



The SESK Party Game

STUFF EVERY ANGLER SHOULD KNOW

How to play (30 seconds)

1. The reader reads a card and its three answers out loud.
2. Everyone says "One, two, three, Goldilocks!" and holds up 1, 2, or 3 fingers.
3. The reader flips the card and reads the answer and the Why.
4. Everyone who was right takes a point.
5. The reader reads the joke with a straight face. Anyone laughs or groans? The reader takes a point. Nobody got it right? The reader takes a point.
6. Pass the deck left. Most points when the points run out wins.

What you need

These cards and the point tokens on the last two pages. No tokens? Use coins, buttons, pebbles, or marshmallows. 3 to 10 players, ages 8 and up.

Expert rule: Bet It

Before the reader flips the card, you may put one of your points on your answer. Right: take your normal point plus one extra. Wrong: your bet goes back to the pile. That's it.

Printing

Print single-sided, on cardstock if you have it. Cut on the dashed lines. Each card is a 3.5 x 5 inch index card. The answer half is upside down on purpose, so the table can't peek. Cards 1 to 50 of 100. More cards and the free daily online game at sesk.info. Built 2026-10-12.

FISHING



How much line do you fold over to start a Palomar knot?

- A** About 6 inches
- B** About 1 inch
- C** About 2 feet

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#3727

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
Have you seen the new fishing website? No, it's not online yet.

A About 6 inches
WHY The Palomar starts with a doubled line, which is why it is such a strong knot. You pass that doubled line through the hook eye.

FISHING



How many times do you wrap the tag end when tying a clinch knot?

- A** Once or twice
- B** Five or six times
- C** Ten to twelve times

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#3728

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
What is the difference between a fisherman and a lazy student? One baits his hook, the other hates his book.

B Five or six times
WHY The clinch knot is wrapped several times, not just once or twice, so it grips. Too few wraps can slip, and too many are hard to seat.

FISHING



How much tag end should you leave before starting a clinch knot?

- A** About half an inch
- B** About 3 feet
- C** At least 6 inches

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#3729

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
Why do fish swim in schools? Because they can't walk!

C At least 6 inches
WHY You need enough spare line to make five or six wraps by hand. A stubby tag end is hard to wrap and easy to fumble.

FISHING



What is the double uni knot best used for?

- A** Joining two lines together
- B** Tying a lure to a swivel
- C** Keeping a bobber in place

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#3730

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
What do you call an underwater social network? Fishbook.

A Joining two lines together
WHY You wrap each line around the other to make two uni knots. Pulling the standing lines apart slides the knots together into one strong joint.

FISHING



Tying a double uni knot with braided line, how many wraps per knot?

- A** Four
- B** Eight
- C** Two

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#3731

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did Sally go to the lake after her brothers teased her? To fish for compliments.

B Eight
WHY Braided line is slick, so it needs more wraps to hold. The usual four wraps for mono are doubled to eight for braid.

FISHING



What kind of knot is the Rapala knot?

- A** A line-joining knot
- B** A bobber stopper knot
- C** A non-slip loop knot

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#3732

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
What do you call a fish with a tie? SoFISHticated.

C A non-slip loop knot
WHY A loop knot leaves a small open loop at the lure instead of cinching tight to the eye. The lure can wiggle more naturally.

FISHING



The arbor knot is used to tie line to what?

- A** The reel's spool
- B** A hook eye
- C** A bobber

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#3733

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
How much fishing tackle can a man collect before his wife throws him out? I don't know, but I think I'm nearly there.

A The reel's spool
WHY An arbor knot anchors the line to the reel's spool so it can be wound on. It is the first knot when you spool a new reel.

FISHING



What does a bobber stopper knot do?

- A** Joins two lines together
- B** Stops the bobber sliding up the line
- C** Locks the hook onto the eye

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#3734

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
How many fishermen does it take to change a light bulb? One, but you should have seen the bulb. It must have been THIS big.

B Stops the bobber sliding up the line
WHY The knot sits on the main line at the depth you want. The bobber slides up until it hits the knot, setting your bait depth.

FISHING



What does the barb on a fish hook do?

- A** Ties the line to the hook
- B** Measures the hook size
- C** Keeps the fish from unhooking

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#3735

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the fish cross the road? Cause it was hooked!

C **WHY** The barb is a small backward-pointing projection near the point. Once the hook is set, it makes it harder for the fish to slip off.
Keeps the fish from unhooking

FISHING



Which part of a hook do you tie your line to?

- A** The eye
- B** The point
- C** The gap

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#3736

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
Why are fish cleverer than humans? Ever seen a fish spend a fortune trying to hook a human?

A **WHY** The eye is the small loop at the top where line or a lure attaches. Everything else on the hook is about holding the fish.
The eye

FISHING



On the fishing hook size scale, which hook is the smallest?

