

**Topic: Television**

**Let's get started...**

Did you watch TV today? What did you watch? How many hours did you watch? Will you watch TV after Talk Time?

**Background:**

The first regular television series was broadcast in Germany in 1935. By the mid-1950s, televisions were a common appliance in American households. Today, almost all American households have a television. People spend a lot of time watching television. Comedies, dramas, news, reality TV, cooking shows, game shows, soap operas, talk shows, and home improvement shows are popular TV shows.



**In pairs for 5 minutes, ask and answer these questions:**

Talk about watching TV:

- Do you like to watch TV alone or with other people?
- Do you like to eat while you watch TV? What do you eat?
- Do you like to read or do some other activity while you watch TV? What do you do?
- Do you like to fall asleep with the TV on?
- Do you like to lay down or sit up when you watch TV?



**Share your partner's answers with the group.**

**Discussion Questions:**

How often do you watch television?

What is your favorite kind of television show?

How many television sets do you have in your household?

Do you watch American television? What is your favorite American television show?  
How long have you watched this show?

What is your favorite television show in your native country?

Do you check the TV guide or newspaper before you watch TV? Do you make a plan for watching TV?

What do you think about television commercials? Do you think the government should regulate television commercials? Why or why not?

Do you like any commercials on TV? Which ones? Why?

Which do you prefer: subtitles or voice-overs? Why?

Which do you prefer: comedy or drama? Why?

How do you receive news? Do you watch TV, read the newspaper, check the Internet, or listen to the radio?

Is television in America different from television in your native country? How?

Do you think television is too violent? Why or why not?

Which do you prefer: TV shows or movies?

Do you like watching TV on a big screen or a small screen? Why?

If you have children, do you control how much TV they watch? What are their restrictions?

How do you feel about video games?

Is there a video game system at your house? Are video games popular in your native country?

Have you ever watched a television series on DVD? Which do you prefer: watching a television series week by week or by DVD?

How did people spend free time before the TV was invented?

**New words and Idioms:**

Broadcast, series, appliance, household, TV guide, commercial, subtitle, voice-over, violent, restrictions, video games, comedies, dramas, news, reality TV, cooking shows, game shows, soap operas, talk shows, home improvement