

UNIT 7: TELEVISION, NEWS AND CURRENT AFFAIRS

A. READING

Exercise 1: Read the information. Then complete the sentences. Use the words and phrases in the box.

When writers use the passive, they often leave out auxiliary verbs and relative pronouns that are not needed.

The sentences in this exercise are perfectly correct with or without the words and phrases that you add.

It is important that when you are reading a text in the IELTS Reading test, you are able to recognise that not all passive verbs necessarily look like passive structures.

having been / that are / which was / who had been / will be

1. The briefcase _____ stolen from the car contained an important business contract.
2. Many of the websites _____ used most frequently by people generate millions of euros in advertising.
3. With my bags already _____ packed, I was ready to set off.
4. The paper will be published and the findings _____ discussed at next year's conference.
5. The identity of the people _____ arrested was not made public for several days.

Exercise 2: Read the information. Then read the article and choose the most suitable title.

Choose the title that best fits the whole text, not just a part of it.

Anyone who regularly uses social media will be familiar with that rather irritating sensation of seeing that all their friends seem to be having far more fun than they are. This could be particularly noticeable if you are sitting at home feeling bored while everyone else, it seems, is out partying or enjoying a glamorous holiday. Not fair, is it?

In fact, this might be just one aspect of a widespread and more ominous social phenomenon. Could social media actually make people depressed? A study commissioned by the National Institute for Mental Health has identified 'a strong and significant association between social media use and depression' in a sample of young adults in the USA. This established that the amount of time spent on social media sites, as well as the number of visits to the sites, correlated closely with depression.

Of course, the picture may well be more complex than this. Joanne Davila of Stony Brook University has studied interpersonal relationships between both adolescents and adults. She acknowledges the powerful influence that social networks can have on their users, but says it may just be the case that 'people who are depressed use more social media sites'. In other words, it may be simplistic to conclude that one thing necessarily leads to the other.

As we all know, social media allows people to establish, re-establish and maintain social contacts very easily, with a minimum amount of time spent and at essentially no cost. Relationships can be kept alive with people who live on the other side of the globe, or with those who we rarely, if ever, see. On the other hand, social media can encourage feelings of isolation and, at times, inadequacy.

Naturally, everyone needs to sense that they are liked and approved of. Social media comes into its own here, with 'likes' being the currency of many social media platforms. Many people aim for as many as possible in order to enhance their self-esteem, but this of course is only a short-term boost to morale.

It is widely known that a weakness (as well as a strength) of the internet is that it essentially allows anyone to publish anything. If, like a substantial majority of people, you get your news from social media, then the chances are that you are exposed to a daily dose of conspiracy theories and misleading news. And when it's all mixed in with reliable information from respectable and reputable media sources, few of us can really tell which is which with any certainty.

In fact, researchers at Columbia University, using their 'emergent rumour tracker', found that misinformation is equally as likely as genuine news to go viral. The phenomenon is by no means new. After coming under scrutiny, many internet giants began to review their policies with regard to the publication and subsequent removal of fake news. Facebook added a box at the top of its newsfeed to inform users how to deal with dubious stories that look as if they might not be true; if concerned, users can click on it and are taken to Facebook's help centre where they are told about various features frequently found in fake news items, such as misspellings and nonstandard onscreen formatting.

In order to confirm the ease with which fake stories can be not just spread online, but also used to generate income, Filippo Menczer deliberately created a website that would computer-generate gossip about celebrities. This had no factual basis whatsoever, as a disclaimer at the bottom of the page pointed out. The articles also contained advertisements. Sure enough, at the end of the month, Menczer received a cheque in the post, courtesy of the adverts hosted by his page. This was undeniable proof that polluting the internet with lies could actually make a tidy profit, which was the conclusion Menczer expected to reach.

Nowadays, this is well understood, and we have a whole new industry: fake news and digital misinformation. A lot of the work is done by bots – fake accounts created to look like real people, whose only aim is to generate advertising money. Yet, the mainstream IT industry is fighting back. Computer scientists at Indiana University have devised a program to identify whether the source of online content is a bot or a genuine human being.

