



Elephant Riddles



30 riddles from easy to tricky. Write your answer on the line. Answers are on the last page.

Easy riddles ★

- 1 I'm the biggest animal that walks on land. I'm gray, I'm wrinkly, and I have a very long nose. What am I?

ANSWER _____

- 2 I'm a nose, but I'm also a hand, a straw and a hose. I hang down from an elephant's face. What am I?

ANSWER _____

- 3 I'm a baby elephant. I stay close to my mom and drink her milk. What am I called?

ANSWER _____

- 4 Why do elephants have trunks?

ANSWER _____

- 5 Elephants flap me back and forth on hot days, and I'm much bigger than yours. What am I?

ANSWER _____

- 6 What do you call an elephant that doesn't matter?

ANSWER _____

- 7 I'm what elephants eat all day long: grass, leaves, bark and fruit. They never eat meat. What kind of eater are they?

ANSWER _____

- 8 Elephants roll in me and splash me all over their backs. I'm wet and brown, and I protect their skin from the sun and from bugs. What am I?

ANSWER _____

- 9 How do you know an elephant has been in your fridge?

ANSWER _____

- 10 An elephant can hold a lot of me in its trunk, then squirt me into its mouth or spray me over its back like a shower. What am I?

ANSWER _____

Medium riddles ★★

- 11 I'm a long, curved tooth that grows out of an elephant's mouth. Elephants use me to dig, lift and strip bark. What am I?

ANSWER _____

- 12 I'm the oldest female in an elephant herd, and the family follows my lead to food and water. What am I called?
ANSWER _____
- 13 A grown-up male elephant often leaves his family herd and lives alone or with other males. What is he called?
ANSWER _____
- 14 Which elephant has bigger ears: the African elephant or the Asian elephant?
ANSWER _____
- 15 In one kind of elephant, both males and females can have tusks. In the other kind, only some males do. Which elephant is the one where only some males have tusks?
ANSWER _____
- 16 The tip of an African elephant's trunk has two little "fingers." How many does an Asian elephant's trunk have?
ANSWER _____
- 17 My trunk can sniff out water and food from far away. Which of my five senses is one of the strongest in the whole animal kingdom?
ANSWER _____
- 18 Elephant tusks are made of me. Poachers kill elephants to sell me, so buying and selling me is banned in many countries. What am I?
ANSWER _____
- 19 Why are elephants so wrinkly?
ANSWER _____
- 20 An elephant mom carries her baby for almost two years before it's born. Is that longer or shorter than a human mom?
ANSWER _____

Tricky riddles ★★ ★

- 21 My trunk is my nose joined together with another body part that sits right above your mouth. What is that body part?
ANSWER _____
- 22 Elephants use these to talk to each other over long distances. Some of them are so low that people can't hear them at all. What are they?
ANSWER _____
- 23 Elephants can "hear" the rumbles of other elephants far away, even when they're too low for ears to catch. Which part of their body feels the vibrations in the ground?
ANSWER _____

- 24 An elephant's matriarch remembers where the water holes are, even during a dry season years later. Which famous saying about elephants does this fit?

ANSWER _____

- 25 I'm an elephant tooth, but I'm not a tusk. I'm flat and huge, and I grind up plants. Elephants wear me down and grow new sets of me during their life. What am I?

ANSWER _____

- 26 Elephants can walk, run and swim, but there's one move a grown-up elephant can't do, even to reach tasty fruit. What is it?

ANSWER _____

- 27 There are two kinds of African elephant. One lives on the open grasslands, and the other lives deep in the forest. What are these two kinds called?

ANSWER _____

- 28 Why do elephants paint their toenails red?

ANSWER _____

- 29 When an elephant is excited or upset, it blasts a loud call through its trunk. The sound shares its name with a shiny brass instrument. What is it called?

ANSWER _____

- 30 Elephant brothers leave home when they're teenagers, but sisters usually stay with their mom for life. What do we call the family group they stay in?

ANSWER _____

Answers

Elephant Riddles · answer key · print or fold this page away before you hand out the sheet

1. An elephant
2. The trunk
3. A calf
4. Because they'd look silly carrying suitcases.
5. Ears. Elephant ears are full of blood vessels, and flapping them helps cool the blood, so the whole elephant cools down.
6. Irrelephant
7. A plant eater. Elephants are herbivores.
8. Mud
9. Footprints in the butter
10. Water
11. A tusk. Tusks are really giant incisor teeth.
12. The matriarch
13. A bull
14. The African elephant. Asian elephants have smaller, rounder ears.
15. The Asian elephant
16. One. African elephants have two finger-like tips on the trunk, and Asian elephants have one.
17. Smell
18. Ivory
19. Have you ever tried to iron one?
20. Longer. Elephants have one of the longest pregnancies of any animal: about 22 months.
21. The upper lip. An elephant's trunk is its nose and upper lip, joined together.
22. Rumbles
23. Their feet
24. "An elephant never forgets." Elephants really do have excellent memories.
25. A molar. Elephants get six sets of molars in their lifetime.
26. Jump
27. The savanna elephant and the forest elephant
28. So they can hide in strawberry patches. Have you ever seen an elephant in one? It works!
29. A trumpet. Elephants "trumpet" through their trunks.
30. A herd

Need a hint? Every riddle has one at riddlepedia.com/elephant-riddles/, where you can also play them as a game.