

# 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

# Collocations

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

Example: TV <u>screen</u> <u>satellite</u> TV

screen satellite channel guide breakfast closed circuit colour digital set station broadcast licence

daytime black-and-white





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# 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.
- 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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# 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?

# 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:

select	ive 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	o mad.	•	-
c)	I find TV		After a long day at	t work it takes away
·	all the stress. It's			. I laugh, cry and
	enjoy myself watch	ing TV.		
d)	lt's totally		It doesn't	let you think. It's
,	chewing gum for th	ie eyes. People v	vho watch TV all da	ay are stupid couch
	potatoes.			,
		ie eyes. People v	vho watch TV all da	ay are stupid c





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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?





#### **Teacher's notes – What's on TV (Upper intermediate)**

Start by brainstorming as many names of TV programmes and people as you can from the students. Put the students in pairs to match the people in box A to the TV programmes in box B.

#### **Answers:**

commentator = sports programmepresenter = game showguest = chat showhost = game show, chat showcontestant = game showsoap star = soap operacelebrity = means a famous person, so chat shownarrator = wildlife documentary

correspondent = news bulletin, current affairs programme

newsreader = news bulletin

2 Read through the examples then put the students in pairs to collocate the words with TV.

#### Answers:

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

Note: In Britain people pay for an annual TV licence which permits them to own a TV. The licence fee pays for the BBC, the national broadcaster, which has no advertising.

3 Ask the students to read the TV guide. Put them in pairs to match the words in italics with the definitions.

#### **Answers:**

a) opening episode b) peak-time c) three-part documentary series d) commentary e) costume drama serial f) repeat run

g) narrated by h) extended highlights

4 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.)

i. soap opera ii. game show or quiz show

5 Put the students in pairs to put the adjectives in the correct gaps in the sentences below.

#### Answers:

a) informative b) selective c) relaxing entertaining d) mind-numbing

6 Give the students a few minutes to answer the questions for themselves, then put them in small groups to discuss them. Have a brief whole class feedback session.





#### 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

