

EPISODE 33
LEVEL A1.2/A2.1

READING COMPREHENSION



TELEVISION



John: What's on TV tonight (= what programmes are on TV tonight)?

Mark: I don't really know, I'm not keen on TV. I only watch **documentaries** (= films with factual information) Oh, wait. I've heard there is some famous film on, but that's a **repeat** (= it has been on TV before).

John: That's not very exciting.

Mark: Yeah, only **quiz shows** (= in which people answer questions and win prizes) and **soap operas** (= a kind of films, shown a few times a week about the life of one family). They are the worst.

John: True, but **viewers** (= people who watch TV) want to watch them. What I hate the most about TV is all these **commercials** (= short films which promote a product), you cannot watch a film because of them.

Mark: How many **channels** (= e.g. Discovery, Polsat) have you got?

John: About 60, and sometimes I cannot find anything interesting.

Mark: I think I will go to the cinema tonight.

John: Me, too.

More contexts for the new words:

- Can you **change the channel** ? This film is so boring, I can't watch it any more.
(= Could we watch some other programme?)
- Have you seen this beer **advertisement** ? I think it was funny.
(= Have you seen the picture, e.g. in a newspaper, promoting beer?)
- Could you **repeat** that, please? I didn't hear what you said.
(= Could you say it again?)



EXERCISE 1

Decide if the sentences are correct or incorrect. Correct the sentences which are wrong.

1. A soap opera is a type of a series.
2. A channel is the same as a programme.
3. A repeat is a programme shown for a second time.
4. A commercial is a type of an advertisement.
5. Quiz shows usually have normal people (not actors) in them.
6. A factual programme is called a document.



EXERCISE 2

Add the missing vowels (e.g. a, e, o, l, u). Then answer the questions.

1. What is your favourite CHNNL?
2. Do you watch SP PRS? Why/ why not?
3. Do you watch the CMMRCLS, or do you change the channel? Why?

ENGLISH IN USE



This is the sentence for today:

I'm not keen on TV.

When we have "to be" in the sentence, "don't" or "doesn't" are not necessary. We just put "not" after the verb. Look at some more examples:

He isn't (= is not) keen on football.

They aren't (= are not) TV fans.

I'm not (= am not) fond of sports.

IDIOM CLOSE-UP



A/ Have you seen the last episode of Big Brother?

*B/ No, I hate **REALITY TV**.*

Reality TV are television programmes that do not use professional actors but show real events and situations with normal people.

PHRASAL VERBS CLOSE-UP



Here are two phrasal verbs often used in the context of TV.

1. If you **TURN** something **UP**, you make something bigger.

*Don't **turn** the TV **up** – I'm trying to work.*

*Can you **turn** the music **up** a bit?*

2. The opposite is to **TURN** something **DOWN**. It means to reduce the amount of something.

*Can you **turn** the music **down** a little?*

*The lights in the house were **turned down** low.*



EXERCISE 3

Rewrite the sentences keeping the same meaning and using the word in capitals. Use the idiom and phrasal verbs you have learned in this lesson.

1. Can you make the music quieter, please?

DOWN

2. Could you give me more light?

UP

3. I love programmes like You Can Dance or Top Model.

TV

NEWS



TV QUIZ

How much do you know about TV? Cover the answers below, do this quiz and check your knowledge!

1. *EastEnders* is a soap opera which is very popular in:

A. Australia B. Great Britain C. the USA

2. A famous actress born in Sweden is:

A. Brigitte Bardot B. Ingrid Bergman C. Marilyn Monroe

3. Which of these is NOT a **sitcom**?

A. Złotopolscy B. Friends C. How I met your mother

4. A series **set in** the USA during the Great Depression is:

A. Fawlty Towers B. Friends C. Carnivale

5. A 2011 HBO series **based on** the books by George R.R. Martin is:

A. Game of Thrones B. Dexter C. Rome

ANSWERS

Check your answers. Score a point for each correct answer.

1. B 2. B 3. A 4. C 5. A

RESULTS

5 points – you're a real TV **geek**. Congratulations!

4 points – not bad!

3 points – you have a healthy balance between TV and real life. Good!

1-2 points – do you know what television is?

GLOSSARY

- a **sitcom** – a situation comedy

- **set in** – taking place in

- **based on** – if a film is based on a book, it is inspired by the book

- a **geek** – someone very interested in one topic

KEY TO EXERCISES

Ex.1

1. correct
2. incorrect; a channel is e.g. Polsat, and a programme is e.g. Taniec z gwiazdami
3. correct
4. correct
5. correct
6. incorrect; it is a documentary

Ex.2

1. channel
2. soap operas
3. commercials

Ex.3

1. Can you turn down the music, please?
2. Could you turn up the light?
3. I love reality TV.