

# Pyramid (game show)

***Pyramid*** is the collective name of a series of American television game shows that has aired several versions domestically and internationally. The original series, ***The \$10,000 Pyramid***, debuted on March 26, 1973,<sup>[7]</sup> and spawned seven subsequent *Pyramid* series. Most later series featured a full title format matching the original series, with the title reflecting an increasing top prize. The game features two contestants, each paired with a celebrity. Contestants attempt to guess a series of words or phrases based on descriptions given to them by their teammates. The title refers to the show's pyramid-shaped gameboard, featuring six categories arranged in a triangular fashion. The various *Pyramid* series have won a total of nine Daytime Emmys for Outstanding Game Show, second only to *Jeopardy!*, which has won 13.

Dick Clark is the host most commonly associated with the show, having hosted the network daytime version from 1973 to 1980 (which moved from CBS to ABC in 1974, and increased its namesake top prize from \$10,000 to \$20,000 in 1976) and its revival from 1982 to 1988 on CBS (***The (New) \$25,000 Pyramid***). Clark also hosted two weeknight syndicated versions, ***The \$50,000 Pyramid*** in 1981 and ***The \$100,000 Pyramid*** from 1985 to 1988 (concurrent with the daytime show).

Bill Cullen hosted the first weekly nighttime version of *The \$25,000 Pyramid* from 1974 to 1979. John Davidson hosted a revival of *The \$100,000 Pyramid* in 1991, and Donny Osmond hosted a version simply titled ***Pyramid*** from 2002 to 2004; both were five-nights-a-week affairs. GSN's ***The Pyramid***, hosted by Mike Richards, who now is an executive at format owner Sony Pictures Television, aired a single forty-episode season in 2012.

The current revival of *The \$100,000 Pyramid* debuted June 26, 2016, on ABC with Michael Strahan as host, and has aired on Sunday nights during the summer months since, completing its fourth season in September 2019.

On November 20, 2019, the series was renewed for a fifth season.<sup>[8][9][10]</sup>

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<span></span> <div>Logo from current version of <i>The \$100,000 Pyramid</i></div>	
<b>Genre</b>	Game show
<b>Created by</b>	Bob Stewart
<b>Written by</b>	Michael X. Ferraro Shawn Kennedy <sup>[1]</sup> Anna Lotto <sup>[2]</sup> Karen Lurie <sup>[3]</sup>
<b>Directed by</b>	Mike Gargiulo Bruce Burmester <sup>[4]</sup> Paul Nichols Bob Loudin Paul Overacker Rich DiPirro
<b>Presented by</b>	Dick Clark Bill Cullen John Davidson Donny Osmond Mike Richards Michael Strahan
<b>Narrated by</b>	Bob Clayton Jack Clark Steve O'Brien Alan Kalter Johnny Gilbert Charlie O'Donnell John Cramer JD Roberto <sup>[5]</sup> Brad Abelle

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**Theme music composer** [Ken Aldin](#)  
[Bob Cobert](#)<sup>[4]</sup>  
[Barry Coffing](#)  
[John Blaylock](#)  
[Alan Ett](#)  
[Scott Liggett](#)<sup>[6]</sup>  
[Bleeding Fingers Music](#)

**Composer** [Bob Cobert](#)

**Country of origin** [United States](#)

**Original language** [English](#)

**No. of episodes** [1,211 \(1973–1988\)](#)  
[40 \(2012\)](#)  
[49 \(2016–present\)](#)

## Production

**Executive producers** [Bob Stewart](#)  
[Vin Rubino](#)  
[Constance Schwartz](#)  
[Michael Strahan](#)

**Producers** [Anne Marie Schmidt](#)  
[Sande Stewart](#)  
[Francine Bergman](#)  
[David Michaels](#)  
[Erin Perry](#)<sup>[4]</sup>  
[Stephen Brown](#)  
[Cathy Cotter](#)  
[John Ricci Jr.](#)  
[Jonathan Bourne](#)

**Running time** [22 minutes \(1973–2012\)](#)  
[44 minutes \(2016–present\)](#)

**Production companies** [Bob Stewart Productions \(1973–1988\)](#)  
[Basada, Inc. \(1973–1974, 1978–1981, 1986–1988\)](#)  
[Stewart Tele Enterprises](#)

