UNIT 7: TELEVISION, NEWS AND CURRENT AFFAIRS

SPEAKING

Exercise 1: In this unit, you will learn how to answer IELTS Speaking test questions on the topic of television. Look at the phrases in the box. Then watch the video of three native English speakers discussing television. Notice how the speakers use some of the phrases for self-correction, clarifying and omitting details. Complete the table with the phrases. (Video 7.1)

sorry, I should have said … / to put that (in) another way … / and stuff like that/ what I meant to say was … / by that I mean … / let me clarify that / et cetera/ and so on /what I mean by that is …

self-correction
clarifying

omitting details

Exercise 2: Watch the video again. Put the questions that the speakers ask in the correct order. There are more questions than you need. (Video 7.1)

Do you think our TV habits will change again in the future?
How do you think our TV watching habits have changed over the last few years?
How do you think watching TV will change in the next few years?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

How will virtual reality change the way we watch TV?

What do you think the advantages of watching TV online are?

What do you think the disadvantages of watching TV online are?

Question 1: _____

Question 2: _____

Question 3: _____

Exercise 3: Read the information. Then watch the video of the native English speakers talking about the types of television programmes that they watch. Complete the conversation with the phrases that you hear. (Video 7.2)

A good way to prepare for the IELTS Speaking test is to listen to native speakers discussing different IELTS topics, such as health or the media. This will help you to learn phrases that are typically used by native speakers to clarify what they mean (e.g. What I mean by that is …), support their argument (e.g. for example) or round off a list (e.g. and so on).

Speaker 1: So, moving on to that. So, what type of programmes do you end up watching, then?

Speaker 2: I watch a lot of documentaries, _____, to learn different things, _____,quite a bit of sport, before, and also random stuff – so it will be property programmes, or, I don't know, a bit of cooking, get some ideas for what I'm gonna make. Yeah, I mean, _____, I kind of watch them. I also don't really – often, I'll have other stuff on in the background, or the television will be in the background, and I'll be doing something else, so maybe not 100% of my focus is on the TV _____. Yeah, I don't know whether that chimes with what you guys do?

Speaker 1: For me, I can't … I love watching cooking shows, but I get hungry watching cooking shows. Like, Saturday mornings, it's always cooking shows, and I think, 'I'm so hungry!' But, yeah, I'm a bit bored. I like watching documentaries, David Attenborough, history shows, _____.

Speaker 3: I'm definitely the same. I like, kind of, nature programmes, wildlife programmes, historical documentaries _____.

Exercise 4: Read the information. Then look at the phrases in the box. What are their functions? Complete the table with the phrases.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Sometimes in the IELTS Speaking test, you will need some extra time to think of an answer to a question. The phrases in the box allow you to continue speaking while you think of an answer. They can be useful, but don't overuse them.

As far as I'm concerned … / So, I think, for me … / It's an interesting question./ It depends on … / I tend to believe … / It depends what you mean by that. / such as …/ It tends to differ. / To illustrate what I'm saying … / so, for instance …

giving an example

giving your opinion

saying that something changes with the situation

delaying your answer

Exercise 5: Read the information. Then watch the video of two native English speakers responding to IELTS Speaking Part 3 questions. Choose the correct impersonal phrases with *it* to complete the responses. (Video 7.3)

Impersonal phrases with it can help you speak in general, for example about groups of people and their beliefs and feelings. They can help you sound more objective. Using these phrases correctly will help you to improve your Lexical Resource and Grammatical Range and Accuracy marks.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1 *It has been estimated that / It is widely accepted that* watching too much TV can contribute towards a sedentary life style and that this can make people more susceptible to health problems, such as diabetes and obesity.

2 TV habits are already changing. *It could be argue that / It has been reported that* more and more people are turning to online TV and in particular features like catch-up TV, which allow viewers to watch programmes when they wish.

3 *It has been proven that / It has been reported* marketing companies target young children and teens, who are more vulnerable to persuasion. I think this needs to change and new laws should be introduced to prevent this.

4 I think it is obvious that we spend a lot of time on social media. In fact, *it has been reported / it is said* somewhere that some people spend more than seven hours a day online. That means that more than half of most people's day is spent on social media. That's too much.

5 If I could change one thing, it would be to remove advertising from TV. *It could be argued that / It is claimed that* the world would be a much better place without advertising. For a start, my favourite TV shows would not be interrupted every 15 minutes, something which I find very frustrating at times.

Exercise 6: Choose the most logical phrases to complete the responses.

1 I think that TV is a very positive thing. *And stuff like that / Let me elaborate on that / What I mean to say was*. It allows us to know what is going on in the world and can provide children with a lot of educational information.

2 Children should be allowed to watch TV online unsupervised. *By that I mean / It is claimed that / To illustrate what I am saying* they should be allowed to watch it without their parents, as long as there is some security installed to prevent them going to inappropriate sites.

3 I don't like watching TV programmes that are too serious. I prefer watching comedies and cartoons *and stuff like that / briefly / but I won't* go into the *details here*.

4 Watching TV online is a much better experience than watching it on a conventional TV. *By that I mean / It tends to differ / Such as* it offers us the opportunity to choose what we want to watch and where we want to watch it.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

5 *As far as I'm concerned, / It could be argued that / It's an interesting question*, watching TV is a complete waste of time. I'd much rather spend my time at home reading a book.

6 *It has been reported that / It's an interesting question / So, for example* , but I have never thought about the impact of TV on people's health before.

7 *As far as I'm concerned, / I tend to believe that / To put that another way*, people spend too much time on social media, but I don't have a strong opinion on it. It's up to them.

8 *It could be argued that / It has been estimated that / It's an interesting question* printing newspapers is a waste of time, as most people get their news online and it is a waste of natural resources.

Exercise 7: You are going to do IELTS Speaking Part 1.

1. Do you like watching TV?

2. How often do you watch TV?

3. Do you ever watch TV online?

4. Do you ever watch TV programmes from other countries?

Exercise 8: You are going to do IELTS Speaking Part 2. You will need some paper and a pencil.

Describe a TV programme which you enjoyed.

You should say:

what kind of TV programme it was, e.g. a comedy, a documentary, etc.

when you saw this TV programme

what this TV programme was about

and explain why you would recommend watching this TV programme.

Exercise 9: You are going to do IELTS Speaking Part 3.

1. What are some of the drawbacks of people watching too much TV?

2. How do you think TV watching habits will change in the future?

3. Do you think there's too much advertising on TV?

4. How important do you think it is to follow what is happening in the news?

LIVEWORKSHEETS