Another area in which the internet in general, and social networks in particular, are a cause for concern is addiction. According to an article by O'Keefe and Pearson in the journal *Pediatrics*, 22% of teenagers log on to their favourite social networking site ten or more times a day. At first glance, this may not seem particularly problematic, as these ten or more visits almost certainly aren't going to have an adverse effect on the person's health, as can be the case with other addictive behaviours. And yet, it is now clear that people's relationships frequently suffer damage as a result.

We should also be concerned about the decreasing amount of sleep that heavy users of social media sites find they have time for, which is often inadequate for the body's systems. In other words, this can be detrimental to the well-being of a person. Often, people addicted to social media have a greater propensity to take risks, as compared with the population as a whole. Essentially, there is no treatment for social media addiction and little understanding of how it can change over time. And how would it respond to therapy? At the moment, we have more questions than answers.

- The drawbacks of social media
- Three reasons not to use social media
- Why social media needs to be regulated
- Here's why social media can get you down

Exercise 3: Read the information. Then read the first part of the article again. Which paragraphs of the article contain the following information? Choose the correct letter, A–E, for each answer.

In these paragraph matching tasks in the IELTS Reading test, you don't always need to use every letter. And, it is possible to use a letter more than once.

The drawbacks of social media

A Anyone who regularly uses social media will be familiar with that rather irritating sensation of seeing that all their friends seem to be having far more fun than they are. This could be particularly noticeable if you are sitting at home feeling bored while everyone else, it seems, is out partying or enjoying a glamorous holiday. Not fair, is it?

B In fact, this might be just one aspect of a widespread and more ominous social phenomenon. Could social media actually make people depressed? A study commissioned by the National Institute for Mental Health has identified 'a strong and significant association between social media use and depression' in a sample of young adults in the USA. This established that the amount of time spent on social media sites, as well as the number of visits to the sites, correlated closely with depression.

C Of course, the picture may well be more complex than this. Joanne Davila of Stony Brook University has studied interpersonal relationships between both adolescents and adults. She acknowledges the powerful influence that social networks can have on their users, but says it may just be the case that 'people who are depressed use more social media sites'. In other words, it may be simplistic to conclude that one thing necessarily leads to the other.

D As we all know, social media allows people to establish, re-establish and maintain social contacts very easily, with a minimum amount of time spent and at essentially no cost. Relationships can be kept alive with people who live on the other side of the globe, or with those who we rarely, if ever, see. On the other hand, social media can encourage feelings of isolation and, at times, inadequacy.

E Naturally, everyone needs to sense that they are liked and approved of. Social media comes into its own here, with 'likes' being the currency of many social media platforms. Many people aim for as many as possible in order to enhance their self-esteem, but this of course is only a short-term boost to morale.

1 feelings of jealousy experienced by social media users A/B/C/D/E

2 pros and cons of social media sites A/B/C/D/E

3 the difficulty of distinguishing between cause and effect A/B/C/D/E

4 how social media sites enable people to feel better A/B/C/D/E

5 a proven link between social media use and a psychological problem A/B/C/D/E

Exercise 4: Read the first part of the article again. Then read the statements. Choose True, False or Not Given.

1 People tend to use social media more when they are bored.

- ☐ True False Not Given

2 Joanne Davila has conducted her research among different age groups.

- ☐ True False Not Given

3 Joanne Davila's research contradicted the findings of the National Institute for Mental Health.

- ☐ True False Not Given

4 Social media actually makes most people lonelier.

- ☐ True False Not Given

5 Many social media users get long-lasting benefits from receiving 'likes'.

- ☐ True False Not Given

Exercise 5: Read the next part of the article. Match the sentence halves.

It is widely known that a weakness (as well as a strength) of the internet is that it essentially allows anyone to publish anything. If, like a substantial majority of people, you get your news from social media, then the chances are that you are exposed to a daily dose of conspiracy theories and misleading news. And when it's all mixed in with reliable information from respectable and reputable media sources, few of us can really tell which is which with any certainty.

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removal of fake news. Facebook added a box at the top of its newsfeed to inform users how to deal with dubious stories that look as if they might not be true; if concerned, users can click on it and are taken to Facebook's help centre where they are told about various features frequently found in fake news items, such as misspellings and nonstandard onscreen formatting.

