



The Seder Game: Rules and Reference Key

Rules

Deal each player 7 answer cards, face down (Matzah side up.) One person is the judge in each round. The judge turns over a question card and reads the question aloud. The other players each select what they think is the best answer from their hand and give it face down to the judge (so the judge doesn't know who played which card.). Once the judge has received all the cards, they turn them over and read the answers aloud, and select one winner. Whoever played the winning answer gets the question card.

The person sitting to the left of the judge becomes the judge for the next round.

Whoever has the most question cards at the end of the game is the winner.

Variations

- Add a random card from the pile for each round. The pile is surprisingly good at the game.
- After each question, the winner must explain how the question card or any of the answers played is connected to Passover.

If you are as cut-throat competitive as we are at my house, please take a deep breath and remember that the true purpose of this game is to laugh and enjoy the Seder.

Answer cards

A baby in a basket casually floating down the Nile. Exodus 2:3

A blast of God's nostrils. Exodus 15:8

A bush that's on fire but not actually burning. Exodus 3:2

A land flowing with milk and honey. Exodus 3:17

A magical well. Numbers 20:1-2

A Passover sacrifice. Exodus 12:1-17

A pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Passover is one of the *Shalosh regalim*, the holidays which historically were celebrated by everyone taking a trip to Jerusalem.

A pillar of fire. Exodus 14:24

A plague on both your houses. Romeo And Juliet, Act 3 Scene 1.

A racist monarch who thinks he's god. This is Pharaoh.

A really cute locust. The 8th plague.

A ritual sandwich. Korech.

A spiritual mountain that turns out to be an active volcano. Exodus 19:18

A strong hand and an outstretched arm. From the Haggaddah.

A sweet, nutty dip that is the texture of cement. Haroset.

A three-hour movie with Charlton Heston, John Derek and Yul Brynner. *The Ten Commandments*, 1956.

Acknowledging the superiority of the living god. Pharaoh finally acknowledging God.

Adopting two hundred frogs as pets. The 2nd plague.

An eighteen-year-old trying to look seventy. Rabbi Elazar, "I am like a man of seventy years old."

Ancient Egyptian magic. Exodus 7:11

Another bloody plague. The plague of blood, but it's also a pun. Duh.

Anything with wheat, barley, spelt, oats, and rye. Leavened bread made from one of these 5 grains is considered chametz.

Awkwardly preventing someone from opening the wine.

This might happen if you, like many, have non-Jews as guests at your Seder.

Being chased by Pharaoh's chariots. Exodus 14:23

Being cruel to immigrants. What the Egyptians did to us.

Being deaf to the cries of people's suffering. This refers to Pharaoh, who hardened his heart against the cries of his own people during the ten plagues.

Being embalmed. Genesis 50:26

Being half animal, half human, and immortal. The Egyptian gods.

Being half-god once removed on your mother's side. From *A Night At The Museum 2*.

Being on time for Halachic midnight. The deadline for eating the Afikoman.

Blood, fire, and pillars of smoke. From the Haggaddah.

Boiling all the dishes. One way to *kasher* the dishes for Passover.

Boils all over everything. The 6th plague.

Breaking into song and dance. Exodus 15:20

Burying a body in the sand. Exodus 2:12

Calling take-backsies. Take your pick - Pharaoh regretting that he freed the slaves, or buying back your chametz?

Claiming "Finders Keepers" except with babies. Refers to Pharaoh's daughter adopting Moses floating down the Nile.

Collective punishment. For example, unleashing ten plagues on an entire nation when it's their leader who is the problem.

Combing for lice. The 3rd plague.

Conquering Ethiopia. There are several sources which suggest that Moses, before he realized he was Hebrew, was sent by Pharaoh to conquer Ethiopia, and once he had done so, married their queen. This same queen may also be the Isha Kushit later referred to.

Constantly asking God to build a house. Adir Hu, etc.

Crumbs from last year. From the Haggadah.

Crying out to the Lord. Exodus 2:23

Dancing in the mud. How the Hebrews mixed straw into mortar.

Dipping parsley into a bowl of our ancestors' tears. Karpas.

Dipping twice. One of the four questions.

Disowning bread. During the *Bedikat Chametz*, once we have found all the scraps around the house, we say that if there's anything left, it does not belong to us.

