Read the text and complete the gaps with the correct form of the verb.

'The F·R·I·E·N·D·S effect' & the English Language

Are you one of those people who **1)** _____ that **2)** _____ television to chill out rots your brain? Or do you defend that watching TV can **3)** _____ beneficial effects that most people **4)** _____ even aware of? Before you blabber an answer, take a minute or two **5)** _____ back and find out more.

Although watching TV is a common pastime, it **6)** _____ a very popular language learning tool among English language learners. In 2019, *Friends*, the popular TV show from the 90s, turned 25 years old. The series, which still remains popular with old and young alike, has been a time-honored English teacher outside the classroom.

"The Friends Effect," as it is known, is when non-native speakers learn American English by watching the all-time popular sitcom.

"God bless Friends" is a common phrase among fans as it has helped them **7)** _____ to grips with the English language and ace a test or two. Matt Ainiwaer, a native Chinese fan of the show said, "I was so in love with my favourite character American accents that I just tried **8)** _____ their distinct way of speaking until I sounded as cool as they do." RM, the leader of BTS, the famous Korean boy band, confessed he picked English up because his mother forced him to watch episodes of Friends with her. He **9)** _____ by watching the show with Korean subtitles, and then moved on to watching it with English subtitles.

When all is said and done, why **10)** _____ *Friends* such a great language teacher? Well, fans explain that it's easy conversation, where you can actually understand pretty much every word you hear. According to Melissa Baese-Berk, director of the Second Language Acquisition and Teaching program at the University of Oregon, there are three must **11)** _____ tips for **12)** _____ a language from a TV show: firstly, the program should be engaging. Then, it should have subtitles, and finally, it should have repetitive storylines, like *Friends* **13)** _____. So, the next time your parents tell you **14)** _____ a bit of English, tell them that it's time to watch another episode (or three) of *Friends*.

Word box:
[1] **blabber:** talk foolishly or excessively [2] **get to grips with:** begin to understand something in an effective way
[3] **ace:** get very good marks

LIVEWORKSHEETS