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Nowadays, this is well understood, and we have a whole new industry: fake news and digital misinformation. A lot of the work is done by bots – fake accounts created to look like real people, whose only aim is to generate advertising money. Yet, the mainstream IT industry is fighting back. Computer scientists at Indiana University have devised a program to identify whether the source of online content is a bot or a genuine human being.

establish that false stories are shared online just as much as true stories./ identify common characteristics of untrue news stories. / know if a news story is true./ study the results. / tell if an online text has been written by a real person or not.

1 Most people find it difficult to

2 Academics at Columbia University were able to

3 Facebook is trying to enable people to

4 Filippo Menczer created fake stories in order to

5 Staff at Indiana University found a way to

Exercise 6: Read the information. Choose the best paraphrases for the sentences from the article.

Being able to identify paraphrases is a key skill in the IELTS Reading test, so it is useful for you to practise this here.

1 The chances are that you are exposed to a daily dose of conspiracy theories and misleading news.

- ☐ It's likely that you are irritated by what you find online.
- ☐ You probably often see stories that are untrue.

2 The phenomenon is by no means new.

- This has been happening for some time.
- This is becoming increasingly common.

3 In order to confirm the ease with which fake stories can be not just spread online, but also used to generate income ...

- In order to earn money when the stories reach more people ...
- In order to find out how easily these stories are shared and earn money ...

4 This was undeniable proof that polluting the internet with lies could actually make a tidy profit, which was the conclusion Menczer expected to reach.

- Menczer found a way that he could make money without doing anything illegal.
- Menczer was right that spreading untrue stories online could give him a better income.

Exercise 7: Read the information. Then answer the questions using words from the final part of the article. Write NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS for each answer.

Note that the instruction says, 'Write NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS for each answer'. This means that either one word or two words are acceptable – three words are not acceptable. As a general rule, write just one word if you can, and write two if both are necessary.

Another area in which the internet in general, and social networks in particular, are a cause for concern is addiction. According to an article by O'Keefe and Pearson in the journal *Pediatrics*, 22% of teenagers log on to their favourite social networking site ten or more times a day. At first glance, this may not seem particularly problematic, as these ten or more visits almost certainly aren't going to have an adverse effect on the person's health, as can be the case with other addictive behaviours. And yet, it is now clear that people's relationships frequently suffer damage as a result.

We should also be concerned about the decreasing amount of sleep that heavy users of social media sites find they have time for, which is often inadequate for the body's systems. In other words, this can be detrimental to the well-being of a person. Often, people addicted to social media have a greater propensity to take risks, as compared with the population as a whole.

Essentially, there is no treatment for social media addiction and little understanding of how it can change over time. And how would it respond to therapy? At the moment, we have more questions than answers.

1 What aspect of a social media addict's life can be harmed by their addiction? _____

2 What do many social media addicts not get enough of? _____

3 What are social media addicts more likely to do? _____

Exercise 8: The article has five paragraphs, A–E. Read the article. Which paragraphs contain the following information? Choose the correct letter, A–E, for each answer.

A Social media has come in for some tough criticism over the years, with a number of commentators believing that it prevents people from being able to successfully communicate face-to-face. There are those that argue that we are raising a generation who are unable to take things seriously and who through playing violent video games have become desensitized to cruelty and lack sympathy for anyone besides themselves. However, are social commentators and parents right to be alarmed by this trend? In the 1930s, there was panic that young people were becoming addicted to the radio, and in the 1980s, the advent of personal stereos meant there were those that panicked about the youth becoming increasingly isolated by wearing headphones all the time.

Perhaps, therefore, we should remain suspicious of claims that social media and the wide use of technology is going to lead to a society where people lack the literacy skills of the past and cannot communicate and socialise effectively.

