks at No. 1](#). The Beatles still hold [the overall record with 132 weeks at No. 1](#).

10. After Queen Elizabeth II of Britain Died in September 2022, Who Took the Crown as the Longest-Serving Monarch in Europe?

- ❑ Queen Margrethe II of Denmark - A seasoned monarch with a flair for archaeology.

After the passing of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II in September 2022, [Queen Margrethe II ascended to the title of longest-serving monarch in Europe](#). Following her father's death, [she began her reign on Jan. 14, 1972](#). This means that by the time she announced her abdication on Dec. 31, 2023, [she had been on the throne for 52 years](#). As of Jan. 14, 2024, [her son, Frederik](#), will carry the royal torch.

11. Who's in This "Thirst Tap" Picture?

- ❑ Martha Stewart, the Thirst Trap Queen at 82.

On Dec. 29, 2023, Martha Stewart, at 82, posted a [mirror selfie on Instagram](#), displaying her in a silver nightgown after a trip from Westchester to Palm Beach. This post is part of [a series of 'thirst traps'](#) Stewart has shared, starting with a viral pool selfie in July 2020. ["Thirst trap"](#) refers to a photo shared on social media to attract attention through seductiveness. Martha Stewart's "thirst trap" photos typically feature her in poses or outfits that challenge traditional notions of age and attractiveness.

12. Whose Statue Is This?

- ❑ Shakira, the Colombian Hip-Shaking Sensation.

On Dec. 26, 2023, [a nearly 21-foot-tall \(6.5 meters\) bronze statue of Shakira was unveiled in her hometown of Barranquilla](#), Colombia. This statue, [capturing her iconic hip-swiveling dance move](#), pays tribute to the singer's roots and global impact. Shakira, known for her distinct blend of Latin, rock, and pop music, began her journey to stardom with her hip-shaking moves as a child in Barranquilla. The statue's unveiling marked a high point in a year when Shakira made headlines for her music and personal life. She was involved in a tax fraud case in Spain, [where she settled by paying a €7.5m fine to avoid a trial](#). She also released a song about her former partner, ex-footballer Gerard Piqué, [which broke YouTube records in Latin America](#).