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You may look like a Las Vegas insider, but do you sound like one?

You've packed the perfect outfit, boned up on your blackjack skills and reserved your show tickets; but, have you brought your Vegas vocabulary? Except for the pronunciation of Nevada (It's "Nev-add-uh" not "Nev-odd-uh"), Las Vegas doesn't have a special dialect, but the city does have a lot of local lingo. Nothing marks someone as a Sin City newbie more than blankly staring when somebody says, "Why don't you cash out and we'll head over to that new carpet joint."

If you want to be considered a Sin City insider, knowing the Las Vegas lingo is just as important as the right outfit. To help you out, we've put together a short quiz featuring some of the most used terms. We've left off most of the specialized gambling terminology and dumped the vintage references for some more up-to-date patter. After 25 short questions you'll know if you're an out-of-towner or Vegas native.

1. Vegas Vic / Vegas Vickie

- A. Slang for Las Vegas tourists
- B. Stars in the adult show "Fantasy"
- C. Neon signs in downtown Las Vegas

2. Candle

- A. An individual bulb in a neon sign
- B. The light at the top of a slot machine
- C. Light at the top of the Luxor hotel's pyramid

3. Eye in the sky

- A. Helicopter surveillance by Las Vegas Metropolitan police
- B. Series of surveillance cameras that line Las Vegas Boulevard
- C. Surveillance cameras located above the casino area

4. Weekend Warriors

- A. Poker players who fly in every weekend for tournaments
- B. Strippers who fly in for the weekend to perform at Las Vegas clubs
- C. Las Vegas entertainers who

only perform on the weekend

5. Dark

- A. When a poker player is dealt a hand comprised only of spades and clubs
- B. When the showroom is closed
- C. When a hotel is vacant

6. Vegas Throat

- A. The condition Las Vegas entertainers get from the city's dry air
- B. That dry, phlegmy feeling in your throat when you wake up after a night out at Las Vegas clubs
- C. Condition casino employees come down with from working in areas with constantly recycled air

7. Long-hauled

- A. When the trip between Los Angeles and Las Vegas takes more than four hours because of construction
- B. When your hotel is the last stop on a tour bus return trip
- C. When a taxi cab driver takes a route to a location that is sev-

eral miles longer and thus more expensive

8. Hopper

- A. Nickname for the change cart used when re-stocking slot machines
- B. The container found at the base of older slot machines where coins are held
- C. The box located below blackjack tables that holds dollar bills exchanged for chips

9. The Black Book

- A. Nickname for the section of the Las Vegas phone book that lists outcall dancers
- B. Nickname for the Nevada Gaming Control Board's list of excluded persons
- C. Nickname for illegal bookmaking activities in Las Vegas

10. Progressive slots

- A. Slot machines that record the amount you gamble for the purpose of earning points toward free prizes
- B. Slot machines that offer better

odds the longer you play
C. Slot machines that are linked across the state and offer larger than usual jackpots

11. Bottle service

- A. Cocktails delivered directly to you while you gamble
- B. Cocktails delivered to your showroom seat as you watch an entertainer perform
- C. Purchasing a specific bottle of liquor to gain access or reserve a VIP section or table at a Las Vegas nightclub

12. Boneyard

- A. Location of a collection of old Las Vegas neon signs
- B. Nickname for the area where the mob supposedly dumped bodies throughout the '50s and '60s
- C. Desert lot where decommissioned slot machines are stored

13. RFB

- A. Ready for betting -- slang for the casino is open
- B. Room, food, beverage -- slang for a type of comp
- C. Repeat first bet -- slang to let the croupier know that you will be betting the same amount

14. Back of house

- A. Nickname for various roads that connect the back entrances of hotels lining Las Vegas Boulevard
- B. Slang for the area behind all Las Vegas showroom stages where props are stored
- C. Slang for all hotel office and employee facilities located out of sight from tourists.

15. Showboys

- A. The male equivalent of

showgirls

- B. Nickname for drag performers in "Zumanity"
- C. Nickname for performers in male revue shows like "Chip-pendales," "Thunder from Down Under" and "Men, The Show"

16. Whale

- A. Someone who refuses to leave the buffet without consuming at least their weight in seafood
- B. Someone who gambles extremely large amounts of money
- C. Someone who tips generously

17. Flickers

- A. Someone on the Las Vegas Strip who hands out cards advertising various exotic dancers and escort services
- B. Someone who takes pictures every minute of their trip and then posts them all on the web when they return
- C. Someone who slips ads under your windshield wipers

18. Double Down

- A. A dive bar in Las Vegas
- B. Doubling the size of your bet before taking one more card
- C. All of the above

19. Toke

- A. Gaming slang for a portion of the winning pot in poker
- B. A fake coin used to trick slot machines
- C. A tip from a casino player to the dealer or any other casino employee

20. Shill

- A. Someone hired to sit at an otherwise empty table in the casino to attract other players
- B. The guy who stiffs the bar tab
- C. Someone who refuses to tip

21. Drop box

- A. Box located near the exit of the pool area where guests can leave used towels
- B. The box located near the front desk for guests to deposit keys in when they check out
- C. The box affixed to the underside of gaming tables that holds cash that has been exchanged for chips.

