

= Jeopardy ! =

Jeopardy ! is an American television game show created by Merv Griffin . The show features a quiz competition in which contestants are presented with general knowledge clues in the form of answers , and must phrase their responses in the form of questions . The original daytime version debuted on NBC on March 30 , 1964 , and aired until January 3 , 1975 . A weekly nighttime syndicated edition aired from September 1974 to September 1975 , and a revival , The All @-@ New Jeopardy ! , ran on NBC from October 1978 to March 1979 . The current version , a daily syndicated show produced by Sony Pictures Television , premiered on September 10 , 1984 and is still airing , making it by far the program 's most successful incarnation .

Both NBC versions and the weekly syndicated version were hosted by Art Fleming . Don Pardo served as announcer until 1975 , and John Harlan announced for the 1978 ? 79 show . Since its inception , the daily syndicated version has featured Alex Trebek as host and Johnny Gilbert as announcer .

With 7 @,@ 000 episodes aired , the daily syndicated version of Jeopardy ! has won a record 31 Daytime Emmy Awards and is the only post @-@ 1960 game show to be honored with the Peabody Award . In 2013 , the program was ranked No. 45 on TV Guide 's list of the 60 greatest shows in American television history . Jeopardy ! has also gained a worldwide following with regional adaptations in many other countries . The daily syndicated series ' 32nd season premiered on September 14 , 2015 .

= = Gameplay = =

Three contestants each take their place behind a lectern , with the returning champion occupying the leftmost lectern ( from the viewer 's perspective ) . The contestants compete in a quiz game comprising three rounds : Jeopardy ! , Double Jeopardy ! , and Final Jeopardy ! . The material for the questions covers a wide variety of topics , including history and current events , the sciences , the arts , popular culture , literature , and languages . Category titles often feature puns , wordplay , or shared themes , and the host will regularly remind contestants of topics or place emphasis on category themes before the start of the round .

= = = First two rounds = = =

The Jeopardy ! and Double Jeopardy ! rounds each feature six categories , each of which contains five clues , which are ostensibly valued by difficulty . The dollar values of the clues increased over time . On the original Jeopardy ! series , clue values in the first round ranged from \$ 10 to \$ 50 . On The All @-@ New Jeopardy ! , they ranged from \$ 25 to \$ 125 . The current series ' first round originally ranged from \$ 100 to \$ 500 , and were doubled to \$ 200 to \$ 1 @,@ 000 on November 26 , 2001 . On the Super Jeopardy ! specials , clues were valued in points rather than in dollars , and ranged in the first round from 200 to 1 @,@ 000 points .

The Jeopardy ! round begins when the returning champion selects a clue , which may be from any position on the game board . The clue is revealed and read aloud by the host , after which any contestant may ring @-@ in using a hand @-@ held signaling device . The first contestant to ring @-@ in successfully is prompted to provide a response to the clue , phrased in the form of a question . For example , if a contestant were to select " Presidents for \$ 200 " , the resulting clue could be " This ' Father of Our Country ' didn 't really chop down a cherry tree " , to which the correct response would be " Who is / was George Washington ? " ( Contestants are free to phrase the response in the form of any question ; the traditional phrasing of " who is / are " for people or " what is / are " for things or words is almost always used . ) If the contestant responds correctly , the clue 's dollar value is added to the contestant 's score , and they may select a new clue from the board . An incorrect response , or a failure to respond within five seconds , deducts the clue 's value from the contestant 's score and allows the other contestants the opportunity to ring @-@ in and respond . If no contestant responds correctly , the host gives the correct response ; the " last correct

questioner " chooses the next clue .

From the premiere of the original Jeopardy ! until the end of the first season of the current syndicated series , contestants were allowed to ring @-@ in as soon as the clue was revealed . Since September 1985 , contestants are required to wait until the clue is read before ringing @-@ in . To accommodate the rule change , lights were added to the game board ( unseen by home viewers ) to signify when it is permissible for contestants to signal ; attempting to signal before the light goes on locks the contestant out for half of a second . The change was made to allow the home audience to play along with the show more easily and to keep an extremely fast contestant from potentially dominating the game . In pre @-@ 1985 episodes , a buzzer would sound when a contestant signaled ; according to Trebek , the buzzer was eliminated because it was " distracting to the viewers " and sometimes presented a problem when contestants rang in while Trebek was still reading the clue . Contestants who are visually impaired or blind are given a card with the category names printed in Braille before each round begins , and an audible tone is played after the clue has been read aloud .

The second round , Double Jeopardy ! , features six new categories of clues . Clue values are doubled from the Jeopardy ! round ( except in Super Jeopardy ! , where Double Jeopardy ! values ranged from 500 to 2 @,@ 500 points ) . The contestant with the least money at the end of the Jeopardy ! round makes the first selection in Double Jeopardy ! ; if there is a tie , the tied contestant standing at the leftmost lectern selects first .

A " Daily Double " is hidden behind one clue in the Jeopardy ! round , and behind two in Double Jeopardy ! The name and inspiration were taken from a horse racing term . Only the contestant who uncovers a Daily Double may respond to that clue and need not use his / her signaling device to do so . Before the clue is revealed , the contestant must declare a wager , from a minimum of \$ 5 to a maximum of his / her entire score ( known as a " true Daily Double " ) or the highest clue value available in the round , whichever is greater . A correct response adds the value of the wager to the contestant 's score , while an incorrect response deducts it . Whether or not the contestant responds correctly , he or she maintains control of the board .

