

# The history of television in the UK

1900

At the beginning of the 20th century television didn't exist. In the evenings, people talked and played games. They looked at books. Some people played musical instruments. After 1920, some people listened to the radio. Life was very different.

In the 1930s, there were two hours of television programmes every day in the UK. But most people didn't have a television at home. Television wasn't popular. People preferred the radio.

In 1967, for the first time, some television programmes were in colour.

In 2000, 96% of homes in the UK had at least one television.

2000

In 1926, a Scottish engineer called John Logie Baird demonstrated the first working television in the UK. The images on the screen were in black and white, and they weren't very clear, but it was an important moment in the development of television technology.



In 1953, lots of people wanted to buy a television because they wanted to watch the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. Suddenly, television was popular.

Today, in the 21st century, televisions are bigger and better than in the past. They've got flat screens and the image is very clear. There are many different channels and many different types of programme to watch. We can also watch television programmes on our computers, tablets and smartphones. Some people think we now watch too much television. What do you think?



Put the events in chronological order:

1. Some programmes were in colour for the first time.
2. People watched the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.
3. 96% of houses had a television.
4. Televisions didn't exist.
5. There were two hours of programmes every day.
6. A Scottish engineer demonstrated a type of TV.

Order the sentences and say if they are *True* or *False*:

1. exist / in / 1800 / television / didn't  
\_\_\_\_\_ True / False
2. demonstrated / the first working television / in 1295 / John Logie Baird  
\_\_\_\_\_ True / False
3. television / in the 1930s, / was / popular / very  
\_\_\_\_\_ True / False
4. in colour / were / the first programmes / in 1970  
\_\_\_\_\_ True / False

Put each word in the correct gap:

clear channels phones much screens bigger on

Today, in the 21st century, televisions are \_\_\_\_\_ and better than in the past. They've got flat \_\_\_\_\_ and the image is very \_\_\_\_\_. There are many different \_\_\_\_\_ to watch. We can also watch television programmes \_\_\_\_\_ our computers, tablets and mobile \_\_\_\_\_. Some people think we now watch too \_\_\_\_\_ television. What do you think?



Listen and connect:

- 1 I don't watch a lot of TV but I love watching programmes about cooking.   Becky
- 2 I watch lots of films on TV.   Ed
- 3 I don't watch a lot of TV. I prefer listening to music.   Finn
- 4 I watch a lot of science and history programmes on my computer.   Florence