B Firstly, it is perhaps wrong to assume that socialising on the internet replaces real-life interaction. A number of studies have shown that people of all ages who are more active on social media tend to lead the most fulfilling off-screen social lives, too. Other studies have also shown that social media can be beneficial to younger teens who use it effectively to communicate with their friends and classmates. This can enable them, for example, to get better at using humour effectively with their peers. As children of this age don't have the opportunities to meet up with their friends, social media can be an effective way for them to stay in touch with their friends outside of class, strengthening these relationships. The study also illustrated that children in this age group tended to use social media less as they became older and were able to meet up with their friends in real life.

C Nevertheless, there are a number of other concerns that the rise of social media has led to. In the past, we didn't have the issues of a person's right to personal privacy that have arisen due to the increased importance of this phenomenon nowadays. However, a lot of the social media sites that younger people use often delete photos and messages quickly, and many young people have conversations and then delete their images and stories, leaving no trace of what they have written on the internet. This is not to say, though, that younger people are always careful, but perhaps at this age it is important to remember that they are learning about the conventions of society, both online and offline. It might be that we worry more about what happens online as we don't understand it as well as they do, and it also doesn't help that the media is often full of scare stories, such as those about cyberbullying. However, although there have been some terrible stories about this, these incidents thankfully don't seem to be as widespread as we may be led to believe.

D We can perhaps say, therefore, that young people are still able to communicate effectively, as they are always communicating online. People can now communicate at speed and respond to their friends instantly. However, educators have become increasingly concerned that the use of shorthand and grammatically incorrect sentences has led to young people becoming less literate. Coupled with this, they are reading less because of the time that they are spending using gadgets and devices. However, studies by educators and linguists have shown that youngsters are aware of the importance of formality and know where and when to use formal language, and that they are not making any more errors than people of the same age 20–30 years ago. Young people between the ages of 13 and 16 also seem to be more industrious than a generation ago, with studies showing that students are now able to write essays that are on average six times longer and offer more complex arguments. Computers have opened up students' abilities to gather more information and explore different points of view and therefore write more confidently.

E In fact, the online world gives kids a lot of opportunities to be more creative, as well as to make more friends. For example, when Jenny Johnson, a 14-year-old from the UK, became obsessed with the TV programme *Teen Wolf*, she decided to start her own blog about it, which has been a huge success, attracting many regular visitors, and has helped her make friends with other school pupils all over the world. Perhaps we should therefore be encouraging children to use the technology they have in the best way possible, rather than telling them to put their gadgets down.

1 evidence of improved academic skills A/B/C/D/E

2 an example of someone gaining a large online following A/B/C/D/E

3 an important contemporary principle that wasn't a priority before A/B/C/D/E

4 ways in which social media can enable people to develop social skills A/B/C/D/E

5 examples of how teenagers can be responsible users of social media A/B/C/D/E

6 comparisons of social media use with other activities that became very popular in the past
A/B/C/D/E

Exercise 9: Read the article again. Choose the correct answers to complete the sentences.

1 It has been argued that playing violent video games

- ☐ *can make people less concerned about the welfare of others*
- ☐ *doesn't need to be a cause for concern, according to research*
- ☐ *is known to have very damaging long-term consequences*
- ☐ *is probably rarer than is widely believed*
- ☐ *may be misguided*
- ☐ *probably makes teenagers less able to function effectively in the real world*
- ☐ *shouldn't be seen as a substitute for face-to-face socialising*

2 The use of social media sites to communicate with friends

- ☐ *can make people less concerned about the welfare of others*
- ☐ *doesn't need to be a cause for concern, according to research*
- ☐ *is known to have very damaging long-term consequences*
- ☐ *is probably rarer than is widely believed*
- ☐ *may be misguided*
- ☐ *probably makes teenagers less able to function effectively in the real world*
- ☐ *shouldn't be seen as a substitute for face-to-face socialising*

3 Hostile behaviour towards other people online

- ☐ *can make people less concerned about the welfare of others*
- ☐ *doesn't need to be a cause for concern, according to research*
- ☐ *is known to have very damaging long-term consequences*
- ☐ *is probably rarer than is widely believed*
- ☐ *may be misguided*
- ☐ *probably makes teenagers less able to function effectively in the real world*
- ☐ *shouldn't be seen as a substitute for face-to-face socialising*