During the Jeopardy ! round , except in response to the Daily Double clue , contestants are not penalized for forgetting to phrase their response in the form of a question , although the host will remind contestants to watch their phrasing in future responses . In the Double Jeopardy ! round and in the Daily Double in the Jeopardy ! round , the phrasing rule is followed more strictly , with a response not phrased in the form of a question counting as wrong if it is not re @-@ phrased immediately . If it is determined that a previous response was wrongly ruled to be correct or incorrect , the scores are adjusted at the first available opportunity . If , after a game is over , a ruling change is made that would have significantly altered the outcome of the game , the affected contestant ( s ) are invited back to compete on a future show .

Contestants who finish Double Jeopardy ! with \$ 0 or a negative score are automatically eliminated from the game at that point and awarded the third place prize . On at least one episode hosted by Art Fleming , all three contestants finished Double Jeopardy ! with \$ 0 or less , and as a result , no Final Jeopardy ! round was played . During Celebrity Jeopardy ! games , contestants with a \$ 0 or negative score are given \$ 1 @,@ 000 for the Final Jeopardy ! round .

= = = Final Jeopardy ! = = =

The Final Jeopardy ! round features a single clue . At the end of the Double Jeopardy ! round , the host announces the Final Jeopardy ! category , and a commercial break follows . During the break , barriers are placed between the contestant lecterns , and each contestant makes a final wager between \$ 0 and his / her entire score . Contestants enter their wagers using a light pen to write on an electronic display on their lectern . After the break , the Final Jeopardy ! clue is revealed and read by the host . The contestants have 30 seconds to write their responses on the electronic display , while the show 's iconic " Think ! " music plays in the background . In the event that either the display or the pen malfunctions , contestants can use an index card and a marker to manually write their response and wager . Visually impaired or blind contestants use a Braille keyboard to

type in a wager and response .

Contestants ' responses are revealed in order of their pre @-@ Final Jeopardy ! scores , from lowest to highest . A correct response adds the amount of the contestant 's wager to his / her score , while a miss , failure to respond , or failure to phrase the response as a question ( even if correct ) deducts it . The contestant with the highest score at the end of the round is that day 's winner . If there is a tie for second place , consolation prizes are awarded based on the scores going into the Final Jeopardy ! round . If all three contestants finish with \$ 0 , no one returns as champion for the next show , and based on scores going into the Final Jeopardy ! round , the two contestants who were first and second will receive the second @-@ place prize , and the contestant in third will receive the third @-@ place prize .

= = = Winnings = = =

The top scorer ( s ) in each game retain the value of their winnings in cash , and return to play in the next match . Non @-@ winners receive consolation prizes . Since May 16 , 2002 , consolation prizes have been \$ 2 @,@ 000 for the second @-@ place contestant ( s ) and \$ 1 @,@ 000 for the third @-@ place contestant . Since the show does not generally provide airfare or lodging for contestants , cash consolation prizes alleviate contestants ' financial burden . An exception is provided for returning champions who must make several flights to Los Angeles .

Before 1984 , all three contestants received their winnings in cash ( contestants who finished with \$ 0 or a negative score received consolation prizes ) . This was changed in order to make the game more competitive , and avoid the problem of contestants who would stop participating in the game , or avoid wagering in Final Jeopardy ! , rather than risk losing the money they had already won . From 1984 to 2002 , non @-@ winning contestants on the Trebek version received vacation packages and merchandise , which were donated by manufacturers as promotional consideration . The current cash consolation prize is provided by Aleve .

= = = Returning champions = = =

The winner of each episode returns to compete against two new contestants on the next episode . Originally , a contestant who won five consecutive days retired undefeated and was guaranteed a spot in the Tournament of Champions ; the five @-@ day limit was eliminated at the beginning of season 20 on September 8 , 2003 .

Ties for first place following Final Jeopardy ! are broken with a tie @-@ breaker clue , resulting in only a single champion being named , keeping their winnings , and returning to compete in the next show . Previously , if two or all three contestants tied for first place , they were declared " co @-@ champions " , and each retained his or her winnings and returned on the following episode . A tie occurred on the January 29 , 2014 episode when Arthur Chu , leading at the end of Double Jeopardy ! , wagered to tie challenger Carolyn Collins rather than winning ; Chu followed Jeopardy ! College Champion Keith Williams 's advice to wager for the tie to increase the leader 's chances of winning . A three @-@ way tie for first place has only occurred once on the Trebek version , on March 16 , 2007 , when Scott Weiss , Jamey Kirby , and Anders Martinson all ended the game with \$ 16 @,@ 000 .

If no contestant finishes Final Jeopardy ! with a positive total , there is no winner . This has happened on several episodes , most recently on January 18 , 2016 . Three new contestants appear on the next episode . A triple zero has also occurred twice in tournament play ( 1990 Seniors and 2013 Teen ) , and also once in a Celebrity Week episode in 1998 . In Celebrity play , the full first , second , and third place prize money for charities is given based on the score before the round . In tournament play , an additional high scoring non @-@ winner will advance to the next round .

Special considerations have been given for contestants who were unable to return as champion because of circumstances beyond their control , especially when there is a considerable time between taping of episodes . This occurred for the first time in season 25 , when Priscilla Ball , who won on January 16 , 2009 , was unable to attend the taping of the next episode because of illness ;

as a result , three new contestants appeared on the next episode . Ball returned as a co @-@ champion to play on the episode airing April 9 , 2009 . On the episode aired December 21 , 2015 , the returning champion , Claudia Corriere , could not return as champion because of a job offered in the weeks between tapings , so three new contestants played that day as well . Corriere returned as a co @-@ champion on the January 18 , 2016 episode , but was eliminated in a three @-@ way loss .

Typically , the two challengers participate in a backstage draw to determine lectern positions . In all situations with three new contestants , the draw will also determine who will take the champion 's position and select first to start the game .

