

DriftTable Trivia Night 07-15-26 — Host Answer Sheet

Round 1: The Box Enters the House

1. Before sitcoms had reruns, streaming, or DVDs, what word described television shows performed and broadcast in real time? Answer: Live
2. Early TV sets needed metal rods or rooftop equipment to pull broadcast signals out of the air. What common receiver is that? Answer: Antenna
3. Before remote controls became normal, viewers had to walk up to the television and physically turn what small numbered control? Answer: Dial
4. The first successful network sitcom, Mary Kay and Johnny, quietly broke one of television's earliest taboos. What did it become the first TV sitcom to regularly show a husband and wife doing together on screen? Answer: Sharing a bed
5. A television picture is really made from tiny glowing units of color and light. What common screen term names one of those tiny picture elements? Answer: Pixel
6. Black-and-white television became color television by adding information for red, green, and what third primary light color? Answer: Blue
7. I Love Lucy changed television history by preserving episodes on film, allowing networks to replay them for new audiences years later. What is the television term for those repeat broadcasts? Answer: Reruns
8. What device let viewers change channels without leaving the couch, turning TV watching into a true living-room sport? Answer: Remote Control
9. A sitcom episode usually resets by the end so next week can start fresh. What word describes that repeatable situation-based format? Answer: Episodic
10. What household machine became the first mainstream way for families to record television shows and watch them later? Answer: VCR
11. Television sound and picture travel through the air as electromagnetic waves. What general word describes those broadcast waves? Answer: Signals
12. Millions of Americans kept what pocket-sized magazine near the television to find out when their favorite shows would air? Answer: TV Guide
13. A sitcom set often has missing walls so cameras can see the living room, kitchen, or workplace. What invisible barrier is the audience pretending to look through? Answer: Fourth Wall
14. What company's television ratings have determined for decades whether many shows lived, died, or got renewed? Answer: Nielsen
15. What room became the classic sitcom home base, where couches, arguments, neighbors, and theme songs all gathered? Answer: Living Room
BONUS. What seven-letter word can mean a group of connected TV stations, a web of people, or the thing Kevin Bacon games are secretly built on? Answer: Network

Round 2: Laugh Tracks and Living Rooms

1. What recorded sound effect tells the viewer when a joke has landed, even if nobody at home laughed? Answer: Laugh Track
2. What opening song or musical intro teaches viewers the mood, setting, and personality of a sitcom before the episode even starts? Answer: Theme Song
3. On Cheers, the whole promise of the bar was that it was the place where everybody knows your what? Answer: Name
4. Nearly every sitcom has one character who unexpectedly walks in, changes everyone's plans, creates chaos, and leaves. What common relationship does that character most often have to the main cast? Answer: Neighbor
5. What two-word TV term describes a character's repeated joke, phrase, or behavior that the audience learns to expect? Answer: Running Gag
6. A sitcom catchphrase is designed to be repeated by fans. What family sitcom made 'Did I do that?' a national catchphrase? Answer: Family Matters
7. A workplace sitcom turns coworkers into a second family. What paper-company mockumentary made awkward work life into one of TV's biggest modern comedies? Answer: The Office
8. What sitcom format has characters speak directly to an unseen camera crew as if they are being filmed for a documentary? Answer: Mockumentary
9. Friends used a coffee shop as the group's neutral hangout. What was the name of that fictional coffee shop? Answer: Central Perk
10. What sitcom about nothing made everyday annoyances, waiting rooms, parking spots, and soup lines feel like major life events? Answer: Seinfeld
11. What long-running animated sitcom turned a yellow family into a permanent mirror of American life, television, politics, and pop culture? Answer: The Simpsons
12. What iconic 1990s sitcom spin-off set in Seattle holds the record for the most Primetime Emmy wins for a comedy series, focusing on a radio psychiatrist coworker dynamic? Answer: Frasier
13. Sitcoms often hide serious change inside familiar rooms. What 1970s sitcom centered on a loud Queens living room and used comedy to argue about race, gender, war, and politics? Answer: All in the Family
14. What sitcom catchphrase tells someone they have been politely but firmly kicked out of Jerry's apartment? Answer: No soup for you
15. What sitcom word describes the familiar place where characters return week after week, whether it is a bar, apartment, diner, office, or living room? Answer: Set
BONUS. What eight-letter word means the people watching a show, the crowd hearing a joke, and the invisible partner every sitcom is written for? Answer: Audience

Round 3: Six Degrees of Television

1. What phrase describes the idea that any two people can be connected through a short chain of other people? Answer: Six Degrees of Separation
2. What actor's name became the center of a famous game about linking performers through movie connections? Answer: Kevin Bacon
3. What TV term describes a new show built around a character, setting, or idea from an older show? Answer: Spin-off
4. Frasier continued the story of a character first introduced on what Boston bar sitcom? Answer: Cheers
5. Laverne & Shirley spun out of what 1950s-nostalgia sitcom set around Milwaukee teenagers and a diner hangout? Answer: Happy Days
6. What TV business term describes selling old episodes to other stations so a show can keep airing long after its original run? Answer: Syndication
7. A sitcom that reaches enough episodes for daily reruns can become valuable for decades. What common episode-count milestone is often treated as the old syndication target? Answer: 100 Episodes
8. For decades, selected families helped determine which television shows lived or died by allowing Nielsen to install what audience-tracking device in their homes? Answer: People Meter
9. What sitcom finale in 1983 became one of the most-watched scripted TV episodes in U.S. history by saying goodbye to Hawkeye and the 4077th? Answer: M*A*S*H
10. What television term describes the exact time slot when networks expect the biggest audience of the night? Answer: Prime Time
11. What modern viewing habit means watching multiple episodes in one sitting instead of waiting week to week? Answer: Binge-watching
12. What streaming company helped turn DVDs-by-mail into a global habit of watching entire seasons on demand? Answer: Netflix
13. When a long-running television series resorts to outrageous storylines or gimmicks because it has run out of fresh ideas, what television phrase describes the moment many fans believe the show has peaked? Answer: Jump the Shark
14. What term describes extra hidden details, jokes, or references planted in a show for careful viewers to notice? Answer: Easter Eggs
15. What word describes the full fictional world, rules, characters, and history that a TV show builds around itself? Answer: Universe
BONUS. What television storytelling term describes ending an episode with an unresolved problem specifically designed to make viewers come back next week? Answer: Cliffhanger

Teams Playing: _____

Winning Team: _____