

Watching television

Pre-intermediate

1 People on TV and TV programmes

Look at the TV programmes (the ' signifies pronunciation stress). Which words describe TV programmes? Which words describe people on TV?

- a 'comedy
- a 'drama series
- a pres'enter
- a 'newsreader
- a docu'mentary
- a game show
- a chat show
- a soap opera
- a 'commentator

2 Fill the gaps

Use the words in exercise one to complete the sentences below:

- Did you see the first episode of the new _____ on TV last night? The actors were very good, and the story was very interesting but very sad.
- Jill Newman is a _____ on breakfast television. She introduces the programme and talks to guests. Before that, she was a _____ on News at Ten.
- Did you watch the _____ about the history of India?
- It's on at seven o'clock four times a week. It's my favourite _____. I know the people in the programme. They are like friends.
- It's a fantastic _____. If you answer ten questions correctly, you can win a million pounds.
- Did you see Tom Cruise on TV last night? He was interviewed by Jonathan Ross on his new _____.
- I think Jon Botson is a great _____. He gets very excited when he describes somebody scoring a goal in a football match.
- It was a very funny _____. I laughed and laughed.

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3 Choose the correct ending

Complete the sentences. Two words are right, one is wrong. Which word is wrong?

- a) Could you turn/switch/get the television on, please?
- b) Did you watch/look at/see the news last night?
- c) He switched the TV on/in/off.
- d) He used the remote control to change the station/channel/television.
- e) What's on telly/tele/TV tonight?
- f) Could you record/make/video the football for me? I'm out this evening, but I want to watch it when I get in.

4 Read and match

Read the TV guide. Match the type of programmes below to the programmes in the guide.

- sports programme
- documentary
- soap opera
- comedy
- game show
- chat show

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TV Guide

7 pm **Westenders** (1 _____)

Jane is unhappy because her boyfriend has gone to Spain. James has something important to say to Rebecca.

7.30 pm **Ask the Questions** (2 _____)

Jack Deans asks the questions. The lucky winners will win an exciting holiday.

8 pm **Wonderful World** (3 _____)

Donald Hattingburrow visits the amazing temples of the sun and the moon in Mexico.

9 pm **Laughter Time** (4 _____)

A very funny new series starring famous American comedian, Andy Murphy.

9.30 pm **Wilkinson** (5 _____)

Malcolm Wilkinson interviews Hollywood actors, Debbie Bore and Brad Spitt.

10.30 pm **Big Match** (6 _____)

Highlights of the game between Manchester United and Liverpool.

5 Types of programmes

Look at the two programme descriptions below. What type of programmes are they?

- i) Harold tells Fernanda exactly what he thinks of her, Anna is reluctant to reveal details of the incident at the club and Susan defends Elly.
- ii) Nigel Smith hosts the show with a difference. There are five contestants but one of them already knows the answers. Your job is to guess which one In groups choose i. or ii., discuss what you think happens in the show. For example, what does Harold say and why?

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6 Interview your partner

Interview your partner about television. Ask the questions below.

- How much television do you watch every week?
- What sort of TV programmes do you watch?
- What's the most popular programme in your family?

Tell the class about your partner.

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Teacher's notes - Watching television (Pre-intermediate)

- 1** Read out the words to show the stress (note that stress is indicated by a ') then put the students in pairs to separate the TV programmes from the words that describe people on TV.

Answers:

Programmes: a 'comedy, a 'drama series, a docu'mentary, a game show, a chat show, a soap opera

People: a pre'senter, a 'newsreader, a 'commentator

- 2** Put the students in pairs to complete the sentences.

Answers:

- a) Did you see the first episode of the new drama series on TV last night? The actors were very good, and the story was very interesting but very sad.
- b) Jill Newman is a presenter on breakfast television. She introduces the programme and talks to guests. Before that, she was a newsreader on News at Ten.
- c) Did you watch the documentary about the history of India?
- d) It's on at seven o'clock four times a week. It's my favourite soap opera. I know the people in the programme. They are like friends.
- e) It's a fantastic game show. If you answer ten questions correctly, you can win a million pounds.
- f) Did you see Tom Cruise on TV last night? He was interviewed by Jonathon Pross on his new chat show.
- g) I think Jon Botson is a great commentator. He gets very excited when he describes somebody scoring a goal in a football match.
- h) It was a very funny comedy. I laughed and laughed.

- 3** Ask the students to decide which word is wrong.

Answers:

- a) get b) look at c) in d) television e) tele f) make

- 4** Ask the students to read the TV guide and match the type of programmes to the programmes in the guide.

Answers:

- 1) soap opera 2) game show 3) documentary 4) comedy 5) chat show
6) sports programme

- 5** Students should read the descriptions and guess the type of programme. They may need to use a dictionary. For the second part ask them to build a scenario of the programme from the limited information in the description. (This may not be appropriate for all classes.)

Answers:

- i soap opera
- ii game show or quiz show

- 6** Give the students a couple of minutes to think of answers to the questions. Then ask them to interview their partner about television. In the feedback, ask some students to tell the class what their partner said.