= = = Variations for tournament play = = =

Tournaments generally run for 10 consecutive episodes and feature 15 contestants . The first five episodes , the quarter @-@ finals , feature three new contestants each day . The winners of these five games , and the four highest scoring non @-@ winners ( " wild cards " ) , advance to the semi @-@ finals , which run for three days . The winners of these three games advance to play in a two @-@ game final match , in which the scores from both games are combined to determine the overall standings . This format has been used since the first Tournament of Champions in 1985 and was devised by Trebek himself .

If there is a tie for the final wild card position , the non @-@ winner that advances will be based on the same regulations as two contestants who tie for second ; the tie @-@ breaker is the contestant 's score after the Double Jeopardy ! round , and if further tied , the score after the Jeopardy ! round determines the contestant who advances as the wild card . In the rare case after the first round of the tournament , fewer than four non @-@ winners have a positive score to advance to the second round , then the contestants who have a zero score after Final Jeopardy ! will be ranked in the same procedure .

If two or more contestants have the same positive score at the end of match ( first round , semi @-@ final game , or end of a two @-@ game final ) , a one @-@ clue tiebreaker is used . The tied contestants are given a category , and then the clue . The first contestant to ring @-@ in and respond correctly becomes that game 's winner . Contestants are not eliminated for providing an incorrect response , and cannot win by default . If it takes multiple attempts to determine a winner , only the final clue will air .

If none of the contestants in a quarter @-@ final or semi @-@ final game end with a positive score , all three are provisionally eliminated and an additional wild card contestant advances instead . This occurred in the quarter @-@ finals of the 1991 Seniors Tournament and the semi @-@ finals of the 2013 Teen Tournament .

If a finalist finishes Double Jeopardy ! with a \$ 0 or negative score on either day , that contestant is eliminated from Final Jeopardy ! as usual for that leg of the two @-@ legged tie only , and their score for that leg is recorded as \$ 0 . If any game of the finals ends in which no finalist finishes with a positive score , all scores for that day are recorded as \$ 0 . If , at the end of the finals , no finalist finishes with a positive score after combining the totals from the first and second games , the one @-@ clue tiebreaker is played .

= = Conception and development = =

In a 1964 Associated Press profile released shortly before the original Jeopardy ! series premiered , Merv Griffin offered the following account of how he created the quiz show :

My wife Julann just came up with the idea one day when we were in a plane bringing us back to New York from Duluth . I was mulling over game show ideas , when she noted that there had not been a successful " question and answer " game on the air since the quiz show scandals . Why not do a switch , and give the answers to the contestant and let them come up with the question ? She fired a couple of answers to me : " 5 @,@ 280 " ? and the question of course was " How many feet in a mile ? " . Another was " 79 Wistful Vista " ; that was Fibber and Mollie McGee 's address . I

loved the idea , went straight to NBC with the idea , and they bought it without even looking at a pilot show .

Griffin 's first conception of the game used a board comprising ten categories with ten clues each , but after finding that this board could not easily be shown on camera , he reduced it to two rounds of thirty clues each , with five clues in each of six categories . He originally intended the show to require grammatically correct phrasing ( e.g. , only accepting " Who is ... " for a person ) , but after finding that grammatical correction slowed the game down , he decided that the show should instead accept any correct response that was in question form . Griffin discarded his initial title for the show , What 's the Question ? , when skeptical network executive Ed Vane rejected his original concept of the game , claiming , " It doesn 't have enough jeopardies . "

Jeopardy ! was not the first game show to give contestants the answers and require the questions . That format had previously been used by the Gil Fates @-@ hosted program CBS Television Quiz , which aired from July 1941 until May 1942 .

= = Personnel = =

= = = Hosts and announcers = = =

The first three versions of the show were hosted by Art Fleming . Don Pardo served as announcer for the original NBC version and weekly syndicated version , but when NBC 's revival The All @-@ New Jeopardy ! launched in 1978 , Pardo 's announcing duties were taken over by John Harlan .

Alex Trebek has served as host of the daily syndicated version since it premiered in 1984 , except when he switched places with Wheel of Fortune host Pat Sajak as an April Fool 's joke on the episode aired April 1 , 1997 . His most recent contract renewal , from March 2015 , takes his tenure through the 2017 ? 18 season . In the daily syndicated version 's first pilot , from 1983 , Jay Stewart served as the show 's announcer , but Johnny Gilbert took over the role when that version was picked up as a series and has held it since then .

= = = Clue Crew = = =

The Jeopardy ! Clue Crew , introduced on September 24 , 2001 , is a team of roving correspondents who appear in videos , recorded around the world , to narrate some clues . Explaining why the Clue Crew was added to the show , executive producer Harry Friedman said , " TV is a visual medium , and the more visual we can make our clues , the more we think it will enhance the experience for the viewer . "

Following the initial announcement of auditions for the team , over 5 @, @ 000 people applied for Clue Crew posts . The original Clue Crew members were Cheryl Farrell , Jimmy McGuire , Sofia Lidskog , and Sarah Whitcomb . Lidskog departed the Clue Crew in 2004 to become an anchor on the high school news program Channel One News , and a search was held to replace her in early 2005 . The winners were Jon Cannon and Kelly Miyahara , who formally joined the crew starting in season 22 , which premiered on September 12 , 2005 . Farrell continued to record clues for episodes aired as late as October 2008 , and Cannon continued to appear until July 2009 .

The Clue Crew has traveled to 280 cities worldwide , spanning all 50 of the United States and 44 other countries . In addition to appearing in Jeopardy ! clue videos , the team 's members also travel to meet fans of the show and future contestants . Occasionally , they visit schools to showcase the educational game Classroom Jeopardy ! Miyahara also serves as announcer for the Sports Jeopardy ! spin @-@ off series .

