

READING

A Small Screen, Some Big Changes



How has TV changed our lives?

Before television, people got their news from the newspapers or the radio. For entertainment, they went to the theater to see live shows or movies, or had hobbies that they could do at home, such as stamp collecting or making model airplanes.

What was TV like in the early days?

TV started to become popular in the 1950s. In 1950, there were about 10 million televisions in the US. All the shows were in black and white. There were only one or two channels, and they were only on in the afternoons and evenings.

How did people watch TV back then?

In the early days of television, the family used to watch TV together because there was usually only one TV at home. The new idea of the "TV dinner" (frozen food that you can heat up and serve) became popular. In those days, watching TV was a family or social event. People were amazed that they could see live sports in their homes or get the latest news instantly.

How has TV changed?

In 1954, TV networks started to broadcast in color, and by 1970, there were 37 million color sets in the US. Today, TV sets are cheaper. We have 24-hour news and hundreds of channels. TV is no longer amazing. It is an accepted part of our daily lives.



Exercise 1. Read the text quickly. Select (✓) the topics mentioned in the text.

☐ food ☐ movies ☐ music ☐ news ☐ school ☐ sports

Exercise 2. Read the text carefully, then choose the correct answers.

1. Before television, people got their news from _____.

- A. the newspaper
- B. the radio
- C. Facebook
- D. the newspaper or the radio

2. Television started to become popular in the _____.

- A. 1950s
- B. 1960s
- C. 1970s
- D. 1980s

3. Why did the family use to watch television together in the early days of television?

- A. Because there weren't any televisions at home.
- B. Because there was usually only one television at home.
- C. Because there were some televisions at home.

4. In those days, people were _____ that they could see live sports in their homes or get the latest news instantly.

- A. worried
- B. watched
- C. amazed
- D. used

5. In _____, TV networks started to broadcast in color.

- A. 1950
- B. 1951
- C. 1953
- D. 1954

6. By 1970, there were _____ million color sets in the UK.

- A. 27
- B. 37
- C. 47
- D. 57

7. Today, TV sets are _____.

- A. cheapest
- B. cheaper
- C. more expensive
- D. popular

Exercise 3. Read the text again. How did it use to be?

1. Today, people get their news from the TV or the Internet.

→ _____ .

2. Families often have more than one TV at home now.

→ _____ .

3. TV shows are in color today.

→ _____ .

4. Today, there are hundreds of TV channels.

→ _____ .