

Lesson 1.27 7-A

Ex.1 Listen to the text. Match headings a–e with paragraphs 1–4. There is one extra heading.

- a A global change
- b Surprising statistics
- c TV is cool again
- d Too much TV?
- e A new obsession

Where are all the couch potatoes?

1

Parents and teachers always say that teenagers are 'couch potatoes' and spend all their time in front of stupid TV programmes. But is it true that young people have 'square eyes'? Do they really watch a lot of TV?

2

The results of a recent survey show that people in Britain typically watch twenty-seven and a half hours of TV every week – almost four hours a day! But there is some surprising news – young people don't watch as much TV as adults. For example, middle-aged adults (aged forty-five to sixty-five) watch about five hours a day. But young people aged twelve to seventeen only watch about two and a half hours a day. And a typical pensioner watches about six hours a day!

3

Studies in countries such as the USA and Australia suggest the same: kids today spend less time in front of their TV sets than young people in the 1980s.



4

Teenagers today don't often sit with their families on the living-room couch. So where are they? Do they perhaps spend all their free time in the fresh air, away from the TV? The simple answer is no, they don't. The favourite free time activity of British teenagers is now surfing the Internet – typically about thirty-one hours a week! The couch potato is alive and well – he's just back in his bedroom.

Ex.2 Read the text again. Mark the sentences ✓ (right), ✗ (wrong) or ? (doesn't say).

- 1 Parents and teachers agree that teenagers watch too much TV.
- 2 Middle-aged people watch more TV than teenagers.
- 3 Pensioners watch six hours of TV a week.

4 Teenagers don't watch TV because they prefer to be outside in the fresh air.

5 Teenagers in Britain usually have a TV in their bedroom.