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Printer Riddles



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

Easy riddles ★

1. I take the words and pictures from your screen and put them on paper you can hold. What am I?

   ANSWER _____

2. I started life as part of a tree. Now I'm thin, white and flat, and a printer pulls me through one sheet at a time. What am I?

   ANSWER _____

3. The printer stops, a red light blinks, and a crumpled sheet is stuck deep inside. What happened?

   ANSWER _____

4. Lay a drawing face down on my glass, close my lid, and a bright light slides underneath. A moment later, your drawing is on the computer. What am I?

   ANSWER _____

5. Put one page on my glass, press the button, and I give you as many twins of it as you like. What am I?

   ANSWER _____

6. I'm a drawer that holds a stack of blank sheets, waiting their turn to be printed. What am I?

   ANSWER _____

7. I'm a small box that snaps into a printer, full of the colors it sprays onto the page. When I run dry, you have to replace me. What am I?

   ANSWER _____

8. I'm the printer's opposite. Feed me a sheet you don't need anymore, and I cut it into tiny strips. What am I?

   ANSWER _____

9. Press two keys together, Ctrl and one letter, and the print window pops up. Which letter is it?

   ANSWER _____

10. Why did the printer get invited to every party?

    ANSWER _____

Medium riddles ★★

11. I'm not a liquid, I'm a fine powder. Laser printers use me instead of ink. What am I?

ANSWER _____

12. My printhead sprays tiny drops of ink, thousands of them every second, through holes thinner than a hair. What kind of printer am I?

ANSWER _____

13. A beam of light draws the page on a spinning drum, and powder sticks wherever it touched. What kind of printer am I?

ANSWER _____

14. I'm a pack of exactly 500 sheets of paper, wrapped up and ready for the printer. What am I called?

ANSWER _____

15. I'm what fills a printer's cartridge. Put an S in front of me, and I'm where you wash the dishes. What am I?

ANSWER _____

16. I'm a print setting with a name borrowed from art. I turn the page sideways, so it's wider than it is tall. What am I?

ANSWER _____

17. I'm the blank border all the way around a printed page. Teachers sometimes write notes in me. What am I?

ANSWER _____

18. On a screen I'm "soft." Once you print me on paper, I'm called something else. What am I?

ANSWER _____

19. I print shop receipts without a single drop of ink. My paper changes color when it gets hot. What kind of printer am I?

ANSWER _____

20. I'm an older machine that scans a page, sends it through a phone line and prints it out on the other side. What am I?

ANSWER _____

21. Too many people pressed Print at once, so the jobs have to wait their turn, one after another. What is that line called?

ANSWER _____

Tricky riddles ★★★

22. A color printer makes every shade from just four inks: cyan, magenta, yellow and black. What are they called, by their first letters?

ANSWER _____

23. In CMYK, black is the only color that doesn't use its own first letter. What does the K stand for?

ANSWER _____

24. I'm a setting that saves paper by printing on the front and the back of each sheet. What am I?

ANSWER _____

25. I'm three letters that tell you how sharp a print is: how many tiny dots fit in a line one inch long. What am I?

ANSWER _____

26. Pages from a laser printer come out warm. Which part of the printer heats them up, and why?

ANSWER _____

27. Before the fuser melts it, what makes the toner powder stick to the right spots on the page?

ANSWER _____

28. I don't print on paper at all. I build solid objects one thin layer at a time, usually out of melted plastic. What am I?

ANSWER _____

29. In the 1400s, a German goldsmith built me with movable metal letters, so books could be made fast instead of copied by hand. What am I?

ANSWER _____

30. You print 3 copies of a 10-page report, and I make sure you get pages 1 to 10, then 1 to 10 again, instead of three page 1s in a row. What is this setting called?

ANSWER _____

Answers

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

1. **A printer**
2. **Paper.** Most paper is made from wood pulp.
3. **A paper jam**
4. **A scanner**
5. **A photocopier** (copy machine)
6. **The paper tray**
7. **An ink cartridge**
8. **A paper shredder**
9. **P.** Ctrl + P prints on most computers (Command + P on a Mac).
10. **Because it always made a good impression.**
11. **Toner**
12. **An inkjet printer**
13. **A laser printer**
14. **A ream**
15. **Ink.** S + ink = sink.
16. **Landscape**
17. **The margin**
18. **A hard copy**
19. **A thermal printer**
20. **A fax machine**
21. **The print queue**
22. **CMYK**
23. **Key.** Printers called the black plate the key plate, because it lined up all the other colors.
24. **Duplex printing** (two-sided printing)
25. **DPI** (dots per inch)
26. **The fuser.** Its hot rollers melt the toner and press it into the paper.
27. **Static electricity.** The drum and paper carry an electric charge that pulls the toner into place.
28. **A 3D printer**
29. **The printing press**
30. **Collate**

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