= = = Production staff = = =

Robert Rubin served as the producer of the original Jeopardy ! series for most of its run , and later became its executive producer . Following Rubin 's promotion , the line producer was Lynette

Williams .

Griffin was the daily syndicated version 's executive producer until his retirement in 2000 . Trebek served as producer as well as host until 1987 , when he began hosting NBC 's Classic Concentration for the next four years . At that time , he handed producer duties to George Vosburgh , who had formerly produced The All @-@ New Jeopardy ! . In the 1997 ? 98 season , Vosburgh was succeeded as producer by Harry Friedman , Lisa Finneran , and Rocky Schmidt . Beginning in 1999 , Friedman became executive producer , and Gary Johnson became the show 's new third producer . In the 2006 ? 07 season , Deb Dittmann and Brett Schneider became the producers , and Finneran , Schmidt , and Johnson were promoted to supervising producers .

The original Jeopardy ! series was directed at different times by Bob Hultgren , Eleanor Tarshis , and Jeff Goldstein . Dick Schneider , who directed episodes of The All @-@ New Jeopardy ! , returned as director for the Trebek version 's first eight seasons . Since 1992 , the show has been directed by Kevin McCarthy , who had previously served as associate director under Schneider .

The current version of Jeopardy ! employs nine writers and five researchers to create and assemble the categories and clues . Billy Wisse and Michele Loud , both longtime staff members , are the editorial producer and editorial supervisor , respectively . Previous writing and editorial supervisors have included Jules Minton , Terrence McDonnell , Harry Eisenberg , and Gary Johnson .

The show 's production designer is Naomi Slodki . Previous art directors have included Henry Lickel , Dennis Roof , Bob Rang , and Ed Flesh ( who also designed sets for other game shows such as The \$ 25 @,@ 000 Pyramid , Name That Tune , and Wheel of Fortune ) .

= = Production = =

The daily syndicated version of Jeopardy ! is produced by Sony Pictures Television ( previously known as Columbia TriStar Television , the successor company to original producer Merv Griffin Enterprises ) . The copyright holder is Jeopardy Productions , which , like SPT , operates as a subsidiary of Sony Pictures Entertainment . The rights to distribute the program on television in the United States are owned by CBS Television Distribution , which absorbed original distributor King World Productions in 2007 .

The original Jeopardy ! series was taped in Studio 6A at NBC Studios at 30 Rockefeller Plaza in New York City , and The All @-@ New Jeopardy ! was taped in Studio 3 at NBC 's Burbank Studios at 3000 West Alameda Avenue in Burbank , California . The Trebek version was initially taped at Metromedia Stage 7 , KTTV @-@ TV , on Sunset Boulevard in Hollywood , but moved its production facilities to Hollywood Center Studios ' Stage 9 in 1985 . After the final shows of season 10 were recorded on February 15 , 1994 , the Jeopardy ! production facilities were moved to Sony Pictures Studios ' Stage 10 on Washington Boulevard in Culver City , California , where the show has been recorded ever since .

= = = Set = = =

Various technological and aesthetic changes have been made to the Jeopardy ! set over the years . The original game board was exposed from behind a curtain and featured clues printed on cardboard pull cards which were revealed as contestants selected them . The All @-@ New Jeopardy ! ' s game board was exposed from behind double @-@ slide panels and featured flipping panels with the dollar amount on one side and the clue on the other . When the Trebek version premiered in 1984 , the game board used individual television monitors for each clue within categories . The original monitors were replaced with larger and sleeker ones in 1991 . In 2006 , these monitors were discarded in favor of a nearly seamless projection video wall , which was replaced in 2009 with 36 high @-@ definition flat @-@ panel monitors manufactured by Sony Electronics .

From 1985 to 1997 , the sets were designed to have a background color of blue for the Jeopardy ! round and red for the Double Jeopardy ! and Final Jeopardy ! rounds . At the beginning of season 8 in 1991 , a brand new set was introduced that resembled a grid . On the episode aired November 11

, 1996 , two months after the start of season 13 , Jeopardy ! introduced the first of several sets designed by Naomi Slodki , who intended the set to resemble " the foyer of a very contemporary library , with wood and sandblasted glass and blue granite " .

Shortly after the start of season 19 in 2002 , the show switched to yet another new set , which was given slight modifications when Jeopardy ! and sister show Wheel of Fortune transitioned to high @-@ definition broadcasting in 2006 . During this time , the show began to feature virtual tours of the set on its official web site . The various HD improvements for Jeopardy ! and Wheel represented a combined investment of approximately \$ 4 million , 5 @,@ 000 hours of labor , and 6 miles ( 9 @.@ 7 km ) of cable . Both shows had been shot using HD cameras for several years before beginning to broadcast in HD . On standard @-@ definition television broadcasts , the shows continue to be displayed with an aspect ratio of 4 : 3 .

In 2009 , Jeopardy ! updated its set once again . The new set debuted with special episodes taped at the 42nd annual International CES technology trade show , hosted at the Las Vegas Convention Center in Winchester ( Las Vegas Valley ) , Nevada , and became the primary set for Jeopardy ! when the show began taping its 26th season , which premiered on September 14 , 2009 . It was significantly remodeled when season 30 premiered in September 2013 .

= = = Theme music = = =

Since the debut of Jeopardy ! in 1964 , several different songs and arrangements have served as the theme music for the show , most of which were composed by Griffin . The main theme for the original Jeopardy ! series was " Take Ten " , composed by Griffin 's wife Julann . The All @-@ New Jeopardy ! opened with " January , February , March " and closed with " Frisco Disco " , both of which were composed by Griffin himself .