22. Grind joint

- A. Restaurant that offers cheap, good food
- B. Slang for a dive bar
- C. Casino that caters to low rollers

23. Getting rated

- A. When a hotel secures a coveted 5-star or 5-diamond rating
- B. When a gambler's wins, losses, betting amounts and length of time spent gambling are tracked
- C. When a gambler signs up for a player's or reward card

24. Bevertainer

- A. Nickname for cocktail waitresses who wear revealing uniforms
- B. Nickname for flair bartenders
- C. Nickname for cocktail waitresses or waiters employees who also sing and dance

25. Casino Block

- A. Nickname for the stretch of hotels that extends along Las Vegas Boulevard from Tropicana Avenue to Desert Inn Road
- B. Tickets to shows and sporting events set aside by the hotel to award to high rollers
- C. A series of hotel rooms kept vacant and only used for celebrities

ANSWERS

1. C. Since 1951, Vegas Vic has been welcoming tourists with the phrase "Howdy partner, welcome to downtown Las Vegas." He was joined in the 1960s by Vegas Vickie, aka Sassy Sally. Las Vegas legend is that Vegas Vic was silenced in 1965 when actors Lee Marvin and Woody Strode complained about his mechanical chatter while they were staying at the Mint hotel. Strode reportedly further maligned poor Vic, using him as target practice and firing arrows at the 75-foot-tall sign. Marvin and Strode were in town shooting the Western film "The Professionals." In 2000, Vegas Vic got a makeover and his voice was restored, but he has since lost it again.

2. B. Did we trip you up on this one? Well, let's set it straight. In Vegas, a light bulb is still a light bulb, even if it's in a sign 50 feet tall. As for the Luxor's light, it's composed of dozens of 7,000-watt xenon lamps for a total of 315,000 watts. The Luxor's light is also one of three man-made objects visible from space. A candle is the light located at the top of a slot machine. It's used to alert casino personnel that the machine needs servicing —whether it's a jackpot that needs to be paid out or something as simple as a stuck player's card.

3. C. Dude, calm down. The police aren't out to get you and the cameras at random intersections along Las Vegas Boulevard are to monitor traffic. Save your conspiracy theories for when you get into the casino. That's where the "eye in the sky" is really watching. The cameras not only allow casino security to keep an eye out for gamblers looking to cheat, they also ensure that dealers are on the straight and narrow too.

4. B. The National Guard may have coined the phrase, but in Las Vegas, Weekend Warriors are fighting to negotiate a firearm spin, pixie jump or the hook in 6-inch heels. Don't know those maneuvers? Time to sign up for Stripper 101 at V Theatre in Planet

Hollywood.
5. B. Dark, as in, all the lights are off and nobody is home. Most Las Vegas shows go dark two nights a week, but there was only one time in the city's history when all the shows went dark. On Nov. 25, 1963, in a quiet eulogy to President John F. Kennedy, there was no entertainment along the Las Vegas Strip from 7 a.m. to midnight.

6. A. Ahemmm... Excuse me. Just had to clear my throat. Vegas Throat is slang for a whole host of problems singers experience that are routinely blamed on Las Vegas' dry air. Performers complain that the lack of humidity and all that desert sand leads to sounding like Marlon Brando in "The Godfather." The solution — many singers require humidifiers as part of their performance contracts. Or, you can follow the sage advice of Robert Goulet who suggested, "Drink some water and use throat lozenges."

7. C. There are a lot of great ways to spend your weekend in Vegas. Stuck inside a taxi is probably not one of them. Most drivers are honest and helpful. For those who are not, there's the Nevada Taxicab Authority. The authority routinely conducts undercover sting operations to catch and penalize drivers who long-haul. Our advice, the best defense is a good offense. Research the route from the airport to your hotel and let the driver know what way you want to go.

8. B. No, not Dennis. This hopper is the container located at the bottom of slot machines and it holds the coins used to complete the payout when a jackpot is hit. Look fast though. Most hoppers are disappearing a s coinless slots take over Las Vegas casinos. But at least the clattering sound of coins dropping from the hopper into the coin tray will live on. A number of coin-

less slots play a recorded version of the sound when a jackpot is hit.
9. B. Stop the presses, the Black Book is not, well, black. It actually looks like most government-issued documents, white with black writing. The cover is silver and blue with the seal of the State of Nevada on it. Officially called the List of Excluded Persons, the Black Book lists the names of those deemed so unsavory to legalized gambling that they have been prohibited from entering a casino anywhere in the state. Oh, and this black book only has the name of one female in it. Sandra Kay Vaccaro is the only woman to ever be placed in the Nevada Black Book.

10. C. The first \$1 progressive slot machine was installed in the Aladdin hotel in August, 1978. Before the end of the year, the world's first \$1 million slot jackpot was hit at the resort. Progressive slots have come and gone, but the grand-daddy of them all is International Game Technologies' Megabucks. In 2003, the highest slot jackpot in Nevada history, \$39.7 million, was hit on a Megabucks machine. Odds of hitting the Megabucks grand prize are less than one in 10 million. However one man, Elmer Sherwin, has managed to do it twice — once in 1989 and once in 2005.

