

DOCTOR WHO

A. Read the text about Doctor Who and put the sentences that are missing from each paragraph in place.

Doctor Who is a British science fiction television programme broadcast by BBC One since 1963. _____ The Doctor fled Gallifrey, the planet of the Time Lords, in a stolen TARDIS ("Time and Relative Dimension in Space"), a time machine that travels by materialising into, and dematerialising out of, the time vortex. The TARDIS has a vast interior but appears smaller on the outside, and is equipped with a "chameleon circuit" intended to make the machine take on the appearance of local objects as a disguise; due to a malfunction, the Doctor's TARDIS remains fixed as a blue British police box, which was a common sight in Britain in 1963 when the series first aired.

Across time and space, the Doctor's many incarnations often find events that pique their curiosity, and try to prevent evil forces from harming innocent people or changing history, using only ingenuity and minimal resources, such as the versatile sonic screwdriver. _____ The Doctor is centuries old and, as a Time Lord, has the ability to regenerate when there is mortal damage to the body. The Doctor's various incarnations have gained numerous recurring enemies during their travels, including the Daleks, their creator Davros, the Cybermen, and the renegade Time Lord the Master.

Beginning with William Hartnell, thirteen actors have headlined the series as the Doctor, and in 2017 Jodie Whittaker became the first woman to play the role. _____ Each actor's portrayal is unique, but all represent stages in the life of the same character, and together, they form a single lifetime with a single narrative. The time-travelling feature of the plot means that different incarnations of the Doctor occasionally meet.

_____ It has influenced generations of British television professionals, many of whom grew up watching the series. Fans of the series are sometimes referred to as Whovians. The programme is listed in Guinness World Records as the longest-running science fiction television show in the world, as well as the "most successful" science fiction series of all time, based on its overall broadcast ratings, DVD and book sales, and iTunes traffic.

The programme originally ran from 1963 to 1989. _____ Doctor Who has also spawned numerous spin-offs, and has been the subject of many parodies and references in popular culture.

- A. The transition from one actor to another is written into the plot of the show with the concept of regeneration into a new incarnation, a plot device in which a Time Lord "transforms" into a new body when the current one is too badly harmed to heal normally.
- B. It was relaunched in 2005, and since then has been produced in-house by BBC Wales in Cardiff.
- C. The programme follows the adventures of the title character, a rogue Time Lord with somewhat unknown origins who goes by the name "the Doctor".
- D. The Doctor rarely travels alone and is often joined by one or more companions on these adventures; these companions are usually humans, owing to the Doctor's fascination with planet Earth, which also leads to frequent collaborations with the international military task force UNIT when Earth is threatened.
- E. The show is a significant part of British popular culture and elsewhere and it has gained a cult following.

B. Match the words/phrases from the text to their definitions:

- 01. plot
- 02. police box
- 03. regenerate
- 04. mortal
- 05. science fiction
- 06. current
- 07. headlined
- 08. malfunction
- 09. ingenuity
- 10. incarnation
- 11. disguise
- 12. versatile
- 13. fled
- 14. cult following
- 15. recurring

- A stories about events in the future which are affected by imaginary developments in technology or science
- B left somewhere very quickly in order to escape from danger
- C something worn in order to change one's appearance and hide who they are
- D a fault in the way a machine or part of someone's body works
- E a public telephone kiosk for the use of cops, or for members of the public to contact the police
- F the state of living in the form of a particular person or animal
- G skill at inventing things and thinking of new ideas
- H someone with many different skills or something with many different uses
- I to grow again, or make something grow again
- J causing (or potentially causing) death; lethal
- K happening or appearing again and again
- L appeared as the main performer in a show
- M the events that form the main story of a book, film, or play
- N happening or existing now; present
- O a group of fans who are highly dedicated to a piece of artwork in various media