4 The language used by young people online

- ☐ *can make people less concerned about the welfare of others*
- ☐ *doesn't need to be a cause for concern, according to research*
- ☐ *is known to have very damaging long-term consequences*
- ☐ *is probably rarer than is widely believed*
- ☐ *may be misguided*
- ☐ *probably makes teenagers less able to function effectively in the real world*
- ☐ *shouldn't be seen as a substitute for face-to-face socialising*

5 Advising children not to use their electronic devices

- ☐ *can make people less concerned about the welfare of others*
- ☐ *doesn't need to be a cause for concern, according to research*
- ☐ *is known to have very damaging long-term consequences*
- ☐ *is probably rarer than is widely believed*
- ☐ *may be misguided*
- ☐ *probably makes teenagers less able to function effectively in the real world*
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Exercise 10

A Reality TV accounts for 67% of TV programmes watched by Americans. A huge range of programme types come under the banner 'Reality TV', some of them more edifying than others. There are those which follow the pattern of one of the earliest reality shows, *Big Brother*, where a group of people have to co-exist in a house, their every move being filmed. Then there are the competitive shows where ordinary people compete in skills such as singing, cooking, diving, ice-skating or work-related skills like sales and entrepreneurship. Another sub-genre is the self- or home improvement/makeover type of show, such as *What Not to Wear*, *The Biggest Loser* or *Hoarders*. Some of the most popular reality TV shows are those of the social experiment sub-genre, such as *The World's Strictest Parents*, where misbehaving teens are sent to live in a less liberal family, usually in a distant country. Perhaps the most educational type which comes under the reality TV heading are the programmes that follow someone with an interesting or useful job doing their ordinary day-to-day work. This is the one type of reality TV show most parents encourage their children to watch, as they can learn about the work of police officers, paramedics, doctors, pilots and teachers.

B So how can we account for the immense popularity of reality TV? One reason it has found favour with viewers is that for most ordinary people it is their best hope of achieving at least a degree of fame or notoriety. A tiny minority might even become really famous and be rewarded with a TV show of their own. A survey of 239 people revealed that, contrary to common belief, most reality TV fans were not less sociable or less intelligent than others. It was thought that the main aim of watching such shows was to be able to discuss them with friends and co-workers. However, that has always been one of the reasons people watch any kind of TV programme. What is different about reality TV aficionados is that they desire a rise in status and strongly value prestige. Reality TV has produced 'stars' with little or no actual talent in conventional terms. Although they can't sing, dance or act, the force of their personality has shot them to stardom through an appearance on a TV show. From there, many have launched careers as 'TV personalities' and achieved the wealth and fame they craved. It is no wonder, then, that so many hope to follow their example.



C One crucial point about reality TV is that the name itself is a misnomer. It is not actually 'real'. While producers don't go as far as having scripts, they edit footage in such a way as to distort what really happened. Events are twisted to create an illusion of conflict or to shape a more interesting storyline. Participants are told to adapt their own personalities to suit the requirements of the show. For example, a lady with a pleasant and gentle personality was told to 'act mean' or be ejected from the show. Similarly, though viewers assume that either judges or the voting public have the power to eliminate contestants, in fact the producers retain the decision-making power. If a candidate in a singing competition has been voted off by the public, he or she may be kept on for amusement value, not for the quality of his or her singing. One producer admitted that a '24-hour bathroom makeover' actually had a crew working on it behind the scenes for at least two weeks.

D Apart from the illusions of reality, what other criticisms are made of reality TV? Author Mark Andrejevic wrote in the *New York Times* in 2012 that reality TV in post 9/11 society represents the 'normalisation of surveillance'. In all our favourite TV shows, the cameras are on the participants 24 hours a day. It therefore doesn't seem so strange when our own activities are caught on CCTV as we move around our cities and workplaces. Another accusation levied at some of these shows is that they glamorise vulgarity and consumerism. An American show called *Toddlers and Tiaras*, for example, shows little girls dressing up in skimpy costumes and make-up to take part in beauty pageants. Their parents spend thousands of dollars to parade their tiny children, some barely old enough to walk, in front of judges, who evaluate their beauty, clothes and modelling skills. The children featured in this and similar shows are growing up to focus only on winning and many are totally unable to accept defeat. Many reality TV shows feature a 'confessional', where contestants are encouraged to back-stab and report on their fellow contestants. Unethical behaviour is valued and rewarded because it boosts viewing figures. The plethora of shows encouraging us to change our weight, wardrobe, job, house and car creates generations of discontented individuals who feel themselves inadequate with who they are and what they have.