Disproportionate tax rates. Exodus 1:11

Disrespecting the sun god, Ra. Rashi on Exodus 10:10

Doing all of this again tomorrow night. This is us, in Israel, laughing at you, who art not in Israel.

Doing anything so you don't have to fast. Refers to the tradition of having a siyum on Passover Eve to avoid the fast of the first borns.

Doing weird things on purpose so people will ask questions. It's tradition!

Double-dipping. Strictly not what we meant when we said we dip twice.

Dreaming your siblings are bowing before you. Genesis 37:7-10

Drinking blood. The 1st plague.

Dying in the desert because apparently there were no graves in Egypt. Exodus 14:11

Eating Kitniyot because we are not slaves anymore. Many Ashkenazi Jews living in Israel have adopted this (not so) new Minhag, following a ruling from *Machon Shilo*. I highly recommend it.

Encouraging a child to ask questions and then answering them in a foreign language. Anybody here speak Aramaic?

Failing to count to 49. How easy is counting the Omer for you?

Family members you didn't know you had. It's not just us. According to the Midrash, Eldad and Meidad (Numbers 11:26) were Moses's younger brothers.

Farfel. Crushed matzah flakes.

Finding out you're not the race you thought you were. Refers to Moses learning that he is in fact not Egyptian. Exodus 2:11

Forty days and forty nights. Exodus 34:28

Four hundred years of slavery. Traditionally the amount of time that we were slaves in Egypt, possibly measured from God's promise to Abraham in Genesis 15.

Free food that falls from the sky. The Manna that fell for the Israelites all those years in the desert.

Freeing the slaves, changing your mind, and drowning. Refers to Pharaoh's decision to chase the Hebrews after agreeing to free them.

Gathering an entire nation at Mt. Sinai but not giving them the Torah. From *Dayenu*.

Gebracht. Wet matzah, which, in some traditions, is considered forbidden to eat on Passover.

Getting four of everything. Cups of wine, questions, children, names of the holiday, languages of redemption, did I miss anything?

GI-Jew. You know, like, constantly having to visit the GI because you're a Jew?

Hail that is also on fire. The 7th plague, according to midrash, the hail caught fire, to add another miracle.

Halachic loopholes. Selling the chametz, and other such shenanigans.

Hard work and no patience at all. Exodus 6:9

Hardening your heart. Exodus 7:13

Having an identity crisis. Moses learning that he is in fact not Egyptian. Exodus 2:11

Having six babies at a time. Rashi concludes the Hebrew mothers were having 6 babies at a time, from Exodus 1:7.

Hiding bread around the house. Bedikat Chametz.

Hitting the rock instead of asking it nicely. Numbers 20:11

Horseradish freshly dug out of the ground. Brutal when used for Maror.

Idol-worship. For instance, the Egyptian gods.

Ignoring advice from a sorcerer. According to the midrash, Pharaoh did this multiple times.

Imagining that you were actually there. From the Haggadah.

Impenetrable darkness. The 9th plague.

Jerusalem, the Built. Next year have your Seder there.

Jewish mothers all forgetting to take snacks. This is what my mother says about not having enough time to let the bread rise. Really? An entire nation of Jewish mothers didn't take snacks?

Joseph's creepy corpse. Exodus 13:19

Jumping into the ocean to prove a point. Nachshon ben Aminadav, who, according to *Chazal*, was the first to jump into the Red Sea before it was split.

Kosher for Passover dish soap. See Unnecessary strictness.

Lavan, the big bad Aramaean. From the Haggadah.

Less than one-hundredth part chametz. There is one (unpopular) opinion that if a food is contaminated with this amount of chametz, it can still be consumed on Passover. Most Rabbis disagree.

Licking your pinky. After taking drops of wine out of your glass to symbolize the pain and suffering of the Egyptians during the 10 (possibly 250) plagues. Does it taste good?

Looking for hidden bread crumbs in the dark. This refers to the tradition of *Bedikat Chametz* which occurs the night before the Seder.

Losing faith after witnessing a dozen miracles.

Making a big deal out of breaking matzah. Yachatz.

Making bricks without straw. After Moses first spoke to Pharaoh, the Hebrews' work load became harder by not having straw to make bricks. Which, by the way, is extremely difficult. Exodus 5:7

Making up acronyms. Rabbi Yehuda made acronyms for the plagues which make zero sense in English.