# History

## Broadcast history



Dick Clark as host of *The \$10,000 Pyramid*

*The \$10,000 Pyramid*, with host [Dick Clark](#), made its network debut on [March 26, 1973](#)<sup>[7]</sup> and was a ratings hit, sustaining its ratings even when episodes were delayed or preempted by the [Watergate](#) hearings. A year later, the ratings temporarily declined (against the original version of *[Jeopardy!](#)* on [NBC](#)) and CBS canceled it. The show was quickly picked up by ABC and began airing on that network on [May 6, 1974](#). As per CBS custom at the time with celebrity game shows, three weeks of episodes for CBS were

taped in [Hollywood](#) at [CBS Television City](#), [Studio 31](#).<sup>[11]</sup> The remainder of the CBS episodes originated in [New York City](#) at the [Ed Sullivan Theater](#), moving to ABC's [Elysee Theatre](#) after *Pyramid* switched networks.<sup>[12]</sup>

Beginning on [January 19, 1976](#), the series doubled its top prize and was retitled *The \$20,000 Pyramid*. From [October 1](#) to [November 9, 1979](#), the series briefly became *Junior Partner Pyramid*, which scrapped the usual celebrity-contestant pairings in favor of children playing the game with a parent or other adult

relative. Its last episode aired June 27, 1980, with *Family Feud* subsequently moving up a half-hour to take over the 12:00 noon (EST) slot formerly occupied by *The \$20,000 Pyramid*.



Title card of the 1980s (New) \$25,000 Pyramid

On September 20, 1982, the series returned to the CBS daytime lineup as *The (New) \$25,000 Pyramid*, again with Clark as host, but now taped in Los Angeles full-time at CBS Television City's Studio 33 (currently used for *The Price is Right*, now known as the "Bob Barker Studio") and remained there for the entire run up until December 31, 1987. *Blackout* began airing in the series'

10:00 a.m. timeslot the following Monday, but that show was canceled after 13 weeks of episodes. On April 4, 1988, *The \$25,000 Pyramid* returned to the CBS daytime schedule, but only for 13 more weeks. The show's final episode aired on July 1. The following Monday, the show was replaced by a revival of *Family Feud* hosted by Ray Combs.

Concurrent with the network show's run, several nighttime versions of the show were sold to local stations through syndication: the original *\$25,000 Pyramid* and *The \$50,000 Pyramid* were taped in the Elysee Theatre in New York, and the original version of *The \$100,000 Pyramid*<sup>[13]</sup> taped at Studio 33 in Hollywood. A revival of *The \$100,000 Pyramid*, hosted by John Davidson, ran from January until December 1991 and taped in Studio 31.<sup>[11]</sup> *Pyramid*, hosted by Donny Osmond, ran from September 16, 2002 to September 10, 2004 and was taped at Sony Pictures Studios in Culver City, California. *The Pyramid* was taped at the CBS Studio Center. Strahan's *The \$100,000 Pyramid* is taped at the ABC Television Center in New York.

As of August 2020, production for season five of *The \$100,000 Pyramid* has resumed in New York City with new safety protocols and guidelines introduced; these guidelines includes measures such as crew and contestants having their temperatures tested, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) on-site, and social distancing measures. This season will not include an in-studio audience due to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>[14]</sup>

## Later developments

(1991)  
Columbia TriStar Domestic Television  
 (2002)  
Sony Pictures Television  
 (2002–2004, 2012, 2016–present)  
Embassy Row (2012)  
GSN Originals  
 (2012)  
SMAC Productions  
 (2016–)  
Carolco Television Productions  
 (1991)

**Distributor**  
Viacom Enterprises  
 (1974–1979)  
CPM, Inc., Chicago  
 (1981)  
20th Century Fox Television  
 (1985–1988)  
Orbis Communications  
 (1991)  
Multimedia Entertainment  
 (1991)  
Columbia TriStar Domestic Television  
 (2002)  
Sony Pictures Television  
 (2002–2004)

## Release

**Original network**  
**The \$10,000 Pyramid:**  
CBS (1973–1974)  
ABC (1974–1976)  
**The \$20,000 Pyramid:**  
ABC (1976–1980)  
**The \$25,000 Pyramid:**  
Weekly syndication  
 (1974–1979)  
**The \$50,000 Pyramid:**