Questions 1–6

The text has five paragraphs, A–E. Which paragraph contains the following information?
Write the correct letter, A–E.

N.B. You may use any letter more than once.

- 1 What attracts people to watch reality TV
- 2 An explanation for the promotion of bad behaviour on reality TV
- 3 A description of a show the writer disapproves of
- 4 An example of why the term reality TV is misleading
- 5 Some examples of shows that might benefit young people
- 6 A piece of research that reveals information about fans of reality TV

Questions 7–10

Answer the questions below. Choose **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** from the passage for each answer.

- 7 How does the writer describe programmes that show people doing their job?
- 8 What does the writer say can help people achieve fame if they have no special talent?
- 9 Who has the ultimate decision about the elimination of competitors?
- 10 What feature of reality TV invites participants to criticise their peers?

Questions 11–14

Complete each sentence with the correct ending, A–G, below.

- 11 People who like watching reality TV
 - 12 The effects of reality TV on society
 - 13 Producers of reality TV
 - 14 People who take part in reality TV shows
- A include the development of competitiveness and materialistic attitudes.
B will pay lots of money for the right people.
C may not realise how intrusive and financially unrewarding it will be.
D are willing to distort reality to attract more viewers.
E tend to aspire to raising their status in society.
F are usually grateful to be given a chance of becoming famous.
G are particularly damaging for young girls.

B. GRAMMAR & VOCABULARY

Exercise 1: Match the words and phrases with the definitions.

chat show / current affairs programme / documentary / drama / game show / reality show

1 an informal television or radio programme on which famous people are asked questions about themselves and their work: _____

2 a TV or radio programme giving political news about events happening now: _____

3 a television programme about ordinary people who are filmed in authentic situations: _____

4 a television programme where people score points by answering questions or doing things: _____

5 a film, or television or radio programme that gives facts and information about a subject: _____

6 a play in a theatre or on television or radio: _____

Exercise 2: Put the words in the correct order to complete the sentences.

Of the people / were in favour / over 50% / interviewed said they / a little / of an election / .

Like to quit / half of / slightly under / said they would / all smokers / .

All residents felt / one-fifth of / that the amenities / were substandard / approximately / .

Third of / just / households / under a / have pets / .

On their phones / the commuters / almost all / to the news / said that / they listen / .

One in / ten viewers / with the quality / roughly / was happy / of news broadcasts / .

Exercise 3: Correct the underlined mistakes.

1. A small under 80% of regular listeners are satisfied with the quality of the programmes.
2. Slight over 30% of the readers said they were going to cancel their subscription to the magazine.
3. Approximatly 90% of subscribers to the online edition had no complaints.
4. Most all viewers felt that documentaries and financial programmes were well researched.
5. Just as over 50% of the people who took part in the survey wanted an election.
6. Rough one in three readers was dissatisfied with the sports coverage.

Exercise 4: Complete the sentences. Use the percentages in the box.

19% / 30% / 49% / 65% / 81% / 89%

1. _____ is just over four-fifths.
2. _____ is a little under two-thirds.
3. _____ is almost one-fifth.
4. _____ is about nine-tenths.
5. _____ is roughly half.
6. _____ is exactly three-tenths.

Exercise 5: Which passive forms are used in the sentences? Match the tenses in the box with the correct sentences.

future perfect / future simple / past continuous / past simple / present continuous / present perfect / present simple

- 1 The sports programme is being watched by millions of people. _____
- 2 The sports programme was watched by millions of people. _____
- 3 The sports programme has been watched by millions of people. _____
- 4 The sports programme was being watched by millions of people. _____
- 5 The sports programme will have been watched by millions of people. _____
- 6 The sports programme is watched by millions of people. _____
- 7 The sports programme will be watched by millions of people. _____

Exercise 6: Rewrite the sentences in the passive.