The best @-@ known theme song on Jeopardy ! is " Think ! " , originally composed by Griffin under the title " A Time for Tony " , as a lullaby for his son . " Think ! " has always been used for the 30 @-@ second period in Final Jeopardy ! when the contestants write down their responses , and since the syndicated version debuted in 1984 , a rendition of that tune has been used as the main theme song . " Think ! " has become so popular that it has been used in many different contexts , from sporting events to weddings . Griffin estimated that the use of " Think ! " had earned him royalties of over \$ 70 million throughout his lifetime . " Think ! " led Griffin to win the Broadcast Music , Inc . ( BMI ) President 's Award in 2003 , and during GSN 's 2009 Game Show Awards special , it was named " Best Game Show Theme Song " . In 1997 , the main theme and Final Jeopardy ! recordings of " Think ! " were rearranged by Steve Kaplan , who served as the show 's music director until his December 2003 death . In 2008 , Chris Bell Music and Sound Design overhauled the Jeopardy ! music package for the show 's 25th anniversary .

= = = Audition process = = =

Prospective contestants of the original Jeopardy ! series called the show 's office in New York to arrange an appointment and to preliminarily determine eligibility . They were briefed and auditioned together in groups of ten to thirty individuals , participating in both a written test and mock games . Individuals who were successful at the audition were invited to appear on the program within approximately six weeks .

Auditioning for the current version of the show begins with a written exam , comprising fifty questions in total . This exam is administered online periodically , as well as being offered at regional contestant search events . Since season 15 ( 1998 ? 99 ) , the show has used a Winnebago recreational vehicle called the " Jeopardy ! Brain Bus " to conduct regional events throughout the United States and Canada . Participants who correctly answer at least 35 out of 50 questions advance in the audition process and are invited to compete in mock games . Those who are approved are notified at a later time and invited to appear on the show .

In 2016 , producers disallowed Canadians from applying online , citing new Canadian privacy rules regarding personal information on the Internet . Trebek confirmed this to The Ottawa Citizen in an

interview . Neither named a particular law or regulation , and The Toronto Star was unable to discern the exact problem .

= = Broadcast history = =

The original Jeopardy ! series premiered on NBC on March 30 , 1964 , and by the end of the 1960s was the second @-@ highest @-@ rated daytime game show , behind only The Hollywood Squares . The show was successful until 1974 , when Lin Bolen , then NBC 's Vice President of Daytime Programming , moved the show out of the noontime slot where it had been located for most of its run , as part of her effort to boost ratings among the 18 ? 34 female demographic . After 2 @,@ 753 episodes , the original Jeopardy ! series ended on January 3 , 1975 ; to compensate Griffin for its cancellation , NBC purchased Wheel of Fortune , another show that he had created , and premiered it the following Monday . A syndicated edition of Jeopardy ! , distributed by Metromedia and featuring many contestants who were previously champions on the original series , aired in the primetime during the 1974 ? 75 season . The NBC daytime series was later revived as The All @-@ New Jeopardy ! , which premiered on October 2 , 1978 and aired 108 episodes , ending on March 2 , 1979 ; this revival featured significant rule changes , such as progressive elimination of contestants over the course of the main game , and a bonus round instead of Final Jeopardy !

The daily syndicated version debuted on September 10 , 1984 , and was launched in response to the success of the syndicated version of Wheel and the installation of electronic trivia games in pubs and bars . This version of the program has met with greater success than the previous incarnations ; it has outlived 300 other game shows and become the second most popular game show in syndication ( behind Wheel ) , averaging 25 million viewers per week . The show 's most recent renewal , in April 2015 , extends it through the 2017 ? 18 season .

Jeopardy ! has spawned versions in many foreign countries throughout the world , including Canada , the United Kingdom , Germany , Sweden , Russia , Denmark , Israel , and Australia . The American syndicated version of Jeopardy ! is also broadcast throughout the world , with international distribution rights handled by CBS Studios International .

Three spin @-@ off versions of Jeopardy ! have been created . Rock & Roll Jeopardy ! debuted on VH1 in 1998 and ran until 2001 ; the show centered around post @-@ 1950s popular music trivia and was hosted by Jeff Probst . Jep ! , which aired on GSN during the 1998 ? 99 season , was a special children 's version hosted by Bob Bergen and featured various rule changes from the original version . Sports Jeopardy ! , a sports @-@ themed version hosted by Dan Patrick , premiered in 2014 on the Crackle digital service and eventually moved to the cable sports network NBCSN in 2016 .

= = = Archived episodes = = =

Only a small number of episodes of the first three Jeopardy ! versions survive . From the original NBC daytime version , archived episodes mostly consist of black @-@ and @-@ white kinescopes of the original color videotapes . Various episodes from 1967 , 1971 , 1973 , and 1974 are listed among the holdings of the UCLA Film and Television Archive . The 1964 " test episode " , Episode No. 2 @,@ 000 ( from February 21 , 1972 ) , and a June 1975 episode of the weekly syndicated edition exist at the Paley Center for Media . Incomplete paper records of the NBC @-@ era games exist on microfilm at the Library of Congress . GSN holds The All @-@ New Jeopardy ! ' s premiere and finale in broadcast quality , and aired the latter on December 31 , 1999 , as part of its " Y2Play " marathon . The UCLA Archive holds a copy of a pilot taped for CBS in 1977 , and the premiere exists among the Paley Center 's holdings .

GSN , which , like Jeopardy ! , is an affiliate of Sony Pictures Television , has rerun ten seasons since the channel 's launch in 1994 . Copies of 43 Trebek @-@ hosted syndicated Jeopardy ! episodes aired between 1989 and 2004 have been collected by the UCLA Archive , and the premiere and various other episodes are included in the Paley Center 's collection .



