



## Trivia quiz: July Is Hotdog Month



And Baked Beans Month. Most websites agree that the geographical origin of baked beans was what is now the northeastern U.S. The dish was common among the Narragansett, Penobscot, and Iroquois tribes and shared with Pilgrims in the 1600s. According to a common myth, a chief in one of those tribes threw his tomahawk into a tree one evening before bed. When he pulled it out the next morning, sap began to flow. The chief

tasted it, saw the possibilities and had his meat – and later his beans – cooked in it. The Pilgrims eventually substituted molasses and pork fat for their hosts' maple syrup and bear fat. Dozens of other variations have arisen since then.

But as for the geographic origin of hotdogs, well, it's hotly disputed.

### Can you guess the answers?

All statistics are from the National Hotdog and Sausage Council (NHDSC)

1. Sausage was mentioned as early as the 9<sup>th</sup> century BCE in Homer's *Odyssey*, but in modern times the invention of the hotdog is claimed by the citizens of all EXCEPT which of the following:

- a. Coberg, Germany who say it was invented by Johann Georghehner and known as the dachshund (little dog) sausage \_\_\_\_
- b. Vienna (Wien = wiener), Austria \_\_\_\_
- c. Frankfurt, Illinois, whose early German settlers improved the earlier sausage \_\_\_\_
- d. Frankfurt-Am-Main where Frankfurters celebrated its 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1987 \_\_\_\_

2. Which was the top hotdog-consuming city (pounds sold) in 2023 (most recent data as of 2025)?

- a. Chicago \_\_\_\_
- b. Dallas \_\_\_\_
- c. Los Angeles \_\_\_\_
- d. New York \_\_\_\_

3. Americans prefer their hotdogs

- a. boiled \_\_\_\_
- b. grilled \_\_\_\_
- c. steamed \_\_\_\_

4. During peak hotdog season, from Memorial Day to Labor Day, Americans typically consume \_\_\_\_ billion hotdogs. That's 818 hotdogs consumed every second during that period.

- a. 1 billion \_\_\_\_
- b. 3 billion \_\_\_\_
- c. 5 billion \_\_\_\_
- d. 7 billion \_\_\_\_



"Noblest of all dogs is the hot-dog; it feeds the hand that bites it." ~ Dr. Laurence Peter

There are many regional differences in terms of topping preferences for hotdogs. Can you match the region to its toppings of choice?

5. Southern U.S.

6. Chicago \_\_\_\_

7. New York City (street) \_\_\_\_

- a. Tomato slices, chopped raw white onion, sweet relish, yellow mustard and dill pickle spear
- b. Sauerkraut, deli-style mustard, onion
- c. Creamy coleslaw, beef chili, raw (Vidalia?) onions, yellow mustard



Can you match *these* regions to their toppings of choice?

8. Sonoran (southern Arizona) \_\_\_\_

9. Seattle \_\_\_\_

10. Texas \_\_\_\_

- a. Salsa, shredded Monterey Jack cheese, sliced jalapeños, sometimes chili
- b. Cream cheese, grilled onions, Sriracha sauce, jalapeños, and sometimes cabbage and mustard or BBQ sauce
- c. Bacon-wrapped hotdog, pinto beans, pico de gallo, avocado, mayonnaise, shredded cheese



11. And if you think any of these toppings are strange, lots of children say they would eat their hotdogs with chocolate sauce if their moms weren't looking. Just how many, according to the survey?

- a. 15% \_\_\_\_
- b. 25% \_\_\_\_
- c. 35% \_\_\_\_
- d. 45% \_\_\_\_

12. What you choose to top your hotdog with is less important than the order in which you add the toppings. If you like a LOT of toppings, this may not always be possible, but hotdog etiquette requires us to always "dress the dog," not the bun, which means the toppings are to be placed ON the hotdog, not between the hotdog and bun.

True \_\_\_\_

False \_\_\_\_

"...A hot dog with an interesting person is an amazing meal." ~ Chris Rock

13. The proper order for putting condiments on a hotdog are wet condiments such as mustard and chili first, followed by shredded cheese, followed by chunky condiments such as relish, onions and sauerkraut, followed by spices, like celery salt or pepper.

True \_\_\_\_ False \_\_\_\_

14. All of the following except ONE are also hotdog etiquette rules. Which one is not?

- a. Don't serve wine with hotdogs. \_\_\_\_
- b. Don't serve linen napkins, fine china, or utensils with hotdogs. \_\_\_\_
- c. Because of their sticky nature, wash condiments off your fingers after eating; don't lick them. \_\_\_\_
- d. If you are over 18, don't put ketchup on your hotdog. \_\_\_\_

15. The hotdog council also says that the proper number of bites for finishing a normal hotdog is:

- a. 4 \_\_\_\_
- b. 5 \_\_\_\_
- c. 6 \_\_\_\_
- d. 7 \_\_\_\_



If you serve hotdogs at your house and have always wondered, "Why are there typically 10 hotdogs per pack and 8 buns per bag?" the council's answer is: Originally, people purchased hotdogs from their butchers in whatever quantities they desired, but since 1940, they have been packaged in groups of 10. The buns come in eight-packs because they are baked in pans that hold a total of eight rolls in two clusters of four. More recently, some bakers and butchers have become a bit more flexible. Hot diggity!

Answers:

- |      |      |      |          |           |
|------|------|------|----------|-----------|
| 1. c | 4. d | 7. b | 10. a    | 13. False |
| 2. c | 5. c | 8. c | 11. b    | 14. c     |
| 3. b | 6. a | 9. b | 12. True | 15. b     |

Notes:

2. New York was #2, Dallas #3, Chicago #4. If the figures are surprising, remember we are talking total hotdog consumption; many residents of these cities eat other kinds of sausage. If we look at the *per capita* figure, the top four are Paducah, KY, Greensboro, NC, Charlotte, NC, and Buffalo, NY.

3. About 63% prefer grilled

5 – 10. Note that different websites suggest different ingredients, and some changes reflect personal preferences. Some people, regardless of where they are from, will add relish, grilled onions, peppers, shredded cheese, their preferred mustard, and anything



else they desire, (olives, lettuce) and, yes, ketchup, even though it's supposedly impolite to do so.

13. Cheese comes after the chunky stuff, and celery salt and other spices are last.

16. Do serve beer, soda, or lemonade. Do use paper plates or everyday dishes. Do lick your fingers. According to Dirty Harry (movie) never use ketchup. Also, don't get too fancy with your buns (plain, sesame or poppyseed are acceptable; no sun-dried tomatoes buns) and do eat *all* of your bun.

And don't take *any* of this too seriously!

Sources: [www.hot-dog.org](http://www.hot-dog.org) and <https://potatorolls.com/blog/fun-facts-about-hot-dogs/>  
(There's a lot more information in these sources, including hot dogs as astronaut food.)

Talk about it

- Are you a hotdog lover? If so, how do you like them prepared? What are your preferred condiments?
- Do you tend to only like hotdogs in certain settings such as at a baseball game, from a street vendor, or on a picnic? If so, is there a reason for that?
- Do you like baked beans? Do you have a favorite recipe for baked beans?
- Do you have any special memories of picnics where hotdogs and baked beans were served?