- A** Size 1
- B** Size 32
- C** Size 19/0

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#3737

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
What do you call a fish that knows addition? An Octopus.

B **WHY** Hook sizes count down from 32 to 1, getting bigger, then the aught sizes (1/0 up to 19/0) keep getting bigger.
Size 32

FISHING



Which hook sizes suit deep-sea fishing for big fish like yellowfin tuna?

- A** Tiny sizes like 28
- B** Size 1 or 2
- C** Large aught sizes like 9/0

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#3738

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
What do you call a fish that needs help with its vocals? Autotuna.

C **WHY** Big, strong fish need big, strong hooks with a wide gap. The aught sizes get larger as the number before the slash rises.
Large aught sizes like 9/0

FISHING



Where does a circle hook usually catch a fish?

- A** Lip or corner of the mouth
- B** Deep in the stomach
- C** In the gills

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#3739

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
How did the fish's tail get stuck in the anchor chain?
It was just a fluke!

A Lip or corner of the mouth
WHY A circle hook's point curves inward, so it tends to set in the corner of the mouth as the fish turns. That means fewer gut-hooked fish.

FISHING



Why are barbless hooks good for catch and release?

- A** They never hook any fish
- B** They come out easily with less injury
- C** They hold fish more tightly

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#3740

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
What do fish use for money? Sand dollars!

B They come out easily with less injury
WHY With no barb to catch, the hook slides out faster. A quicker release means the fish spends less time out of the water.

FISHING



Which fishing line stretches to absorb shocks?

- A** Braided line
- B** Wire leader
- C** Monofilament

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#3741

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
Where do fish go to do yoga? The river bend.

C Monofilament
WHY Mono has some give, which cushions a fish's sudden runs and head shakes. That is part of why it is popular for beginners.

FISHING



Which fishing line doesn't stretch and lets you feel every nudge?

- A** Braided line
- B** Monofilament
- C** Fluorocarbon

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#3742

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
Where do football players go shopping in the offseason? The tackle shop.

A Braided line
WHY Braid has no stretch, so bites and bottom bumps travel straight to your rod tip. Mono and fluorocarbon have more give.

FISHING



Which line is described as completely invisible underwater and very abrasion resistant?

- A** Braided line
- B** Fluorocarbon
- C** Wire leader

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#3743

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
Fluorocarbon is so invisible, I spent an hour looking for it. It's a real vanishing act.

B Fluorocarbon
WHY Fluorocarbon is very hard for fish to see and stands up to scrapes from rocks and teeth. That is why it is often used as a leader.

FISHING



What is a bobber mainly used to do?

- A** Drop a lure to the bottom
- B** Cut weeds off the line
- C** Hold bait at a desired depth

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#3744

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
What do you call a lazy crayfish? A slobster.

C Hold bait at a desired depth
WHY A bobber floats on the surface and keeps your baited hook at the depth you set. When it dips or moves, a fish may be biting.

FISHING



What is a sinker's main job?

- A** Take bait down to the fish
- B** Keep bait on the surface
- C** Attract fish by noise

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#3745

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
Why are fish boots the warmest ones to wear? Because they have electric eels!

A Take bait down to the fish
WHY Sinkers add weight so your bait drops down to where the fish are feeding. A bobber does the opposite job, holding bait up at a set depth.

FISHING



Which hook does Take Me Fishing call the most popular for beginners?

- A** The treble hook
- B** The J-shaped bait hook
- C** The 19/0 hook

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#3746

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the husband go fishing on Valentine's Day? To catch his wife a bouquet of flounders!

B The J-shaped bait hook
WHY The classic J hook is simple and works well with live bait. Other types, like circle and treble hooks, suit particular jobs.

FISHING



Which of these is natural bait rather than an artificial lure?

- A Crankbait
- B A metal spoon
- C Leeches

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#3747

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
Didn't you see the no-fishing sign, son? I'm not fishing, sir. I'm teaching these worms how to swim!

C Leeches
WHY Natural bait is real food, like worms, leeches, minnows, crayfish and crickets. Lures are man-made imitations.

FISHING



What do fishing license fees help pay for?

- A Fisheries management, habitat and education
- B Private fishing club dues
- C Repaving highways

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#3748

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
How do fish go into business? They start on a small scale!

A Fisheries management, habitat and education
WHY License money goes to state wildlife agencies. They use it to manage fish populations, protect habitat and teach people how to fish.

FISHING



Which taxes fund the federal Sport Fish Restoration program?

- A Grocery sales
- B Fishing tackle and motorboat fuel
- C Movie tickets

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#3749

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
What music should you listen to while fishing? Something catchy!

B Fishing tackle and motorboat fuel
WHY Anglers and boaters pay these taxes, and the money goes to state fish and wildlife agencies. It pays for fishery projects, boating access and aquatic education.

