UNIT 4 – Streaming Services

Reading 1

Skills:

- Details
- Scanning
- Understand referents
- Vocabulary in context
- Understand negative facts

Getting started: How much time do you spend watching movies or series per week?

AMAZON PRIME VIDEO



Amazon Prime Video, or simply Prime Video, is a subscription streaming service of Amazon.com, Inc. The service primarily distributes films and television series produced by Amazon Studios or licensed to Amazon, as Prime Originals (or Amazon Originals) or Exclusives, with the service also hosting content from other providers, live sporting events, and video rental and purchasing services.

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Amazon offers access to its video content in one of two ways: a standalone Amazon Video subscription or an Amazon Prime subscription. An Amazon Video subscription costs $8.99 per month and only includes access to Amazon's streaming video library. An Amazon Prime account, which includes Prime Video content and **a ton of** other shipping and shopping benefits, costs $12.99 per month (or $119 per year). Amazon refers to **its** video streaming service as Amazon Prime Video in most of its support documentation.

In recent years, Amazon has focused on recovering high-quality original shows, such as Fleabag, Hanna, Hunters, The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel, The Boys, and Upload. The long-rumored and $416 million Lord of the Rings series is still on track, too. Many of these shows are excellent and on par with Netflix's offerings, though **the latter** has a much deeper content library. One advantage that Prime Video has over Netflix, however, is that it broadcasts Thursday Night Football games, and most recently, WNBA games.

Amazon's video library also includes tons of popular and classic movies available for streaming at no additional cost, and Amazon's purchase of MGM for $8.45 billion should improve the movie selection considerably. Users have the option to purchase or rent movies and TV shows as well, similar to Apple's iTunes, Google's Play Movies and TV Shows, and Microsoft Store's Movies and TV section.

Prime Video is notable in that it supports 4K and **HDR** streaming as well as downloads for offline viewing. Amazon's video service works on a web browser, as well as Android and iOS devices, game consoles (PlayStation, Xbox, and Wii), Smart TVs, and media streaming devices (Apple TV, Chromecast, Fire TV, TiVo, Roku, and Nvidia Shield). With Prime Video, you can stream up to three titles at the same time from the same account, but it limits you to streaming the same title to two devices simultaneously. Prime Video also now (finally) lets you create multiple viewing profiles per account.

**Adapted from https://www.pcmag.com/picks/the-best-video-streaming-services*

Glossary:

- **HDR (High Dynamic Range)**: HDR is a technology that improves the range of color and contrast in a digital image. It may be used for both photos and videos.

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Answer the following questions:

1. According to paragraph 1, what is Amazon Originals?
   a. Content made by Amazon.
   b. Rival studio films that Amazon distributes.
   c. Sports events that are transmitted on Prime Video.
   d. A new idea that other streaming services have never incorporated.

2. How much must you pay for a monthly Amazon Prime account?
   a. More than one hundred dollars
   b. Around thirteen dollars
   c. $11.99
   d. $8.99

3. The phrase **a ton of** in paragraph 2 can be replaced by
   a. 907 kg
   b. A few
   c. heavy
   d. many

4. The word **its** in paragraph 2 refers to
   a. month
   b. service
   c. Amazon
   d. shopping

5. What is stated about The Lord of the Rings in paragraph 3?
   a. Amazon is going to sell some shows to Netflix.
   b. Amazon is going to buy the rights to make one more movie.
   c. It has been said that Amazon will produce a series related to this story.
   d. It is believed that a new potential production could cost half a million dollars.

6. What is stated about Prime Video and Netflix in paragraph 3?
   a. Netflix is better than Prime Video.
   b. Amazon Prime Video is a better choice.
   c. Both streaming platforms produce really bad series.
   d. Prime Video shows are as good as the ones made by Netflix.

7. The phrase **the latter** in paragraph 3 refers to
   a. Netflix
   b. WNBA
   c. Upload
   d. Prime Video

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8. What is stated in paragraph 4?
   a. Amazon bought MGM.
   b. MGM streams Amazon productions.
   c. Classic movies can be watched at an additional cost.
   d. Amazon is planning to purchase Google and Microsoft.

9. What is NOT mentioned in paragraph 5?
   a. You can't watch four different titles at the same time.
   b. You won't be able to use Prime Video unless you have a PlayStation.
   c. It seems that before you couldn't create different profiles for just one account.
   d. With Prime Video, you can watch movies even if you don't have an internet connection.

What do you think?

Will regular TV channels disappear in the near future?

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