Making your brother do the talking. Refers to Aharon speaking to Pharaoh for Moses.

Miriam's tambourine. Exodus 15:20

Missing the good old slave days. Numbers 11:5

More Yuntef than you bargained for. This is us, in Israel, laughing at you, who art not in Israel.

Moses and God arguing like a married couple. Exodus 14:15, Numbers 11:12

Moses's navigation skills. Really? It took them 40 years?

Mouthing off to Pharaoh. This is an exaggerated interpretation of the Midwives explaining to Pharaoh why they could not kill the Hebrew newborns.

Moving because of famine. How the Hebrews ended up in Egypt in the first place.

Not asking for directions. Again this old joke about taking 40 years to get through the desert.

Not eating Kitniyot because we like being hungry. Every year on Passover, dozens of families go hungry. They are called Ashkenazim.

One kid that my father bought for two zuzim. From *Chad Gadya*.

Owning people. Refers to the enslavement of the Hebrews by the Egyptians.

Painting blood on the doorway. Exodus 12:7

Performing miracles. Plagues, sea splitting, etc.

Pharaoh in pajamas in the middle of the night. Traditional children's song.

Potato vodka. What else can you drink on Passover?

Pouring a glass of wine for a ghost. Elijah, specifically.

Practicing witchcraft. Like the ancient Egyptians.

Pretending to not remember Joseph. Exodus 1:8

Putting hot coal in front of a baby. The midrash says that baby Moses was tested to see if he could be the redeemer of the Hebrew slaves, by Pharaoh's sages placing one bowl of jewels and burning embers before him to see which he reached for. Moses was not an idiot, so he went for the shiny ones, but at the last minute the angel Gabriel intervened and baby Moses stuck his hand into a bowl of burning embers, and then right into his mouth. Whose genius idea was this?

Rabbis arguing about who had more plagues. From the Haggaddah.

Ramses II denying your basic human rights. Slavery was not only about hard work for little reward. Being a slave also means your life is seen as less valuable than others.

Ramses II. Pharaoh during the time of the plagues.

Rejoicing in our enemy's suffering. The midrash says that the angels were singing along with the Israelites after the ocean closed and the Egyptians drowned, but God told them to stop, reminding them that the Egyptians were his children too.

Replicating the plague to show Moses who's boss. Exodus 7:22

Rice on the Seder table. The first year we began to eat Kitniyot as a family, my mother regarded that this looked as foreign as pork on the Seder table.

Running for your life and getting married. This refers to Moses fleeing to Midian, where he meets his future wife.

Saying "Ya'ale V'yavo" out loud so everyone knows you remembered. Barech.

Seeing voices. Exodus 20:15

Selling food for one week with an automatic return policy. This refers to the concept of Selling Chametz.

Seven years in the coal mines of Sinai. Joshua's punishment in the movie, *The Ten Commandments*, 1956.

Singing about the food chain. Chad Gadya.

Sitting beneath a vine and a fig tree. Kings I 5:5, a description of a peaceful life in Israel during the time of King Solomon.

Slaving away. This actually refers to cleaning the house prior to Passover.

Something as rude as eating matzah on Erev Pesach. This is not a G-rated reference.

Something even the dog won't eat. Spoiled food is still considered chametz, unless it is not even worthy of feeding to the dog.

Splitting the middle matzah and calling it "dessert." Yachatz,

Splitting the sea. Exodus 14:21

Stealing your neighbor's heirlooms on your way out of slavery. Exodus 12:35

Taking 600,000 people on a desert tour. That's how many of us there were.

Taking forty years to travel the length of an eight-hour train ride. Can you believe how close Egypt actually is to Israel?

Taking thy shoes from off thy feet for the land upon which you stand is holy ground. Exodus 3:5

Talking about The Exodus until it's time for the morning prayer. From the Haggaddah.

Telling people your name is "I am that I am." Exodus 3:14

That kid who really does not know how to ask. From the Haggaddah, one of the four children.

That left-handed person they didn't think about when they said recline to the left. Why do we recline left? According to one source, it's so we can eat with our right hand.