11. C. It started in New York and then made its way to Las Vegas. Now the only way to guarantee a seat in most upscale Las Vegas clubs is to fork over the money for bottle service or cozy up to someone who has.

12. A. Paris has the Père Lachaise Cemetery. Washington D.C. has Arlington National Cemetery. In Las Vegas, the most famous boneyard is the last resting place not of man, but neon. More than 150 signs make up the Neon Boneyard and document Las Vegas history in a very unique way. Our favorite — the 2-ton, 15-foot-tall Silver Slipper. Cinderella wished she had a pair of shoes that looked this stylish.

13. B. Meet the Holy Grail of Las Vegas comps. Room, Food and Beverage, RFB to those in the know, is what every gambler wants. The key to getting it? Try number 23.

14. C. Not to be confused with front of house, which is what most tourists only see, back of house is the shadowy world behind the façade of Las Vegas resorts and a future setting for some episode of "CSI: Las Vegas." Most back-of-house areas feature employee-only dining rooms, workout facilities, laundries and more. Often abbreviated as FOH and BOH, respectively.

15. A. Showgirls may get all the press, but classic Las Vegas shows like "Jubilee!" and "Folies Bergere" also feature a cast of talented male dancers. In Vegas, there are sequins enough for all.

16. B. OK, we know what you really want to know. What does it take to be a whale? You've gotta plunk down about \$500,000 an hour (minimum) to be considered a whale or roughly \$55,000 (the equivalent of one Cadillac Escalade) a bet. Whales can win or lose between \$4 and \$5 million in a weekend and their action can directly impact a hotel's cash flow. Estimates vary, but only about 200 of the world's wealthiest gamblers can be considered true whales.

17. A. Also known as canvassers or handbillers, but the nickname flickers best captures the sound made when these baseball cards of sin are tapped on an arm and then flicked toward an unsuspecting tourist. Advertising exotic dancers, the cards leave little to the imagination and have been the focus of a 10-year court battle pitting the flickers and the ACLU on one side and Clark County Commissioners and the resort industry on the other. Reduced to the basest of arguments, it is smut versus free speech. In March 2007, a federal judge struck down the county's anti-handbill ordinance as

overboard. So, for now, the flicking will continue.

18. C. If you spend all your cash doubling your blackjack bet, you can still afford a drink at this locals favorite bar near the Hard Rock.

19. C. Get your head out of that suspicious smelling cloud of smoke. A toke, in Las Vegas, is legal. The biggest toke, or tip, we've ever heard of — the rumored \$125,000 that billionaire gambler Terry Packer supposedly tipped a cocktail waitress to help her pay off her mortgage.

20. A. No one likes to gamble alone and the shill, plus crowd psychology proves it.

21. C. Like the mythic count room, the drop box is an integral part of the casino action that often is ignored except in Hollywood movies where invariably it becomes the key to the whole heist.

22. C. No, not Grind House, Grind Joint. And, while they've been around a lot longer than Grind Houses (If you don't know what a Grind House is, talk to a film student.), most Grind Joints are slowly finding themselves being edged out as Las Vegas moves increasingly toward capturing the luxury market that patronizes the Carpet Joints like Bellagio.

23. B. They key to eventually securing the coveted RFB comp, getting rated by your favorite casino's pit boss doesn't just automatically happen. Don't be afraid to request that you be rated. Just remember, don't request it and then spend the next hour making \$1 bets.

24. C. In 2003, the Rio Las Vegas brought us what would become the first hybridization of Las Vegas casino and show jobs, combining cocktail servers and singers/dancers to create bevertainers. They were shortly followed by the Imperial Palace who introduced dealertainers, celebrity impersonators who also deal blackjack.

25. B. You've always suspected, and yes, it's true. The casino does

SCORECARD

Vegas neophyte (Less than 20 correct)
You've dipped your foot into the cultural swimming pool of Las Vegas, now it's time to dive all in. Bone up on your Vegas knowledge by watching "Casino," "Ocean's 11" and "The Cooler." Better yet, book a trip to Sin City and soak up some of the lingo firsthand.

Vegas veteran (20 to 23 correct)
You've converted your den to a poker room and stocked your bathroom with towels from every hotel on the Strip. Your video collection includes every season of "CSI: Las Vegas," both "Ocean's 11" films and even the much-ridiculed "Showgirls." You love Las Vegas so much that you've even named your dog "Siegfried" and your cat "Roy." It'll only take a few more visits before you've mastered enough Las Vegas lingo to earn the coveted "native" status.

Vegas native (23 to 25 correct)
Welcome neighbor! You speak Las Vegas like you were born here or came to visit and never left. Either way, remember, only use your mastery of Las Vegas lingo for good.

reserve a portion of its best seats for high rollers, friends of the house, celebrities and those with juice. What's juice you ask? Well, you'll have to wait for our next Las Vegas lingo lesson to explain that.