1 The broadcasting corporation produces many historical dramas.

Many historical dramas _____ by the broadcasting corporation.

2 That presenter has read the news for ten years.

The news _____ by that presenter for ten years.

3 The prime minister will make an important announcement on Wednesday.

An important announcement _____ by the prime minister on Wednesday.

4 The newspaper's chief editor wrote the lead article.

The lead article _____ by the newspaper's chief editor.

5 The news channel is producing a documentary about homelessness.

A documentary about homelessness _____ by the news channel.

6 The education minister will have closed all schools with fewer than 50 pupils by the end of the year.

All schools with fewer than 50 pupils _____ by the education minister by the end of the year.

7 They were making a film about the cultural scene in Bradford when we visited the studio.

A film about the cultural scene in Bradford _____ when we visited the studio.

Exercise 7: Put the words in the correct order to complete the sentences.

1

Will be / that next year / reduced by 50% / documentaries produced / the number of / it has been said / .

2

Believed that / by huge numbers / of young adults in the nineties / it is / reality TV / was being watched / .

3

It is / for financial reasons / will have been stopped / the production of / all historical TV dramas / widely accepted / that by 2025 / .

4

Over 10 million viewers / it is estimated / is currently / being watched by / that the sports programme / .

5

Is listened to / aged over 50 every week / by 10 million people / the gardening programme on the radio / .

Exercise 8: Correct the underlined mistakes.

- 1 A large number of sporting events are covered with the commercial channels.
- 2 Last night's sports programme has watched by nearly 4 million people.
- 3 By the end of this month, proceedings in parliament will be filmed for over 30 years.
- 4 Highlights of many sporting events is shown nightly on the channel.
- 5 Many free newspapers are been distributed outside stations at all times of the day.
- 6 A play about the hardships of village life is being rehearsed when we visited the theatre.

Exercise 9: In which sentence is the adverb or adverbial phrase in the correct position? Choose the correct sentences.

- 1
 - ☐ The interview secretly with the motorist was being filmed.
 - ☐ The interview with the motorist was being secretly filmed.
- 2
 - ☐ A children's programme currently is being viewed by all the pupils in the nursery school.
 - ☐ Currently, a children's programme is being viewed by all the pupils in the nursery school.
- 3
 - ☐ The news channel has been criticised for its coverage unfairly of the election.
 - ☐ The news channel has been unfairly criticised for its coverage of the election.
- 4
 - ☐ British documentaries frequently were exported to South America in the eighties and nineties.
 - ☐ British documentaries were frequently exported to South America in the eighties and nineties.
- 5
 - ☐ This game show will have been broadcast over 100 times probably by the end of the year.
 - ☐ This game show will probably have been broadcast over 100 times by the end of the year.
- 6
 - ☐ This current affairs programme is regularly watched by most of my friends and colleagues.
 - ☐ This current affairs programme regularly is watched by most of my friends and colleagues.
- 7
 - ☐ Tomorrow's tennis match will be watched by millions without doubt on pay-as-you-view channels.
 - ☐ Tomorrow's tennis match will without doubt be watched by millions on pay-as-you-view channels.

Exercise 10: Read the magazine article about a television documentary. Complete the sentences with the verbs in the box.

have been added / is being broadcast / is broadcast / was being produced / was opened / were / filmed / were relocated / will be shown / will have been watched

The aim of our new documentary is to bring to life the culture and industries of central England in the nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. Our documentary is based on an open-air museum located in central England on 26 acres of former industrial land. It _____ to the public in 1978, and since then over 50 shops, houses and other industrial buildings from nearby towns _____. Most buildings _____ from their original sites to form a village in which actors portray life from over 300 years of history, but with a focus on the period 1850–1950. Many different aspects of museum life _____ during the ten-month period in which the documentary _____. In one scene, viewers _____ what it was like to be a pupil in a Victorian reading lesson at the village school, and in another scene the life of a miner underground will be depicted. The first episode _____ this week and ratings are expected to be extremely high. It is estimated that by the time the final episode _____, the series _____ by over 50 million viewers.