

TELEVISION

1. Fill in the blanks with the words from the box which describe different kinds of television programs.

documentary docusoap drama series game shows infomercial sitcoms news quiz show reality TV soap opera talk show

- a) A local film crew is making a _____ about volcanoes.
- b) Several family-oriented _____ are on in the early evening.
- c) Franz won the Emmy as best actor in a _____ for the 1993-1994 season, not Caruso.
- d) He won the first prize in a popular _____ .
- e) A _____ is a television or radio story about the daily lives and relationships of the same group of people, which is broadcast regularly.
- f) I haven't watched the _____ for several days. Can you bring me up to date on what is going on in the world?
- g) A _____ is a television programme that shows what happens in the daily lives of real people.
- h) In _____ people play games or answer questions to win prizes.
- i) Someone who's brilliant on the cinema screen isn't necessarily a good _____ guest.
- j) _____ features real people doing real things, for example police officers chasing after stolen cars, or people who have been put in different situations and filmed continuously over a period of weeks or months.
- k) _____ is a long television advertisement that provides a lot of information and seems like a normal programme.

2. Fill in the blanks with the words from the box which describe different types of television broadcasts.

cable digital pay-per-view satellite terrestrial

- a) _____ TV is broadcast from the Earth, not from a satellite.
- b) I'll wait for the movie to come out on _____.
- c) The age of _____ television began in 1988 when the Astra Satellite was launched.
- d) A _____ television immediately decodes the incoming sound and picture signals and converts them into an 8-bit digital code.
- e) A _____ television channel makes people pay for each programme they watch.

3. Everyone watches television, and most people say they are selective – but how selective are you? Do this questionnaire.

TV VIEWING HABITS

1. Put these types of TV programmes into one of these categories:

A I usually enjoy watching	B I never watch	C I sometimes watch
the news	pop music	the documentaries
football	weather broadcasts	educational programs
other sports	classical music	soap operas
crime series	game shows	comedies
feature films	wildlife programs	

- current affairs chat shows
2. Which channel do you watch most?
 3. How many hours do you watch TV per week?

4. Look at the following letter. What errors do you notice?

Dear TV Manager

I'm writing with serious complaint about a film you have shown last night on your television chanel. It was named "Funny Business" and was given out at seven-thirty p.m. In your TV magazine this film was marked as OK for all people in the family to watch. Because of this I and my 10-year-old cousin watched together. I had a great shock when I saw moments in the film that were very violent and I think it wasn't apropiate for him to see. It's not good. If films are very violent for children it can be frightened and damage their minds. The television must be responsable to show these such films only late in the night when the children are sleeping. You must not show these films again so early in the evening. Another way is making clear in the TV magazine what is the subject of the film so we can chose better.

Thank you, Laurence.

Soap power

Despite the success of the new reality TV shows, it is still soap operas that regularly attract the biggest audiences each week. The term 'soap opera' (always shortened these days to just 'soap') was created in the USA to describe early daytime radio and TV drama serials – then aimed at housewives – whose storylines were sentimental or sensational, and which were usually sponsored by the manufacturers of washing powder.

Soaps in Britain have come and gone over the years as British society has changed. *Brookside*, centred on a housing estate in Liverpool, began in the 1980s and mirrored the social issues of the time – Thatcherism and unemployment. It was very popular in that decade, but in the new millennium it gradually declined in popularity and its storylines became more outrageous. It was finally taken off the air in 2005. Other soaps have proved more enduring. The battle for the top of the weekly TV ratings is always between Britain's two favourites – *EastEnders* and *Coronation Street*. Both of these soaps are set in urban working-class areas. Both programmes feature strong characters and well-written scripts which often deal convincingly with personal dilemmas and topical issues. The programmes – each shown four times a week – usually have audience figures of 12-15 million, and are supposedly watched even by the Queen. *EastEnders* has been running since 1985, but *Coronation Street* is the soap champion. Shown continuously since 1960, it is the longest-running TV series in the world.

1. Find words and phrases in the text that mean:

- a) in spite of
- b) television programmes that feature real people doing real things
- c) the people who watch a particular programme
- d) a story that is broadcast in several separate parts on television
- e) intended to interest, excite, or shock people
- f) to give money, especially in exchange for the right to advertise
- g) to represent or copy something
- h) the general principles on which Margaret Thatcher's government was based when she was Prime Minister of the UK
- i) a period of 1000 years
- j) extremely unusual and slightly amusing or shocking

- k) to stop broadcasting
- l) continuing for a very long time
- m) a list that shows which films, television programmes etc. are the most popular
- n) someone or something that has won a competition

2. Which of the soap operas mentioned in the text:

- a) were first broadcast in the 1980s?
- b) can no longer be seen on TV?
- c) are based in urban working-class areas?
- d) has been shown for over 40 years?

3. What have you learnt about
the origin of the phrase 'soap opera'?
the most popular British soaps?

4. Discuss the following:

What are the differences between a soap and a feature film?

Why do soaps attract people?

Do you have a favourite soap? What appeals to you in it?

Will soaps continue to be popular?

