

Holly competed on Wheel of Fortune's Mar. 31 episode, walking away with \$1,000 in prizes after solving a puzzle in the first round



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Questions
with **Holly Walsh**
Wheel of Fortune Contestant

By Ashley Withers & Photography by Suzi Issa

As a busy stay-at-home mom, Holly Walsh of Katy never expected to be on TV, especially not as a contestant on one of her favorite shows, *Wheel of Fortune*. But as luck would have it, she landed a spot on the show's Mar. 31 episode during the third day of Hawaii Week, walking away with a cool \$1,000 in prize money. She gives Katy Magazine the inside scoop on what it was like to spin the wheel.

Jay and Holly Walsh, with their sons, Sam, 2, and Wesley, 9 months



- 1 **How long have you lived in Katy?**
My husband, Jay, and I moved to Katy in 2003.
- 2 **What brought you to the area?**
It has the small-town atmosphere and offerings of the city, without all the congestion. We found our first house based on me searching "Holly" in the address field on har.com (under Katy city limits).
- 3 **What do you like most about the area?**
It's clean, it's pretty, and it is family-oriented, not to mention the fabulous schools and churches. I have a wonderful group of Katy mummies, too!
- 4 **Tell us about your family.**
I have a wonderful family. I have been married to Jay for almost seven years. We have a 2-year-old boy named Sam, a 9-month-old named Wesley, and a 7-year-old yellow Lab named Lily. As a side note, my 90-year-old Granddaddy is one of *Wheel of Fortune's* biggest fans!
- 5 **How long have you been a fan of the show?**
For a couple of years. I actually started watching the show because it comes on after the 6 p.m. news, and I would glance up just to see what Vanna's dress looked like. I'm girly like that. I love dresses, heels, and handbags! Then Jay and I started to pay attention to the puzzles. Then we got competitive with challenges like, "Whoever guesses the next puzzle first [doesn't have] to change diapers!"
- 6 **How did you get selected to go on *Wheel of Fortune*?**
My husband was actually chosen to audition. I was five months pregnant and on my way to a doctor's appointment, when I decided to stop by the audition and wish him good luck. The casting coordinators invited me to stay and audition - and I beat my husband!
- 7 **What did it feel like when you were chosen?**
It was sort of surreal. When we received the formal letter from *Wheel of Fortune* with my taping date, I remember jumping up and down and hollering in the street by the mailbox, and then suddenly being overcome by nervousness and the thought that I need a new, fabulous outfit!
- 8 **How did you prepare for the show?**
I remember watching lots of episodes and playing hangman with Jay - even while I was in labor with our second son.
- 9 **What was it like competing?**
It was fun. I met a lot of really neat people from all over the U.S.
- 10 **Were you nervous?**
I was beyond nervous! With a live audience, tons of cameras fixed on us at all times, and the underlying pressure to not say something silly for the entire nation to hear - or worse yet, get caught on YouTube - it was pretty nerve-racking.

- 11 **What were Vanna White and Pat Sajak really like?**
Vanna is even prettier in person, and Pat is actually taller than you'd think!
- 12 **What is the most memorable puzzle for you?**
Jaw-Dropping Special Effects - that's the puzzle I solved in the first round.
- 13 **What was it like actually spinning the wheel?**
Oh my goodness - it was so heavy! I don't think I ever was able to get it around all the way. I felt like such a weenie!
- 14 **What was it like backstage?**
It was neat - they had hair and makeup and food. We (the contestants) actually sat in the audience while the shows taped.
- 15 **What did your kids think about seeing you on TV?**
Sam shouted out, "Ma-Ma! Ma-Ma," while pointing to the TV.
- 16 **What have you done with your prize money?**
Nothing yet! I'm still waiting for my winnings to arrive.
- 17 **Do you have any hobbies?**
Aside from my kids, I could shop for hours for the perfect heels, and I love being outdoors, spending time with family, and freelance marketing.
- 18 **What is something that would surprise people to know about you?**
I am terrified of birds - all birds, especially parrots. Silly, I know, but so very true.
- 19 **What three adjectives best describe you?**
Goofy, soft-hearted, and spirited.
- 20 **What would you say is your greatest accomplishment?**
I have two: Sam and Wes. **KM**