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Trash Can Riddles



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

Easy riddles ★

1. I have a big mouth, but I never talk. I swallow wrappers, peels and crumbs, and I never get a tummy ache. What am I?

   ANSWER _____

2. I sit on top of the trash can like a hat. Lift me up to throw something away, then put me back to keep the smell in. What am I?

   ANSWER _____

3. I'm thin and stretchy, and I line the trash can. When I'm full, someone ties my top and carries me outside. What am I?

   ANSWER _____

4. I'm yellow and slippery, and I come off before you eat the fruit inside. Don't drop me on the floor! Toss me in the compost instead. What am I?

   ANSWER _____

5. I rumble down your street once a week, beep when I back up, and lift bins with a big arm. What am I?

   ANSWER _____

6. I'm trash that someone dropped on the ground instead of putting in a bin. What am I called?

   ANSWER _____

7. Who drives the big truck, empties the bins and keeps the whole neighborhood clean, even on cold, rainy mornings?

   ANSWER _____

8. I'm a masked bandit with a ringed tail. At night, I tip over trash cans looking for snacks. What am I?

   ANSWER _____

9. Why was the trash can always a little sad?

   ANSWER _____

10. What did the trash can say to the garbage truck?

    ANSWER _____

Medium riddles ★★

11. I'm a heap of fruit peels, eggshells, leaves and coffee grounds. Over a few months, I turn into dark, rich soil for the garden. What am I?

ANSWER _____

12. I'm a wriggly helper in a compost bin. I eat food scraps and leave behind something gardeners call "black gold." What am I?

ANSWER _____

13. I'm three arrows chasing each other in a triangle loop. You'll find me printed on bottles, boxes and bins. What am I?

ANSWER _____

14. I'm a shiny drink can. If you recycle me, I can be melted, made into a new can and be back on the store shelf in about two months. What metal am I?

ANSWER _____

15. You can melt me down and make me into a new jar or bottle again and again, and I never wear out. What am I?

ANSWER _____

16. I'm a soft, warm jacket. Some versions of me are made from recycled plastic bottles that were shredded, melted and spun into thread. What am I?

ANSWER _____

17. Three words remind you how to make less trash. The first means "use less," the second means "use again," and the third means "turn into something new." What are they?

ANSWER _____

18. I'm a giant metal bin behind stores and apartment buildings. A special truck lifts me with two big forks. What am I?

ANSWER _____

19. I'm a huge, carefully built place where garbage trucks unload trash. The trash is spread out, packed down and covered with soil, layer after layer. What am I?

ANSWER _____

20. Why do recycling centers ask you to rinse yogurt cups before you toss them in the bin?

ANSWER _____

Tricky riddles ★★★

21. I'm a short word for a container. You can find me hiding inside "robin" and "cabinet." What am I?

ANSWER _____

22. Three bins are labeled "Paper," "Plastic" and "Mixed," but every label is wrong. You may pull out just one item from one bin. Which bin should you choose to fix all three labels?

ANSWER _____

23. A family recycles 12 bottles every week. How many bottles is that in one year?

ANSWER _____

24. Paper can be recycled again and again, but not forever. Why does it finally stop being useful?

ANSWER _____

25. A garbage truck driver goes the wrong way down a one-way street, right past two police officers, and doesn't get in trouble. Why not?

ANSWER _____

26. I arrive at your door full and leave your house empty and flat. Squash me down so I fit in the bin with the three arrows. What am I?

ANSWER _____

Trash Can Scavenger Hunt Clues

27. I sit under a desk and catch crumpled paper and pencil shavings. Your next clue is taped to my side. What am I?

ANSWER _____

28. I'm a bin, but I don't want your banana peels. Give me clean bottles, cans and paper so they can become something new. Check behind me for your next clue. What am I?

ANSWER _____

29. Open my doors under the faucet, and you'll often find the kitchen trash can hiding inside me. Your next clue is waiting on my door. What am I?

ANSWER _____

30. I'm the room where the big outdoor garbage bins wait for trash day, and the car sleeps here at night too. Search near the bins for your last clue. Where am I?

ANSWER _____

Answers

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

1. **A trash can**
2. **The lid**
3. **A garbage bag**
4. **A banana peel**
5. **A garbage truck**
6. **Litter**
7. **A garbage collector**
8. **A raccoon**
9. **It kept getting dumped.**
10. **"Pick me up at eight!"**
11. **Compost**
12. **A worm**
13. **The recycling symbol**
14. **Aluminum**
15. **Glass**
16. **A fleece jacket**
17. **Reduce, reuse, recycle**
18. **A dumpster**
19. **A landfill**
20. **Food makes recycling dirty.** Sticky leftovers can spoil paper and cardboard so they can't be recycled.
21. **Bin**
22. **The one labeled "Mixed." It must hold only paper or only plastic.** Once you know which, the other two labels sort themselves out.
23. **624 bottles**
24. **The fibers get too short.** Each time paper is recycled, its fibers break into shorter pieces, until they can't hold together. Paper can usually be recycled about five to seven times.
25. **He was walking on the sidewalk.**
26. **A cardboard box**
27. **The wastebasket**
28. **The recycling bin**
29. **The cabinet under the kitchen sink**
30. **The garage**

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