

THE MEDIA COMMENTATOR

Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the root word on the right.

A live broadcast of any public event, such as a space (0) _____ or sporting occasion, is almost (1) _____ accompanied by the thoughts of a commentator. This may be on television, along with the relevant pictures, or (2) _____ on radio. The technique involved differs between the two media, with radio broadcasters needing to be more explicit and (3) _____ because of the (4) _____ of visual information. TV commentators do not need to paint a picture for their audience; instead their various (5) _____ should add to the images that are already there. There will sometimes be silences and pauses in TV commentary, although these are becoming increasingly rare. Both types of commentator should try to be informative, but should avoid sounding (6) _____.

In sports commentary, (7) _____ and impartiality to both sides is vital, but spontaneity and (8) _____ are valued by those watching or listening. Sports commentators usually broadcast live in an essentially unscripted way, although they may refer to previously prepared materials such as sports statistics. Because of the (9) _____ nature of live events, thorough preparation in advance is vital. The internet has helped enormously with this aspect of the job. Anyone interested in becoming a commentator should have excellent organizational skills, the willingness to work (10) _____ hours and a strong voice.

(0) FLY
(1) VARIABLE
(2) ALTERNATE

(3) DESCRIBE
(4) ABSENT
(5) OBSERVE

(6) OPINION
(7) FAIR
(8) ENTHUSE

(9) PREDICT
(10) REGULAR

