



# Volleyball Riddles



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

## Easy riddles ★

- 1 I'm stretched tight across the middle of the court. The ball has to fly over me, never under me. What am I?

ANSWER \_\_\_\_\_

- 2 Play me on sand in bare feet, with just two players on each team and the sun overhead. What sport am I?

ANSWER \_\_\_\_\_

- 3 How many players does each team have on the court in indoor volleyball?

ANSWER \_\_\_\_\_

- 4 Every rally starts with me. One player tosses the ball up and hits it over the net from behind the back line. What am I?

ANSWER \_\_\_\_\_

- 5 The referee blows me to start each rally and to stop play. What am I?

ANSWER \_\_\_\_\_

- 6 Volleyball players wear us so they can dive for the ball without banging up their legs. What are we?

ANSWER \_\_\_\_\_

- 7 What did the volleyball say to the net after the big game?

ANSWER \_\_\_\_\_

- 8 I'm the hardest, fastest hit in volleyball: a player jumps high and slams the ball down over the net. I share my name with a sharp point on a fence. What am I?

ANSWER \_\_\_\_\_

- 9 Players at the net jump straight up with their arms raised to stop a spike from coming over. What's this move called?

ANSWER \_\_\_\_\_

- 10 What's the most times one team can touch the ball before it has to go back over the net (not counting a block)?

ANSWER \_\_\_\_\_

## Medium riddles ★★

- 11 I'm a serve that scores a point straight away, because the other team can't return it. I share my name with a playing card. What am I?

ANSWER \_\_\_\_\_

- 12 I'm the soft fingertip pass that sets up the spike. I'm also the name for one game inside a match. What am I?

ANSWER \_\_\_\_\_

- 13 When a player saves a hard spike just before it hits the floor, it's called this, and it's also what a dog does in the garden. What is it?

ANSWER \_\_\_\_\_

- 14 I'm the defensive specialist who plays only in the back row and wears a different-colored jersey from the rest of my team. What am I called?

ANSWER \_\_\_\_\_

- 15 When your team wins back the serve, all six players shift one position clockwise around the court. What's this called?

ANSWER \_\_\_\_\_

- 16 In most volleyball matches today, how many points does a team need to win a set, as long as it's ahead by at least two?

ANSWER \_\_\_\_\_

- 17 Volleyball was invented in Massachusetts in 1895, just four years after another famous indoor sport was invented in the same state, using peach baskets. Which sport?

ANSWER \_\_\_\_\_

- 18 A player dives, slides a flat hand along the floor, and the ball bounces up off the back of the hand. This save shares its name with a breakfast food. What is it?

ANSWER \_\_\_\_\_

- 19 I'm the pass you make with your arms locked straight and your forearms pressed together like a flat platform. What am I called?

ANSWER \_\_\_\_\_

- 20 I ran the gym classes at the YMCA in Holyoke, Massachusetts, and in 1895, I invented volleyball as a gentler game than basketball. Who am I?

ANSWER \_\_\_\_\_

## Tricky riddles ★★★

- 21 When volleyball was invented, it had a different name. What was it?

ANSWER \_\_\_\_\_

- 22 Indoor volleyball joined the Olympics in Tokyo in 1964. In which US city did beach volleyball make its Olympic debut, 32 years later?

ANSWER \_\_\_\_\_

- 23 The ball lands so that only its edge touches the boundary line. Is it in or out?  
ANSWER \_\_\_\_\_
- 24 A match is tied at two sets each. How many points does the deciding fifth set go to?  
ANSWER \_\_\_\_\_
- 25 A team wins its first set 25-23, loses the second 21-25 and wins the third 26-24. How many points did the team score in all three sets?  
ANSWER \_\_\_\_\_
- 26 A scoreboard shows that a set ended 25-24. Why does a volleyball fan know that's a mistake?  
ANSWER \_\_\_\_\_
- 27 A player bumps the ball up, and then bumps it again herself before anyone else touches it. Is that allowed?  
ANSWER \_\_\_\_\_
- 28 In this Paralympic version of volleyball, players stay seated on the floor whenever they play the ball, and the net is much lower. What is it called?  
ANSWER \_\_\_\_\_
- 29 Two thin poles striped red and white stick up from the net, one above each sideline. What are they called, and what happens if the ball hits one?  
ANSWER \_\_\_\_\_
- 30 An indoor volleyball court is 18 meters long and 9 meters wide, split in half by the net. What shape is each team's side?  
ANSWER \_\_\_\_\_

# Answers

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

1. The net
2. Beach volleyball
3. Six
4. The serve
5. A whistle
6. Knee pads
7. "I'm over you."
8. A spike
9. A block
10. Three
11. An ace
12. A set
13. A dig
14. The libero
15. Rotation
16. 25
17. Basketball
18. A pancake
19. A bump
20. William G. Morgan
21. Mintonette
22. Atlanta, in 1996
23. In. A ball touching the line counts as in.
24. 15 (and you still have to win by two)
25. 72.  $25 + 21 + 26 = 72$ .
26. A team must win a set by two points, so at 25-24, play goes on until someone leads by two (like 26-24).
27. No. One player can't hit the ball twice in a row. It's called a double contact (a touch on a block doesn't count).
28. Sitting volleyball
29. Antennas. They mark the edges of the space the ball must cross through, so a ball that touches one is out.
30. A square, 9 meters by 9 meters.

Need a hint? Every riddle has one at [riddlepedia.com/volleyball-riddles/](http://riddlepedia.com/volleyball-riddles/), where you can also play them as a game.