

What's on TV?

Upper-intermediate

1 Match the words

Match the people in box A to the TV programmes in box B. (There may sometimes be more than one possible answer.)

Example: commentator = *sports programme*

Box A

commentator	presenter	guest
host	contestant	soap star
celebrity	narrator	correspondent
newsreader		

Box B

game show	chat show	news bulletin
soap opera	wildlife documentary	current affairs programme

2 Collocations

All of these words collocate (regularly combine) with TV. Which ones go before, and which ones go after TV?

Example: TV screen satellite TV

screen	satellite	channel	guide
breakfast	closed circuit	colour	digital
set	station	broadcast	licence
daytime	black-and-white		

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3 What's on TV?

Read the TV guide. Then match the words in *italics* with the definitions below:

TV Guide

7pm **Pride and Prejudice**

A *repeat run* for the *peak-time* costume drama *serial* which topped last summer's *viewing figures*. In this *opening episode* we meet The Bennet family and the handsome Mr Darcy.

8pm **World at War**

A new *three-part* documentary *series* that tells the story of the First World War. It is *narrated by* William Gates.

9pm **Sports Special**

Extended *highlights* of the match between Real Madrid and Arsenal, with *commentary* by Barry Motson

- a) The first programme (in a series).
- b) The time of day when most people watch TV.
- c) A group of three related programmes that are broadcast over a period of time.
- d) A description of the match as it happens.
- e) A long drama set in the past that is broadcast in parts (in a series of programmes).
- f) A series of programmes that are not being shown on television for the first time.
- g) The story is told by this person.
- h) Not the whole match, but all the exciting action.

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4 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 the 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 either i) or ii) and discuss what you think might happen in the show. For example, what does Harold say and why?

5 Fill the gaps

What do people think of TV? Look at the words below that describe TV. Put them in the correct gaps in the sentences below:

selective relaxing informative entertaining mind-numbing

- a) I think TV is very _____. Without it, we wouldn't know what was going on in the world.
- b) You have to be _____ about what you watch. If you watch everything, you'll go mad.
- c) I find TV _____. After a long day at work it takes away all the stress. It's also _____. I laugh, cry and enjoy myself watching TV.
- d) It's totally _____. It doesn't let you think. It's chewing gum for the eyes. People who watch TV all day are stupid couch potatoes.

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6 Discussion

Think of answers to the questions below, then discuss them with two or three other people:

- What do you think of TV?
- Are you selective about what you watch or a couch potato?
- What sort of programmes do you enjoy watching?
- Do you think you watch too much TV?
- Do you think people your age in your country generally watch too much TV?

7 TV dictionary quiz

Try the TV quiz. If you have access to the Macmillan English Advanced Learner's Dictionary and CD-ROM you can find all the answers by finding the key word *television*, and following the various links:

- a) What's a *sitcom*?
- b) Do we say *She works in television* or *She works on television*?
- c) Do we say *I saw him on TV* or *I saw him in TV*?
- d) What's the difference between a *chat show* and a *talk show*?
- e) What's the difference between a *series* and a *serial*?
- f) What's the adjective from *television*?
- g) What's the verb from *television*?
- h) What's a *telethon*?
- i) In the United States, what is *public television*?
- j) What's *teletext*?
- k) Who invented TV?

7 This can be done with or without a dictionary as a simple quiz.

- a) A TV or radio series about a particular group of characters who deal with situations in a humorous way.
- b) She works in television.
- c) I saw him on TV.
- d) Chat show: a TV or radio programme in which famous people talk about themselves or their work
Talk show: a group of ordinary people have an opportunity to debate a subject.
- e) Series: a set of television programmes that are all about a particular subject, person, or group of people. Serial: a story that is broadcast or published in a series of separate parts.
- f) Televised
- g) Televised
- h) A long television programme that provides entertainment with the purpose of raising money for charity.
- i) TV that is owned and operated by community organizations, local government, and universities, and that emphasizes educational programmes.
- j) A system that provides news and other information for people to read on their television screens.
- k) John Logie Baird