

The Seasons Quiz, Key

Key
3/26

Instructions: Match each description or explanation on the right with the most appropriate seasonal reference on the left. On the authority of Emily Dickinson, "A little madness in the Spring / is wholesome even for the King."

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| 1. _E_ sure signs of spring: | A. month Earth is nearest the Sun [perihelion; aphelion farthest; tilt 23°] |
| 2. _H_ January, August | B. Japan recognized 72 seasons [each 5-6 days long; each named, see below] |
| 3. _J_ cool, cold, colder, coldest | C. Los Angeles' seasons [order varies] |
| 4. _A_ January | D. lasts 42 years [time for one orbit of sun; likewise winter] |
| 5. _G_ warm, hot, hotter, hottest | E. robin, crocus, mittens heading north. [pun. spice, Mom legs shaved] |
| 6. _I_ fall foliage | F. begins in September. [<i>Midsummer Night's Dream</i> set in spring] |
| 7. _C_ riots, fires, mudslides, quakes | G. Miami's seasons |
| 8. _F_ <i>Oktoberfest</i> in Munich | H. most popular months for divorce filings [stress of cold/heat? Xmas] |
| 9. _B_ c. 1000 years | I. moves south c. 15-20 miles a day. [spring too; speed depends on latitude] |
| 10. _D_ summer on Uranus | J. Anchorage's seasons |

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| 1. _E_ fall/autumn | A. is a flower in winter." Portuguese proverb [women too!] |
| 2. _H_ seasonal adjectives | B. "a hairline fracture in the grand order of things" Lance Morrow |
| 3. _B_ snow in mid-April | C. ends in July and recommences in August [Byron para.; c. 2 mo.] |
| 4. _I_ a cold, gray rain | D. when every leaf's a flower." Albert Camus [red maple & hickory!] |
| 5. _J_ "We jet now | E. was once called "harvest" [Root of German <i>Herbst</i> is harvest] |
| 6. _A_ "An old man in love | F. track, baseball, football, hockey [varies w/ region] |
| 7. _C_ English winter | G. rabbits, sprinklers, leaves, snowballs [sp. sum, fall, winter] |
| 8. _F_ sporting seasons | H. vernal, estival, autumnal, hibernal [spring, summer, fall, winter] |
| 9. _D_ "Autumn is a second spring | I. "one of nature's mood swings" [LM; 100° temp. & 100° humidity Dad] |
| 10. _G_ canine seasons | J. from season to season." Lance Morrow [the jet and RV set perhaps] |

MORE:

--4A above. Sun is 3 million miles closer on Jan. 1 compared to June 1.

--"Snow birds" are individuals, typically retirees from Canada or the northern United States, who migrate to warmer southern climates like Florida, Arizona, or Mexico during the winter to avoid cold weather. RV'ers too. Canucks in FL pool Dec SE.

--"If we had no winter, spring would not be so sweet." Anne Bradstreet

-- The "wake robin" trillium blooms, often coinciding with the return of robins.

--First signs of winter: first freeze, and nature-based clues like early bird/monarch migrations, squirrels gathering nuts, thicker animal fur, and deep-colored onion/corn husks

--"If the Zamboni is running, can winter be far behind?" Chas. Schultz's Snoopy and Woodstock the driver on their birdbath

--"Bittersweet **October**: the mellow, messy, leaf-kicking pause between the miseries of summer and winter." Carol Higgs

--M&D **estivated** in the NC mtns. and hibernated on the FL coast.

--**Etymologies**: winter IE, wet; spring IE, rapid growth; summer Sanskrit, season; autumn OOO Lat., turning [leaves? temps.?] fall Am Eng only, time of our leaf fall

--Sample of old **Japanese** seasons: East wind melts the ice (Feb 4th - 8th); Bush warblers start singing in the mountains (Feb 9th - 13th); Fish emerge from the ice (Feb 14th - 18th); Rain moistens the soil (Feb 19th - 23rd); Mist starts to linger (Feb 24th - 28th); Grass sprouts, trees bud (March 1st - 5th)

--**Dog days**? When "Dog Star" Sirius and Sun aligned for Romans

--**Monsoon**: a season on Hindu calendar; also Pre-Winter; 6 total