= = Reception = =

Jeopardy ! has won a record 31 Daytime Emmy Awards since 1984 . The show holds the record for the Daytime Emmy Award for Outstanding Game / Audience Participation Show , with fourteen awards won in that category . Another five awards have been won by Trebek for Outstanding Game Show Host . Twelve other awards were won by the show 's directors and writers in the respective categories of Outstanding Direction for a Game / Audience Participation Show and Outstanding Special Class Writing before these categories were removed in 2006 . On June 17 , 2011 , Trebek shared the Lifetime Achievement Award with Sajak at the 38th Annual Daytime Emmy Awards ceremony . The following year , the show was honored with a Peabody Award for its role in encouraging , celebrating , and rewarding knowledge ; as such , it holds the distinction of being the only game show since 1960 to win the Peabody Award .

In its April 17 ? 23 , 1993 issue , TV Guide named Jeopardy ! the best game show of the 1970s as part of a celebration of its 40th anniversary . In January 2001 , the magazine ranked the show number 2 on its " 50 Greatest Game Shows " list ? second only to The Price Is Right . It would later rank Jeopardy ! number 45 on its list of the 60 Best TV Series of All Time , calling it " habit @-@ forming " and saying that the program " always makes [ its viewers ] feel smarter " . Also in 2013 , the show ranked number 1 on TV Guide 's list of the 60 Greatest Game Shows . In the summer of 2006 , the show was ranked number 2 on GSN 's list of the 50 Greatest Game Shows of All Time , second only to Match Game .

A hall of fame honoring Jeopardy ! was added to the Sony Pictures Studios tour on September 20 , 2011 . It features the show 's Emmy Awards as well as retired set pieces , classic merchandise , video clips , photographs , and other memorabilia related to Jeopardy ! ' s history .

= = Tournaments and other events = =

= = = Regular events = = =

Starting in 1985 , the show has held an annual Tournament of Champions featuring the top fifteen champions who have appeared on the show since the last tournament . The top prize awarded to the winner was originally valued at \$ 100 @,@ 000 , and increased to \$ 250 @,@ 000 in 2003 . Other regular tournaments include the Teen Tournament , with a \$ 75 @,@ 000 top prize ; the College Championship , in which undergraduate students from American colleges and universities compete for a \$ 100 @,@ 000 top prize ; and the Teachers Tournament , where educators compete for a \$ 100 @,@ 000 top prize . Each tournament runs for ten consecutive episodes in a format devised by Trebek himself , consisting of five quarter @-@ final games , three semifinals , and a final consisting of two games with the scores totaled . Winners of the College Championship and Teachers Tournament are invited to participate in the Tournament of Champions .

Non @-@ tournament events held regularly on the show include Celebrity Jeopardy ! , in which celebrities and other notable individuals compete for charitable organizations of their choice ; and Kids Week , a special competition for school @-@ age children aged 10 through 12 .

= = = Special events = = =

Three International Tournaments , held in 1996 , 1997 , and 2001 , featured one @-@ week competitions among champions from each of the international versions of Jeopardy ! . Each of the countries that aired their own version of the show in those years could nominate a contestant . The format was identical to the semifinals and finals of other Jeopardy ! tournaments . In 1996 and 1997 , the winner received \$ 25 @,@ 000 ; in 2001 , the top prize was doubled to \$ 50 @,@ 000 . The 1997 tournament was recorded in Stockholm on the set of the Swedish version of Jeopardy ! , and is significant for being the first week of Jeopardy ! episodes to be taped in a foreign country .

There have been a number of special tournaments featuring the greatest contestants in Jeopardy !

history . The first of these " all @-@ time best " tournaments , Super Jeopardy ! , aired in the summer of 1990 on ABC , and featured 37 top contestants from the previous seasons of the Trebek version and one notable champion from the original Jeopardy ! series competing for a top prize of \$ 250 @,@ 000 . In 1993 , that year 's Tournament of Champions was followed by a Tenth Anniversary Tournament conducted over five episodes . In May 2002 , to commemorate the Trebek version 's 4,000th episode , the show invited fifteen champions to play for a \$ 1 million prize in the Million Dollar Masters tournament , which took place at Radio City Music Hall in New York City . The Ultimate Tournament of Champions aired in 2005 and pitted 145 former Jeopardy ! champions against each other , with two winners moving on to face Ken Jennings in a three @-@ game final for \$ 2 @,@ 000 @,@ 000 , the largest prize in the show 's history ; overall , the tournament spanned 15 weeks and 76 episodes , starting on February 9 and ending on May 25 . In 2014 , Jeopardy ! commemorated the 30th anniversary of the Trebek version with a Battle of the Decades tournament , in which 15 champions apiece from the first , second , and third decades of Jeopardy ! ' s daily syndicated history competed for a grand prize of \$ 1 @,@ 000 @,@ 000 .

In November 1998 , Jeopardy ! traveled to Boston to reassemble 12 past Teen Tournament contestants for a special Teen Reunion Tournament . In 2008 , the 25th season began with reuniting 15 contestants from the first two Kids Weeks to compete in a special reunion tournament of their own . During the next season ( 2009 ? 10 ) , a special edition of Celebrity Jeopardy ! , called the Million Dollar Celebrity Invitational , was played in which twenty @-@ seven contestants from past celebrity episodes competed for a grand prize of \$ 1 @,@ 000 @,@ 000 for charity ; the grand prize was won by Michael McKean .

The IBM Challenge aired February 14 ? 16 , 2011 , and featured IBM 's Watson computer facing off against Ken Jennings and Brad Rutter in a two @-@ game match played over three shows . This was the first man @-@ vs.-machine competition in Jeopardy ! ' s history . Watson won both the first game and the overall match to win the grand prize of \$ 1 million , which IBM divided between two charities ( World Vision International and World Community Grid ) . Jennings , who won \$ 300 @,@ 000 for second place , and Rutter , who won the \$ 200 @,@ 000 third @-@ place prize , both pledged to donate half of their winnings to charity . The competition brought the show its highest ratings since the Ultimate Tournament of Champions .

