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Riddles for High School Students



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

Easy riddles ★

1. I have a combination, but I'm not a meal deal. I'm full of books and a forgotten gym shirt, and I slam when you're late. What am I?

   ANSWER _____

2. Where does "today" come after "tomorrow," and "Thursday" come before "Tuesday"?

   ANSWER _____

3. I sit at a desk in every classroom, and I'm also the black circle in the middle of your eye. What am I?

   ANSWER _____

4. Rearrange my letters and you get the word for what the room should be when the teacher wants you to do me. What word am I?

   ANSWER _____

5. I come home in your backpack, I get done at the kitchen table (eventually), and I go back to school the next morning. If the dog eats me, nobody believes you. What am I?

   ANSWER _____

6. I ring but I'm not a phone. When I go off, the whole building gets up and moves at once. What am I?

   ANSWER _____

7. If the day before yesterday was Thursday, what day will it be the day after tomorrow?

   ANSWER _____

8. Your sock drawer has 10 black socks and 10 white socks, all mixed up, and it's dark. How many socks do you have to grab to be sure you have a matching pair?

   ANSWER _____

9. A notebook and a pen cost $3.30 together. The notebook costs $3.00 more than the pen. How much does the pen cost?

   ANSWER _____

10. If 5 students take 5 minutes to make 5 posters, how long would it take 100 students to make 100 posters?

    ANSWER _____

Medium riddles ★★

11. Maya turned 16 in 2024, but she has only had 4 birthdays on her actual birthday. How is that possible?

ANSWER _____

12. A rumor about a surprise test spreads through school, and the number of people who've heard it doubles every hour. By 3 p.m., the whole school knows. At what time did half the school know?

ANSWER _____

13. Ten students in a study group each shake hands with every other student exactly once. How many handshakes is that?

ANSWER _____

14. For the class photo, everyone lines up by height. Sam is the 15th tallest and also the 15th shortest. How many students are in the photo?

ANSWER _____

15. In 4 years, I'll be twice as old as I was 6 years ago. How old am I now?

ANSWER _____

16. What's the smallest number of people you need in a room to be certain that at least two of them were born in the same month?

ANSWER _____

17. An electric train is traveling north at 100 km/h, and the wind is blowing from the east. Which way does the train's smoke blow?

ANSWER _____

18. How can you turn the Roman numeral IX into six by adding just one symbol?

ANSWER _____

19. Your average on four tests is 80. What score do you need on the fifth test to bring your average up to 82?

ANSWER _____

20. Two students, A and B, sit in front of you. One always tells the truth and one always lies. A says, "At least one of us is a liar." Which one is the truth-teller?

ANSWER _____

Tricky riddles ★★★

21. Three boxes are labeled "Pens," "Pencils" and "Pens and Pencils." Every label is wrong. You may take out one item from one box, without looking inside. Which box should you pick from to fix all three labels?

ANSWER _____

22. Starting at noon and stopping just before midnight, how many times do the hour hand and minute hand of a clock point in exactly the same direction?

ANSWER _____

23. What three different positive whole numbers give the same answer whether you add them or multiply them?

ANSWER _____

24. What comes next: 1, 11, 21, 1211, 111221, ...?

ANSWER _____

25. You have 9 coins that look identical, but one is slightly heavier. Using a balance scale, what's the smallest number of weighings that guarantees you find the heavy coin?

ANSWER _____

26. I'm a two-digit number. My digits add up to 9, and if you reverse my digits, the new number is 27 more than me. What number am I?

ANSWER _____

27. You flip two fair coins over and over, and you only count the rounds where at least one coin lands heads. In those rounds, what's the chance that both coins are heads?

ANSWER _____

28. Five students line up for lunch. Eli is first and Dee is last. Ana is somewhere ahead of Ben, and Cal is right behind Ana. What's the order?

ANSWER _____

29. I'm a job that's spelled with three double letters in a row. What job am I?

ANSWER _____

30. I'm a word with five letters. Take away my last four letters and I still sound exactly the same. What word am I?

ANSWER _____

Answers

Riddles for High School Students · answer key · print or fold this page away before you hand out the sheet

1. **A locker**
2. **In the dictionary.** Words there are in alphabetical order.
3. **A pupil**
4. **Listen.** Its letters also spell "silent."
5. **Homework**
6. **The bell**
7. **Monday.** If the day before yesterday was Thursday, today is Saturday, so the day after tomorrow is Monday.
8. **3 socks.** The first two might not match, but the third has to match one of them.
9. **$0.15.** The notebook is $3.15, and $3.15 + $0.15 = $3.30.
10. **5 minutes.** Each student makes one poster in 5 minutes, so 100 students make 100 posters in the same 5 minutes.
11. **She was born on February 29, 2008.** Leap days only happen every four years, so her real birthdays were in 2012, 2016, 2020 and 2024.
12. **2 p.m.** If it doubles every hour, half the school knew one hour before everyone did.
13. **45.** Each of the 10 shakes 9 hands, which is 90, but every handshake was counted twice: 90 ÷ 2 = 45.
14. **29.** There are 14 students taller than Sam, 14 shorter, and Sam: 14 + 14 + 1 = 29.
15. **16. x + 4 = 2(x − 6), so x + 4 = 2x − 12, and x = 16.** In 4 years I'll be 20, and 6 years ago I was 10.
16. **13.** With 12 people, each could have a different month. The 13th person has to share one.
17. **Nowhere.** Electric trains don't make smoke.
18. **Put an S in front of it: SIX.**
19. **90.** Four tests at an average of 80 is 320 points. To average 82 over five tests, you need 410 points, and 410 − 320 = 90.
20. **A.** If A were lying, then neither of them would be a liar, which is impossible. So A is telling the truth, and B is the liar.
21. **The box labeled "Pens and Pencils." It can't be mixed, so whatever you pull out tells you what's really in it. Then the other two wrong labels can only be swapped one way.**
22. **11 times.** The hands meet about every 65 minutes and 27 seconds: at 12:00, about 1:05, about 2:11 and so on up to about 10:54. They never meet between 11 and 12; the next meeting is at midnight.
23. **1, 2 and 3. 1 + 2 + 3 = 6, and 1 × 2 × 3 = 6.**
24. **312211.** Each term describes the last one: 111221 is "three 1s, two 2s, one 1," which is 312211.
25. **2.** Weigh 3 coins against 3. If one side is heavier, the coin is in it; if they balance, it's in the 3 left over. Then weigh 1 of those 3 against another, and the same logic finds it.
26. **36. 3 + 6 = 9, and 63 − 36 = 27.**
27. **1 in 3.** The possible results are HH, HT and TH (TT is ruled out), and only one of those three is HH.
28. **Eli, Ana, Cal, Ben, Dee.** Ana has to be second; if she were third, Cal would be fourth and there'd be no room for Ben behind her.
29. **A bookkeeper: b-OO-KK-EE-per.**
30. **Queue.** Take away "ueue" and you're left with "Q," which sounds the same.

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