

How to do a Virtual Pub Quiz

Platform:

In order to play a virtual pub quiz, the participants all need access to the same two online communications platforms. We always used Zoom on our computer and installed the app *HouseParty* on our phones (<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/houseparty/id1065781769>). The primary communication platform (in our case Zoom) is meant for the host to communicate with all the participants and to show them the questions using a slide show. The secondary platform is used by the different teams to communicate with each other and to discuss the answers to the questions.

Structure:

This game requires one or two hosts who lead the game. They will use the primary communication platform to show the questions and keep the teams updated about the score. Moreover, since we are using an online platform, photos and video can be integrated into the slideshow opening the possibility to all kinds of questions.

Instructions:

- The host is in charge of preparing the questions and to put them in a slideshow. Try to talk to people before the quiz to gather facts about the people in your team. However, you can make the questions about everything. Here are some topics you can think about to come up with questions:
 - *Favourite food*
 - *Favourite drink*
 - *Place of birth*
 - *Unusual hobbies*
 - *Gather childhood pictures of everyone and the team has to match a picture with a person*
 - *iGEM trivia*
- In the beginning make sure that the teams are communicating on the secondary platform as well. We often made rounds of 10 questions. After one round, the teams would mix again, and the answers were sent to the host to count the number of right answers per participant. The time between two rounds was also the perfect opportunity for a small break to discuss the questions and share our ideas.
- After the pub quiz is over, count the number of right answers per team member and announce the winner!

Activity outcomes:

The Pub Quiz is especially good to organize for the iGEM teams at an early stage. Pub Quiz is an ideal event that will melt the ice between the new team members or between the two different iGEM teams. It enhances the discussion and collective thinking process, and forces people to work together and share their ideas. By rotating the team composition you can make people to get to know each other better and improve the communication within your iGEM team. In the times of pandemic, when the lack of interpersonal communication is the biggest issue, this game is a real savior and will lighten the mood of every event!

Modifications:

If the quiz is too easy try setting up a time limit (e.g., 30 seconds per question).