

TV 2 Do you like reality TV shows? Why/Why not? Can you name some? How many hours of watching TV was David Rakoff assigned? Why this number?



1. Listen to the clip once. What are David and Jodi watching now? What things in the program make David laugh? _____ Listen again and mark the lines either J (Jodi) or D (David) depending on who has said them.

- 1) Why do they both have sunglasses? Oh. Disaster. _____
- 2) This is the worst night of my life. _____
- 3) See? Oh, look at the excitement you have on your face. _____
- 4) I am going to the bad place, as is my wont. _____
- 5) You're trying to act like you weren't just having fun. _____
- 6) What was she thinking? _____
- 7) See? It goes back to me feeling like we're going to have sex. No. _____
- 8) Why? You're laughing and you're enjoying yourself. _____
- 9) Don't you feel like taking a shower after all of this? _____

What do the phrases mean?

as is my wont

how incapacitated I am

dials it down a bit



2. Read the text and try to fill the gaps with prepositions.

She's right. Why can't I just let myself enjoy it? Part of it is that denying pleasure is my middle name. But Jodi feels that I'm trying to be _____ it all, that I'm judging her.

The New York Times

Man's Body Is Found a Year After Death



Feb. 18, 2007

HAMPTON BAYS, N.Y., Feb. 17 (AP) A man's body was found in his home with the television still on and his features preserved by the dry air in his home, officials said. He is thought to have been dead for more than a year.

The man, Vincenzo Ricardo, 70, apparently died of natural causes, said Dr. Stuart Dawson, Suffolk County's deputy chief medical examiner.

After all, she spends time at home _____ the television, sometimes with a glass of wine even, just as we're doing. But there is a seminal difference

_____ Jodi and myself. When she watches TV at home, alone _____ a drink, she has a husband in the next room. When I watch television, I am _____ myself. Watching TV, for me, is a referendum on my loneliness. Having the television _____ just seems like some desperate simulacrum of company, stuffing the other side of the bed _____ clothes. It is a chilly reality, brought home to me – with all the force of a

frying pan to the face – by a small item in the *New York Times* on Sunday the 18th of February.

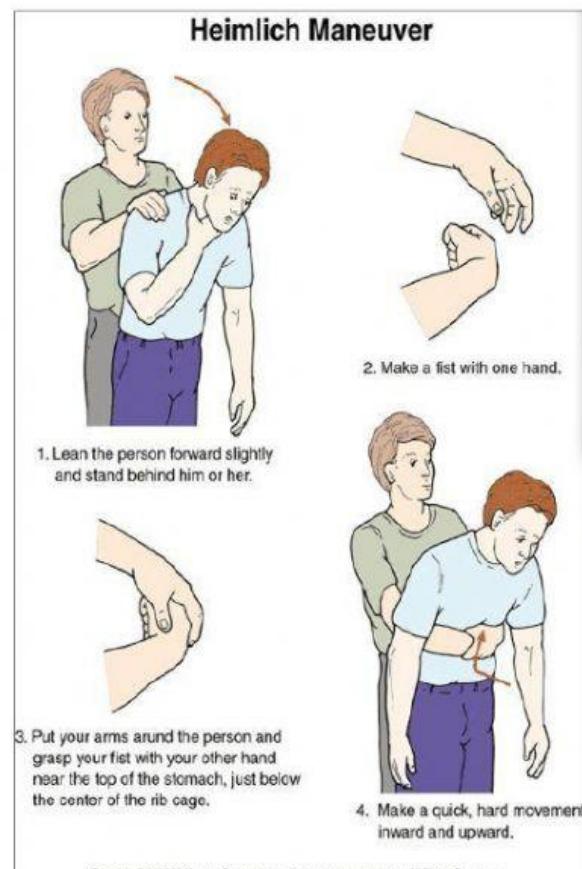
The article was _____ how a man, a 70-year-old widower named Vincenzo Ricardo was found _____ his home, dead. Officials believed that Mr. Ricardo – discovered sitting _____ his chair – had been dead _____ more than a year. He was very well preserved, mummified, _____ the hot dry air in his home. Air, no doubt made even hotter and drier by the fact that for the entire year plus that Mr. Vincenzo sat stiff and expired in his recliner, his television was _____.

Listen and check _____

3. Read the excerpt first and try to figure out the appropriate forms of words in brackets to fill the gaps with. Listen and check _____

There was _____ (appearance) a study recently that showed that people who watch _____ (episode) television – following a set of characters on an ongoing basis – experienced many of the same positive effects that people derive from having friends, _____ (act) friends. TV is a friend, one might _____ (conclusive). Well, call me old-fashioned, but the minimum of true _____ (friendly) strikes me as being – at the very least – the capacity for one friend to look over at another and be able to say, hey buddy, how are you doing? Do you want me to call 911 or something? Because you're looking a little – oh, I don't know – _____ (death).

I suppose I would just rather be _____ (authenticity) alone than wait around in _____ (vanity) for Jennifer Garner to come over and give me the Heimlich maneuver. My producer, Alex, thought that was too _____ (negate) a note on which to end this story, that there needed to be some moment of uplift, some edifying _____ (publicity) radio insight. Alex suggested that what I've learned from this experience is that it is not TV that I hate so much as the fellow watching it, that I won't _____ (truth) love television until I love myself (I). Perhaps he is right. I canceled the cable.



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Can you remember the ladies in the picture? Dr Julia Shaw and comedian Sofie Hagen dissect criminal cases that intrigue and scare us. Murderers. Fraudsters. Internet trolls. This is a podcast about people who do terrible things, and the science of humanity's dark side.

