

Reading Comprehension

Mass Media

The mass media play an important part in our lives. Newspapers, radio and especially TV inform us of what is going on in the world and give us wonderful possibilities for education and entertainment. They also influence the way we see the world and shape our views. Of course, not all newspapers and TV programmes report the events objectively, but serious journalists and TV reporters try to be fair and provide us with reliable information. It is true that the world today is full of dramatic events and most news seems to be bad news. But people aren't interested in ordinary events. That is why there are so many programmes and articles about natural disasters, plane crashes, wars, murders and robberies. Good news doesn't usually make headlines. Bad news does. Some people say that journalists are given too much freedom. They often intrude in people's private lives. They follow celebrities and print sensational stories about them which are untrue or halftrue. They take photos of them in their most intimate moments. The question is - should this be allowed? The main source of news for millions of people is television. People like TV news because they can see everything with their own eyes. And that's an important advantage. Seeing, as we know, is believing. Besides, it's much more difficult for politicians to lie in front of the cameras than on the pages of newspapers. Still, many people prefer the radio. It's good to listen to the radio in the car, or in the open air, or when you do something about the house. Newspapers don't react to events as quickly as TV, but they usually provide us with extra detail, comment and background information. The Internet has recently become another important source of information. Its main advantage is that news appears on the screen as soon as things happen in real life and you don't have to wait for news time on TV.

1. Read the text. Say which sentences are true or false.

1. The mass media only provide entertainment and do not inform us about the world.
2. Serious journalists aim to report events fairly and accurately.
3. Most news reported by the media is about positive events.
4. Television is the main source of news for many people.
5. The radio is preferred by most people for watching news.
6. Newspapers provide more detailed information than television news.

2. Fill in the gaps.

Newspapers, radio and especially TV 1 _____ us of what is going on in the world.

There are so many programmes and 2 _____ about natural disasters, plane crashes, wars, murders and robberies. People like 3 _____ because they can see everything with their own eyes. 4 _____ don't react to events as 5 _____ as TV, but they usually provide us with extra detail, comment and background information.

3. Answer the question.

1. What are the main types of mass media mentioned in the text?