= = Record holders = =

Jeopardy ! ' s record for the longest winning streak is held by Ken Jennings , who competed on the show from June 2 through November 30 , 2004 , winning 74 matches before being defeated by Nancy Zerg in his 75th appearance . He amassed \$ 2 @,@ 520 @,@ 700 over his 74 wins and a \$ 2 @,@ 000 second @-@ place prize in his 75th appearance . At the time , he held the record as the highest money @-@ winner ever on American game shows , and his winning streak increased the show 's ratings and popularity to the point where it became TV 's highest @-@ rated syndicated program . Jennings later won the \$ 500 @,@ 000 second @-@ place prize in the Ultimate Tournament of Champions , the \$ 300 @,@ 000 second @-@ place prize in the IBM Challenge , and the \$ 100 @,@ 000 second @-@ place prize in the Battle of the Decades .

The highest @-@ earning all @-@ time Jeopardy ! contestant is Brad Rutter , who has won a cumulative total of \$ 4 @,@ 355 @,@ 102 . He became an undefeated champion in 2000 and later won an unprecedented four Jeopardy ! tournaments : the 2001 Tournament of Champions , the 2002 Million Dollar Masters Tournament , the 2005 Ultimate Tournament of Champions , and the 2014 Battle of the Decades . Rutter broke Jennings 's record for all @-@ time game show winnings when he defeated Jennings and Jerome Vered in the Ultimate Tournament of Champions finals . Jennings regained the record through appearances on various other game shows , culminating in an appearance on Are You Smarter than a 5th Grader ? on October 10 , 2008 . In 2014 , Rutter regained the title after winning \$ 1 @,@ 000 @,@ 000 in the Battle of the Decades , defeating Jennings and Roger Craig in the finals .

Craig is the holder of the all @-@ time record for single @-@ day winnings on Jeopardy ! . On the episode that aired September 14 , 2010 , he amassed a score of \$ 47 @,@ 000 after the game 's

first two rounds , then wagered and won an additional \$ 30 @, @ 000 in the Final Jeopardy ! round , finishing with \$ 77 @, @ 000 . The previous single @-@ day record of \$ 75 @, @ 000 had been set by Jennings .

The record @-@ holder among female contestants on Jeopardy ! ? in both number of games and total winnings ? is Julia Collins , who amassed \$ 429 @, @ 100 over 21 games between April 21 and June 2 , 2014 . She won \$ 428 @, @ 100 in her 20 games as champion , plus \$ 1 @, @ 000 for finishing third in her twenty @-@ first game . Collins also achieved the second @-@ longest winning streak on the show , behind Jennings . The streak , which was interrupted in May by the Battle of the Decades , was broken by Brian Loughnane .

The highest one @-@ day score in a Celebrity Jeopardy ! tournament was achieved by comedian Andy Richter during a first round game of the 2009 ? 10 season 's " Million Dollar Celebrity Invitational " , in which he finished with \$ 68 @, @ 000 for his selected charity , the St. Jude Children 's Research Hospital .

Three contestants on the Trebek version have won a game with the lowest amount possible ( \$ 1 ) . The first was U.S. Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Darryl Scott , on the episode that aired January 19 , 1993 ; the second was Benjamin Salisbury , on a Celebrity Jeopardy ! episode that aired April 30 , 1997 ; and the third was Brandi Chastain , on the Celebrity Jeopardy ! episode that aired February 9 , 2001 .

= = Other media = =

= = = Portrayals and parodies = = =

Jeopardy ! has been featured in a number of films , television shows and books over the years , mostly with one or more characters participating as contestants , or viewing and interacting with the game show from their own homes .

On " Questions and Answers " , a season 7 episode of The Golden Girls aired February 8 , 1992 , Dorothy Zbornak ( Bea Arthur ) auditions for Jeopardy ! , but despite her excellent show of knowledge , she is rejected by a contestant coordinator who feels that America would not root for her . In a dream sequence , Dorothy competes against roommate Rose Nylund ( Betty White ) and neighbor Charlie Deitz ( David Leisure ) , in a crossover from Empty Nest . Trebek and Griffin appear as themselves in the dream sequence , and Gilbert provides a voice @-@ over .

A 1988 episode of Mama 's Family titled " Mama on Jeopardy ! " features the titular Mama , Thelma Harper ( Vicki Lawrence ) , competing on the show after her neighbor and friend Lola Boylan ( Beverly Archer ) is rejected . For most of the game the questions given by Mama are incorrect , but she makes a miraculous comeback near the end and barely qualifies for Final Jeopardy ! Her final question given is also incorrect , but she finishes in second place by \$ 1 and wins a trip to Hawaii for herself and her family . Again , Trebek guest stars and Gilbert provides a voice @-@ over .

In the Cheers episode " What Is ... Cliff Clavin ? " ( 1990 ) , the titular mailman , portrayed by John Ratzenberger , appears on the show and racks up an impressive \$ 22 @, @ 000 going into the Final Jeopardy ! round , well ahead of his competitors . Despite having a total that his competitors cannot reach in Final Jeopardy ! , Cliff risks all of his winnings on the final clue , which is revealed to be " Archibald Leach , Bernard Schwartz and Lucille LeSueur " ( the real names of Cary Grant , Tony Curtis , and Joan Crawford , respectively ) . Cliff 's response , " Who are three people who 've never been in my kitchen ? " , is deemed incorrect , and he leaves with no money .