4. Listen to the snippet and mark the statements T/F

- 1) Julia is in charge this time because they're going to talk about one of her favourite topics.
- 2) Julia was once asked to be a part of a reality show which was gonna to be set somewhere in Ireland.
- 3) She was gonna live in a house with some other experts.
- 4) The show has never been done because of the pandemic.
- 5) The show was supposed to be called Big Brother.
- 6) Sofie is excited with the idea.
- 7) Sofie participated in a reality show with other D-list celebrities.
- 8) Sofie was paid 10 000 pounds.



Try to match the parts of the chunks, then listen again and check.

taking the

materialized

to involve

clever people in it

there was gonna be

lead today

never actually

an expert house

if Big Brother

being a real life whodunit

if Big Brother had really

a group of experts

potentially end up

was boring



with like other	reality-TV-famous
a good chunk	on television
not gonna win coz	able to eat a bug
be humiliated	of money
for not being	it's a survival show
could have been	D-list celebrities

Why do some people participate in reality shows? Why do other ones watch the shows?



5. Read out the nouns and noun phrases. Can you explain the meanings? Listen to the snippet and tap out the nouns and noun phrases you can hear. _____ . Can you find matching places for them in the excerpt? Fill the gaps, listen again and check

hate-watching	parasocial relationships	anti-fandom
selective exposure	snark-watching	guilty pleasure
annoying characteristics	schadenfreude	toxic environment



- Why do we watch this kind of show?
- Welcome to the world of _____ and the key part of it is _____. So, I love this quote from the study by Cohen&Co from 2021 which says, in quotes: "Hate watching involves _____ to media content that is liked so that the viewer can revel in the details that make the content unlikeable." So, it's taking pleasure in the failures, absurdities, _____ of the show or its characters. So, have you ever hate-watched something?

6. Listen to the clip and put the lines of the dialogue in order _____

— While I'm watching it.

— Yeah, I mean, because I watch things that are, you know, bad, or like things that are like trashy, like Love Island, but I genuinely enjoy it coz it's entertaining, there is no hate about it.

— I mean, I feel like I must have. I just find it, I don't take any pleasure from it, I find it really difficult, because, I mean, there are certain podcasts or social media accounts that annoy me a lot, like I really hate it, and I do sometimes still watch or listen, but it makes me feel really upset and angry and it doesn't feel pleasurable at all. So, is that the same thing?

— So, it makes you upset afterwards or while you're watching it?

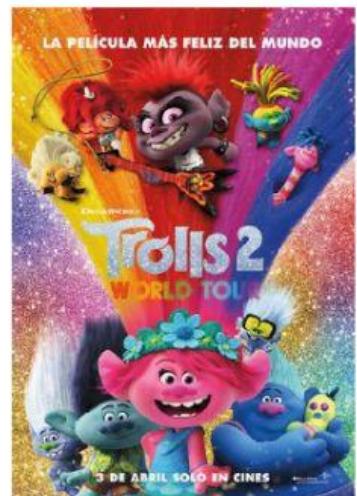
— While you are watching? Interesting.

— Well, the hate is that you dislike the movie, that's not a good movie. So, and you're looking at it to critique it, like you're mocking it the whole time.

— Well, there's different types of hate, so there's something called snark-watching which is sort of a type of hate watching. And I definitely snark-watch occasionally. It's the sort of watching things ironically. So I, for example, definitely hate-watch Trolls 2, Sharknado, The Room, like this is whole like genre of really badly made horror movies and I get a lot of enjoyment out of watching it because they are so bad. But I'm not hating the people involved, right? I'm enjoying the absurdity of the production.

— Oh, I must do that. It feels like a very human thing to do. It just makes you feel bad – to watch something that I want to mock.

— Yes. Where's the hate then?



Watch the trailer. Do you think this is a good snark-watching material?

7. Shadow the snippets.

A. _____ OK, is that true for things that are fictional and non-fictional? So the sub I've just described is fiction, for example.

B. _____ I probably find it easier to do with fiction but it's almost if I don't enjoy it, why watch it?

C. _____ You are enjoying it, that's the key to hate-watching.

D. _____ How can you hate something and enjoy it? It doesn't make sense to me!

E. _____ You love to hate it – that's the idea of hate-watching.

F. _____ But then I just love it. If I love to hate it, then I love it.

G. _____ But there's the question to this – why? Is it specifically because you think the roles are ridiculous, the costumes are over the top and the production value's too low.

H. _____ I guess, yeah. I just have never thought of this like a hate-thing because I have much love for it. Oh, that's so interesting. So, and there's just one type?

I. _____ Not just one... One of the most benevolent types of hate-watching, for reality TV it's often more malicious. And so some research on why people specifically hate-watch reality TV has found that some viewers like it because they feel superior to the people on screen.

J. _____ They also feel like they would be able to avoid the negative situations like 'that wouldn't happen to me' or 'I wouldn't have done that thing' including things like fallouts, fights or embarrassing revelations. And for others there's just sort of simple schadenfreude of seeing people fail. Which ugh, yeah, I don't like those ones, those reasons.



Listen to the snippet and decide whether the statements are true or false _____

- 1) Sofie likes Love Island, but she wasn't really into it when she watched the first season. _____
- 2) The characters on the show are all goofy and likeable. _____
- 3) Sofie invited people to watch the last episode, the finale. _____
- 4) The people's rude comments appalled Sofie. _____

5) She thought she'd misunderstood the idea of watching the show. _____

6) Sofie was genuinely rooting for the contestants. _____

7) She thinks that if she was looking at people and thought that they were ugly and that she would be able to do better in that situation, that would make her feel good. _____

8) Julia says that a lot of people call these shows guilty pleasures because of the sense of guilt that comes with enjoying some other people's misery. _____