That unfortunate business with the male babies and the Nile. Exodus 1:22

The bitterness of life. Exodus 1:14

The blood of Christian babies. Obviously we do not actually put this in Matzah. But there were those who thought we did.

The bull that drank the water that extinguished the fire that burnt the stick that hit the dog that bit the cat that ate my father's goat. From Chad Gadya.

The dust of the earth. During the Bedikat Chametz, once we have found all the scraps around the house, we say that if there's anything left, its value is that of the dust of the earth.

The finger of God. From the Haggaddah.

The Kitniyot Liberation Front.

<https://www.facebook.com/kitniyot/>

The mighty hand of God. From the Haggaddah.

The revolutionary concept of a day off. According to midrash, Moses gave the Hebrew slaves one day in seven to rest.

The sweet smell of freedom and barbecue. Exodus 12:9

The volume of one olive. This is the amount of Matzah we are required to eat on Seder night in order to fulfill our obligation.

This pestilence of yours. The 5th plague, and a quote from the movie, *The Ten Commandments*, 1956.

Tons and tons of plagues. 200? 250? Take your pick.

Touching the mountain to find out if you'll die. Exodus 19:12

Trying to help but somehow only making things worse. Exodus 5

Turning your staff into a serpent. Exodus 7:10

Two brothers becoming mortal enemies. In many sources, Moses and Ramses II grew up as brothers.

Tying an Egyptian god to the bedpost. The animals taken for the Passover sacrifice were also symbols of the Egyptian gods.

Unfried dough, to remind us of the day the Avatar was not boiled in oil. From *Avatar The Last Airbender*, Season 2 Episode 5.

Unleavened bread. This is not chametz.

Unleavened leverage. This is the Afikoman.

Waking up early to set things on fire. *Biyyur Chametz*.

Wandering the desert for forty years. Numbers 32:13

Washing your hands twice without using soap. Urhatz, Motzi.

Well-behaved children. I can't believe you looked this one up. Is it so unheard of?

Whatever happened during the days of darkness. Refers to the midrash that some people were not worthy of redemption from Egypt, and these were killed during the days of darkness so the Egyptians would not see.

Whatever the heck a shank bone is. Do you have one on the Seder plate?

Wild beasts storming in for dramatic effect. The 4th plague.

Women saving the day. Refers to the Midwives (Exodus 1:17), Yocheved (Exodus 2:3), Pharaoh's daughter (Exodus 2:5), Miriam (Exodus 2:7), and more.

Working full-time and not being paid like ever. Slavery.

Worshipping cats. Cats, like many other animals, were symbols of certain Egyptian gods, and therefore considered to be sacred.

If the Deliverer is a myth, bring him to me in a bottle. If he is __, bring him to me in chains. Another quote from the movie, *The Ten Commandments*, 1956.

If you don't let the people go, the next plague will be __. Moses warning Pharaoh.

The Torah speaks of four children: one who is wise, one wicked, one simple, and one who is __. From the Haggaddah.

The wicked child asks, "What is the meaning of all this worship to you?" but they are really asking about __. From the Haggaddah.

This year we are slaves, next year may we be __. From the Haggaddah.

What are we supposed to talk about all night long? From the Haggaddah.

What awaits us in the Promised Land?

What did the Egyptians experience in Egypt that was five times worse at sea? From the Haggaddah.

What is keeping us from finishing the Seder? For instance, if the Afikoman has not been found.

What is required on Passover in order to fulfill your obligation? Reciting *Pesach*, *Matzah*, and *Maror*.

What is reserved for the youngest child? Asking the four questions.

What is the punishment for eating chametz on Passover? Karet. Yikes.

What is the true plague of the first born? Refers to the 10th and final plague, death of all first borns.

What really would have been enough for us? *Dayenu*, From the Haggaddah.

What takes exactly 18 minutes? Baking Matzah.

What was there not enough of in Egypt that you've brought us to die in the desert? Exodus 14:11.

Who knows what miracles you can achieve when you're __. From *The Prince of Egypt*, 1998.

Why do they rise against us in every generation? From the Haggaddah.

Why is this night different from all other nights? From the Haggaddah.

Question cards

All who are __, come and eat! From the Haggaddah.

Before they found God, our forefathers were __. From the Haggaddah.

I myself rescued you from Egypt. Me, and not __. From the Haggaddah.