


READING ■ Reality TV

I can understand a text about reality TV.

- 1  1.31 Look at the photos and the title of the text. What do you think the text is about? Choose the correct answer. Then read, listen and check your answer.
- Reality shows that teenagers like best.
 - How reality shows choose young participants.
 - Using young people in reality shows.
- 2 Read the text again and choose the correct answers.
- The early reality TV shows were ...
 - only for adults.
 - entertaining.
 - embarrassing for participants.
 - People take part in reality shows because ...
 - they are funny.
 - a lot of people watch them.
 - they receive money.
 - In *Kid Nation*, the TV company gave money to ...
 - the youngsters' parents.
 - all the young people.
 - the best participants.
 - Kid Nation* shocked many people because ...
 - it was cruel.
 - the channel made a lot of money.
 - the show used children to make money.
 - The writer thinks that the problem with reality TV is that ...
 - it is shocking.
 - it makes a lot of money.
 - it attracts big audiences.

- 3 **BUILD YOUR VOCABULARY** Write the past forms of the verbs in the box. Then read the text again and check. Which past forms are regular and which are irregular?

live make show choose leave love
win try broadcast become attract
solve receive follow do

lived - regular made - irregular

- 4 Make a list of ten verbs and write the past forms. Check in the irregular verbs list in the Workbook. Then test your partner.

What's the past of 'take'?

Took.

Pronunciation: Past tense -ed endings

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- 5 **YOUR OPINIONS** Ask and answer the questions.

- Do you think reality shows are cruel or embarrassing for the participants?
- Do you think there should be a minimum age for participants in reality shows? Why / Why not?
- Why do people like reality shows?
- Which reality shows are popular in your country? Are they good?
- Would you like to be in a reality show? Why / Why not?

HARD REALITY

Teenagers in reality shows

Reality shows use ordinary people instead of actors and this is nothing new. The first reality show, called *Candid Camera*, was in 1948 and it showed ordinary people in funny situations. In 1950, the reality show *Beat the Clock* became a huge success. Participants did amusing, but fun, tasks within a time limit. These early shows were entertaining and participants and viewers loved them. But today's shows are different. Shows like *Big Brother* or *Survivor* are often cruel or embarrassing for the participants. So why do thousands of people want to take part in them? The answer is money. TV companies pay people to take part. Perhaps this is alright when the participants are adults, but it's different when they're children or teenagers.



- 1 Complete the sentences from the text. Which words do we use to form the negative and question forms? Find more past simple sentences in the text.
- 1 Cameras ___ them everywhere.
 - 2 The show ___ big audiences.
 - 3 The TV company ___ a second series.
 - 4 ___ the young people ___ the experience?

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In the reality show *Kid Nation*, forty young people between the ages of eight and fifteen lived together in an abandoned town for forty days. The young people tried to organize their life without adults, and cameras followed them everywhere. The youngsters all received \$5,000 for taking part in the show. In every episode, a participant who solved problems and made decisions won a prize of \$20,000. The group chose this person. Did the young people enjoy the experience? It seems that some participants left before the end of the series because they didn't like it. They were lonely and unhappy.

The TV company didn't make a second series of *Kid Nation*. Many people were shocked and said that it was wrong to use children for fun and profit. Nevertheless, the show attracted big audiences and the channel that broadcast it made a lot of money. Perhaps that's the problem with reality TV shows now – the more they shock, the more successful they are.

- 2 Complete the sentences with the past simple form of the verbs in brackets.
- 1 He ___ part in a reality show. (take)
 - 2 They ___ the end of the programme. (not see)
 - 3 She ___ a million tenge on a TV show. (win)
 - 4 We ___ the new series on Perviy Kanal. (not like)
 - 5 I ___ a film of my friends on holiday. (make)

- 3 Complete the text with the past simple form of the verbs in the box.

love broadcast compose sing not speak
become appear finish win

Singer 2017

In most reality shows, the participants are ordinary people, but the contestants in *Singer 2017* **were** famous even before they ¹___ on the programme. The Chinese Hunan TV ²___ the first episode of the show on 10 January 2017. There were participants from Hong Kong, Taiwan, Chengdu, Guangzhou and other Chinese cities, but the singer who ³___ the first round was Dimash Kudaibergen from Aktobe, Kazakhstan. With his amazing voice, he quickly ⁴___ the viewers' favourite. Dimash ⁵___ songs in Russian, Mandarin, English, Italian, French and, of course, Kazakh. Everybody ⁶___ his performance of the folk song *Daididau* in episode 7, even though most people in the audience ⁷___ the Kazakh language. Dimash isn't just a singer – he can play the dombra and he also writes music. He ⁸___ the song for episode 10 himself. Although Dimash ⁹___ second in the competition, many people think he was the real star of the show.



- 4 **ACTIVATE** Think about the first reality show you ever saw. Write a short description of the programme. Read it to a partner. Can your partner guess the name of the show?

The first reality show I ever saw was a singing competition. I watched it on Perviy Kanal.

Was it the X Factor?

Finished?

Write sentences about five things that you did last week.

Last Monday, I went to the cinema.