FISHING



On a state's free fishing day, what still applies?

- A Nothing, anything goes
- B Only catch and release
- C Other fishing rules still apply

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#3750

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
What did the fish say when he posted bail? I'm off the hook!

C Other fishing rules still apply
WHY Free fishing days just waive the license. Limits, seasons and gear rules remain in force, so check your state agency.

FISHING



In most cases, do you need a state license to fish a private pond?

- A** Usually no, but follow the owner's rules
- B** Yes, a federal license
- C** Yes, a saltwater license

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#3751

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
What is the richest fish in the world? A goldfish.

A Usually no, but follow the owner's rules
WHY On private property the state usually does not step in, so no license is needed. Rules vary by state, so check if you are unsure.

FISHING



In Florida, anglers under what age are exempt from fishing licenses?

- A** Under 12
- B** Under 16
- C** Under 18

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#3752

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
Why don't fish pass their exams? Because they work below C-level.

B Under 16
WHY Florida exempts young people under 16 from recreational freshwater and saltwater licenses. Many other states set different ages.

FISHING



In Florida, do you need a license if you plan to catch and release?

- A** No, release means no license
- B** Only if you keep a fish over 20 inches
- C** Yes, unless exempt

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#3753

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
What do you name a Sith Lord who likes to go fishing? Darth Wader.

C Yes, unless exempt
WHY Florida's rule covers trying to catch fish, not just keeping them. Casting a line counts, unless you qualify for an exemption.

FISHING



In Florida, which fish is measured by fork length rather than total length?

- A** Cobia
- B** Red drum
- C** Snook

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#3754

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
Where are most fish found? Between the head and the tail!

A Cobia
WHY Florida measures some fish to the fork of the tail instead of the tip. Cobia, amberjack and king mackerel use fork length.

FISHING



Statewide in Texas, what is the minimum length for a largemouth bass?

- A** 10 inches
- B** 14 inches
- C** 18 inches

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#3755

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
What kind of fish plays the guitar? A bassist

B 14 inches
WHY Texas sets a general minimum length so young bass can grow. Many lakes have different special rules, so check before you keep one.

FISHING



In Texas, how big is the possession limit compared with the daily bag limit?

- A** The same as
- B** Half as much
- C** Twice the daily bag limit

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#3756

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
Why are goldfish orange? Because the water makes them rusty.

C Twice the daily bag limit
WHY The possession limit is how many you may have at any time. In Texas it is generally double the daily bag limit.

FISHING



Before handling a fish you plan to release, what should you do?

- A** Wet your hands first
- B** Dry your hands on a towel
- C** Rub sand on your hands

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#3757

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
What do romantic fish sing to each other? Salmon-chanted evening!

A Wet your hands first
WHY Wet hands are gentler on a fish than dry ones. Handle it as little as possible and keep it close to the water.

FISHING



How long should a fish you plan to release stay out of water?

- A** Up to five minutes
- B** No longer than you can hold your breath
- C** As long as you need for photos

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#3758

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
What kind of fish helps you hear better? A herring aid.

B No longer than you can hold your breath
WHY Fish can't breathe out of water. If you can't do it comfortably, neither should the fish.

FISHING



How should you hold a heavy fish for a photo?

- A** Hang it by the jaw
- B** Hold it by the gills
- C** Support its weight along its body

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#3759

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
What did the sardine call the submarine? A can of people.

C Support its weight along its body
WHY A heavy fish can be injured if it hangs from its jaw. Supporting the body spreads the weight and protects its organs.

FISHING



What does a descender device do for a fish caught from deep water?

- A** Returns it quickly to depth
- B** Weighs it
- C** Removes the hook

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#3760

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
What was the Tsar of Russia's favorite fish? Sardines.

A Returns it quickly to depth
WHY Fish pulled up fast can suffer barotrauma, a gas buildup that keeps them from swimming down. A descender sends them back to depth.

FISHING



To revive a tired fish before release, which way should you face it?

- A** Away from the current
- B** Into the current
- C** Upside down

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#3761

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
How do you make a fish laugh? Tell a whale of a tale.

B Into the current
WHY Moving water pushes oxygen across the gills. Facing the fish into the flow helps it recover before it swims off.

FISHING



Wyoming Game and Fish says released trout die much more often above what water temperature?

- A** 55 degrees F
- B** 85 degrees F
- C** 70 degrees F

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#3762

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
Where do fish wash? In a river basin!

C 70 degrees F
WHY Warm water holds less oxygen, and a fight uses a lot of it. Wyoming Game and Fish says to fish mornings and land fish quickly.

FISHING



In Minnesota, where should you put unwanted bait?

- A** In the trash
- B** Back in the lake
- C** Onto the shore

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#3763

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did Batman and Robin quit fishing together? Because Robin ate all the worms!