Media Addiction Quiz

Name _____ Date _____

1. Does your family have more than one TV set? Yes No
2. Are you in front of a screen for more than 2 hours per day? Yes No
3. Do you sometimes have trouble getting TV or video game jingles "out of your head"?
Yes No
4. Is there a TV/video game/computer playing in your home much or all of the time?
Yes No
5. Do you have a TV, video game, and/or computer in your bedroom? Yes No
6. Is it easy for you to turn off the TV/video game in the middle of a favorite show/game?
Yes No
7. Do you ever rush home, ditching friends and family, to catch a favorite TV show, play video games, or go on the computer? Yes No
8. Do you frequently eat meals while in front of the TV, video games, or computer?
Yes No
9. Have you ever caught yourself unintentionally mimicking a TV or video game character?
Yes No
10. Do you talk to and play with your friends more than you watch TV, play video games, and play with computers? Yes No
11. Can you turn off the TV, computer, and video games OFF right now and leave them off for three days? Yes No
12. Do you ever mindlessly surf through TV channels or the internet? Yes No
13. Do you need TV, video game, or a computer to relax after a rough day? Yes No
14. Do you feel edgy, anxious, or "not right" if there is no TV, video game, or a computer playing? Yes No
15. Do you watch TV, play video games, and/or play on the computer more than spend time with your family? Yes No
16. Do you ever watch the TV, play video games, or surf the internet longer than you intend to? Yes No
17. Do you feel spend too much time with TV, video games, or computer? Yes No
18. Have you missed a special event with friends or family because you were watching a TV program? Yes No
19. Have you ever tried to quit watching TV, playing video games, or going on computer, but were unsuccessful? Yes No

20. Do you have difficulty limiting the time you watch TV, play video games, or go on the computer? Yes No

*Note: Time spent on the computer for homework purposes does not count

To calculate your score:

For all questions, except for #6, #10, and #11, give yourself 1 point for every "Yes" answer and 0 points for every "No". For questions #6, #10, and #11 give yourself 0 points for every "Yes" answer and 1 point for every "No". Add your total.

Your total: _____

0-6: Great! Your TV, computer, and video games do not control of your life. You do. But keep an eye on how much time you spend with these activities to make sure an addiction does not sneak up on you.

7-14: It looks like you are moderately addicted to your TV, video games, or computer. The good news is that with a little effort, a list of fun non-screen activities, and a reasonable schedule you should be able to keep your addiction under control. Follow your dreams instead of staring at a screen.

15-20: Yikes. You probably have a serious addiction problem. You may need to take extreme steps, including getting rid of your TV or video games, to get in control of your time. Start with the device that squanders the most of your time. It may seem difficult, but life is too short to "watch" it go by.

(from www.TrashYourTV.com)

THE PRESS

FOR THE TEACHER:

1. Ask students in pairs to divide the words into the correct categories.

Answers

1 people who work on a newspaper
journalist, columnist, foreign correspondent, reporter, hack
2 types of newspaper
tabloid, daily, rag, broadsheet, quality,
3 what you find in a newspaper
editorial, feature, headline, supplement, article, front page, review

2. Ask students to answer the questions using some of the words from the categories.

Answers

1 tabloid, rag (derogatory)
2 hack
3 editorial
4 supplement
5 feature
6 broadsheet

3. Ask students in pairs to collocate the words with news.

Answers

All the words collocate with news.
room stand print conference agency flash
hound letter worthy paper agent desk

4. Ask students to complete the sentences with some of the words.

Answers

1 newsroom
2 newsagent/newsstand
3 newsworthy
4 newshound
5 news conferences

5. Ask students in pairs to discuss the difference between the words.

Answers

1 A news agency is a business that provides newspapers and TV with news from around the world. A newsagent's is a shop that sells newspapers.
2 A correspondent is a reporter who deals with one particular subject area: e.g. a war correspondent, a political correspondent.
3 A journal is a magazine containing articles relating to a particular profession: e.g. a medical journal.
4 A report gives you news or information about what's happening. An article has a more general meaning – it is any sort of writing in a newspaper or magazine.

FOR THE STUDENT:

1. Divide the words below into the correct categories.

- 1 people who work on a newspaper
- 2 types of newspaper
- 3 what you find in a newspaper

journalist
columnist
feature
broadsheet reporter
article
review
tabloid
daily
foreign correspondent
quality
hack
editorial
rag
headline
supplement
front page

2. Now answer the questions below using some of the words above.

- 1 Which two words describe a newspaper that likes lots of pictures and stories that are dramatic and scandalous? Which of the words is informal and derogatory?
- 2 Which word is an informal, derogatory word for journalist?
- 3 Which word describes an article where the editor gives the opinion of the newspaper about an issue?
- 4 Which word describes a magazine that you find inside a newspaper – particularly a Sunday newspaper?
- 5 Which word describes a long article, usually on the inside pages?
- 6 Which word means the same as quality (newspaper)?

3. Which of these words collocate with news?

Example **news + room = newsroom**

room
agency
worthy
stand
flash
paper
print
hound
agent
conference
letter
desk

4. Complete these sentences with some of the words above.

- 1 The _____ is the place where journalists write their reports.
- 2 You can buy a paper at a news _____ or at a news _____ in the street.
- 3 If it is a good story, it is news _____.
- 4 A good reporter is sometimes called a news _____.
- 5 Politicians often inform journalists about their actions at news _____s.

5. What's the difference between the following?

- 1 a news agency and a newsagent's
- 2 a correspondent and a reporter
- 3 a journal and a magazine
- 4 an article and a report

6. Think of answers for these questions, then discuss them with two or three other people.

What is in the news in your country at the moment?

What type of newspaper do you read, and why do you read that type for?

What do you think of the press in your country? Is it sensationalist and exploitative?

Or is it serious and impartial?

What do you think the role of the press should be in society?

News Dictionary Quiz

1. What's a newsdesk?
2. How is being in the news different from being on the news?
3. If you get a good press, are you talked about positively or negatively?
4. What's the difference between a news bulletin and a newsflash?
5. What's a newsreel?
6. If a letter is newsy, what is it?
7. What does the expression *No news is good news* mean?
8. Do you hear the news or see the news?
9. Do we say the news is interesting or the news are interesting?
10. Which of these can we say? – a piece of news, a bit of news, a part of news, an item of news?
11. If you break the news, what do you do?