In " I Take Thee Quagmire " , a season 4 episode of Family Guy aired March 12 , 2006 , Mayor Adam West appears as a contestant on Jeopardy ! . He spells Trebek 's name backwards ( as " Kebert Xela " ) , " sending him back " to the fifth dimension , in reference to when Mister Mxyzptlk , a nemesis to DC Comics ' Superman , is sent to the fifth dimension when someone makes him say his own name backwards .

Trebek appears as himself on " Miracle on Evergreen Terrace " , a season 9 episode of The Simpsons in which Marge Simpson appears on a fictional version of the show , but performs very

poorly , leaving with ? \$ 5 @ , @ 200 .

From 1996 to 2002 and again in 2005 , 2009 , and 2015 , Saturday Night Live featured a recurring Celebrity Jeopardy ! sketch in which Trebek , portrayed by Will Ferrell , has to deal with the constant taunts of antagonists such as Sean Connery ( played by Darrell Hammond ) and Burt Reynolds ( Norm Macdonald ) , the latter of which insists on being called " Turd Ferguson " .

Jeopardy ! is featured in a subplot of the 1992 film White Men Can 't Jump , in which Gloria Clemente ( Rosie Perez ) attempts to pass the show 's auditions . She succeeds , and ends up appearing on the show , winning over \$ 14 @ , @ 000 .

Other films and television series in which Jeopardy ! has been portrayed over the years include The ' Burbs , Die Hard , Men in Black , Rain Man , Charlie 's Angels , Dying Young , The Education of Max Bickford , The Bucket List , Groundhog Day , and Finding Forrester .

In the David Foster Wallace short story " Little Expressionless Animals " , first published in The Paris Review and later reprinted in Wallace 's collection Girl with Curious Hair , a character competes and wins on every Jeopardy ! game for three years ( a total of 700 episodes ) , using her winnings to pay for the care of her autistic brother .

The Ellen 's Energy Adventure attraction at Epcot 's Universe of Energy pavilion features a dream sequence in which Ellen DeGeneres plays a Jeopardy ! game entirely focused on energy .

Fleming makes a cameo appearance reprising his role as host of Jeopardy ! in the 1982 film Airplane II : The Sequel .

The music video " I Lost on Jeopardy " , a parody of Greg Kihn 's 1983 hit song " Jeopardy " , was released by " Weird Al " Yankovic in 1984 , a few months before Trebek 's version debuted ; the video featured cameos from Fleming , Pardo , Kihn , and Dr. Demento .

= = = Merchandise = = =

Over the years , the Jeopardy ! brand has been licensed for various products . From 1964 through 1976 , Milton Bradley issued annual board games based on the original Fleming version . The Trebek version has been adapted into board games released by Pressman Toy Corporation , Tyco Toys , and Parker Brothers . In addition , Jeopardy ! has been adapted into a number of video games released on various consoles and handhelds spanning multiple hardware generations , starting with a Nintendo Entertainment System game released in 1987 . The show has also been adapted for personal computers , Facebook , Twitter , Android , and the Roku Channel Store .

A DVD titled Jeopardy ! : An Inside Look at America 's Favorite Quiz Show , released by Sony Pictures Home Entertainment on November 8 , 2005 , features five memorable episodes of the Trebek version ( the 1984 premiere , Jennings ' final game , and the three finals matches of the Ultimate Tournament of Champions ) and three featurettes discussing the show 's history and question selection process . Other products featuring the Jeopardy ! brand include a collectible watch , a series of daily desktop calendars , and various slot machine games for casinos and the Internet .

= = = Internet = = =

Jeopardy ! ' s official website , active as early as 1998 , receives over 400 @ , @ 000 monthly visitors . The website features videos , photographs , and other information related to each week 's contestants , as well as mini @ - @ sites promoting remote tapings and special tournaments . As the show changes its main title card and corresponding graphics with every passing season , the Jeopardy ! website is re @ - @ skinned to reflect the changes , and the general content of the site ( such as online tests and promotions , programming announcements , " spotlight " segments , photo galleries , and downloadable content ) is regularly updated to align with producers ' priorities for the show . In its 2012 " Readers Choice Awards " , About.com praised the official Jeopardy ! website for featuring " everything [ visitors ] need to know about the show , as well as some fun interactive elements " , and for having a humorous error page .

In November 2009 , Jeopardy ! launched a viewer loyalty program called the " Jeopardy ! Premier

Club " , which allowed home viewers to identify Final Jeopardy ! categories from episodes for a chance to earn points , and play a weekly Jeopardy ! game featuring categories and clues from the previous week 's episodes . Every three months , contestants were selected randomly to advance to one of three quarterly online tournaments ; after these tournaments were played , the three highest scoring contestants would play one final online tournament for the chance to win \$ 5 @, @ 000 and a trip to Los Angeles to attend a taping of Jeopardy ! The Premier Club was discontinued by July 2011 .

There is an unofficial Jeopardy ! fansite known as the " J ! Archive " ( j @-@ archive.com ) , which transcribes games from throughout Jeopardy ! ' s daily syndicated history . In the archive , episodes are covered by Jeopardy ! -style game boards with panels which , when hovered over with a mouse , reveal the correct response to their corresponding clues and the contestant who gave the correct response . The site makes use of a " wagering calculator " that helps potential contestants determine what amount is safest to bet during Final Jeopardy ! , and an alternative scoring method called " Coryat scoring " that disregards wagering during Daily Doubles or Final Jeopardy ! and gauges one 's general strength at the game . The site 's main founding archivist is Robert Knecht Schmidt , a student from Cleveland , Ohio , who himself appeared as a Jeopardy ! contestant in March 2010 . Before J ! Archive , there was an earlier Jeopardy ! fansite known as the " Jeoparchive " , created by season 19 contestant Ronnie O 'Rourke , who managed and updated the site until Jennings ' run made her disillusioned with the show .