A In the trash
WHY Bait animals and plants can spread to waters where they don't belong. Releasing bait into Minnesota waters is illegal.

FISHING



In Minnesota, which of these is illegal?

- A** Draining your livewell
- B** Transporting caught fish in water
- C** Cleaning your gear

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#3764

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
Two fish are in a tank. One says to the other, 'Can you drive this thing?'

B Transporting caught fish in water
WHY Water can carry tiny invasive animals and plants. Minnesota requires draining water from containers holding your catch.

FISHING



Michigan says to dry boats and gear for how long before launching in another water body?

- A** One hour
- B** Thirty days
- C** Five days

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#3765

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
Who cleans the bottom of the ocean? A mer-maid.

C Five days
WHY Hitchhiking plants, mussels and eggs can survive on damp gear. Drying for several days helps stop them.

FISHING



If you catch a known invasive fish, what should you do?

- A** Never put it back in the water
- B** Release it far from shore
- C** Move it to a nearby pond

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#3766

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
What do you get if you cross a trout with an apartment? A flatfish.

A Never put it back in the water
WHY Sending an invasive fish back means it can keep breeding and harming native species. Check your state's rules for what to do with it.

FISHING



On a largemouth bass, how far does the upper jaw extend?

- A** Just short of the nostril
- B** Past the eye
- C** Only to the middle of the eye

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#3767

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
What is a fish's favorite musical instrument? A bass drum.

B Past the eye
WHY A big mouth is the clue. On a smallmouth, the jaw only reaches about the middle of the eye.

FISHING



Smallmouth bass are more closely linked to what kind of habitat?

- A** Weedy mud ponds
- B** Deep ocean reefs
- C** Rocky habitat and rivers

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#3768

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
Which fish dresses the best? The swordfish. It always looks sharp!

C Rocky habitat and rivers
WHY Smallmouth favor rocky spots and rivers. Largemouth are more often in weedier water or reservoirs with standing timber.

FISHING



What marks a bluegill?

- A** A dark flap on the gill cover
- B** A forked tail with spots
- C** Four whiskers on each side

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#3769

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
What do you get when you cross a banker with a fish? A loan shark!

A A dark flap on the gill cover
WHY The ear flap is the best clue. Minnesota DNR describes it as a dark blue tab at the rear edge of the gill cover.

FISHING



What tells a pumpkinseed sunfish apart from a bluegill?

- A** A forked tail
- B** Orange spot on the ear flap
- C** A long whisker

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#3770

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
Where do fish work? At the offish.

B Orange spot on the ear flap
WHY Sunfish look alike and even hybridize. The orange spot on the ear flap tip is a Minnesota DNR clue for pumpkinseed.

FISHING



When do channel catfish mostly feed?

- A** At noon
- B** Only in winter
- C** At night

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#3771

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
A man was fishing in the jungle. 'Have you had any bites?' asked another angler. 'Yes, lots, but they were all mosquitoes.'

C At night
WHY Channel catfish use taste and smell to find food after dark. That is why night fishing can pay off.

FISHING



What are a catfish's whiskers (barbels) mainly for?

- A** Tasting to find food
- B** Steering
- C** Hearing

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#3772

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
What kind of fish chase mice? Catfish.

A Tasting to find food
WHY Barbels are covered in taste sensors. They help bottom feeders find food in muddy water.

FISHING



Which pattern marks a northern pike?

- A** Dark bars on a light body
- B** Light spots on a dark body
- C** No spots at all

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#3773

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
What do you call a big fish who makes you an offer you can't refuse? The Codfather!

B Light spots on a dark body
WHY A muskie is the reverse: dark spots or bars on a light background. Remember: pike has light spots.

FISHING



When is walleye fishing usually best?

- A** In bright midday sun
- B** Only at noon
- C** In low light

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#3774

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
What fish sounds like a telephone? Herring, herring... herring, herring.

C In low light
WHY Walleye have a light-gathering layer in their eyes, so they hunt well in dim light. Baifish move out of cover then too.

FISHING



Where do largemouth bass hide in the daytime?

- A Under lily pads or in the shade
- B On open, sunny sand flats
- C In 50 feet of water

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#3775

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
What was the name of Tom Sawyer's fish?
Huckleberry Fin!

A Under lily pads or in the shade
WHY Largemouth ambush prey from cover. Shade, weeds and weed edges that drop into deeper water are the best spots to try.

FISHING



Wisconsin DNR says largemouth fishing is best when water is what temperature?

- A 35 to 45 degrees F
- B 55 to 75 degrees F
- C 90 to 100 degrees F

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#3776

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
Why do penguins eat fish? Because donuts get soggy before they can catch them.

B 55 to 75 degrees F
WHY Largemouth are warm-water fish. In Wisconsin the best fishing is late spring and early fall, when water is in that range.

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