



THE MASS MEDIA

A. READING

Before you read

Work with a partner. Ask and answer the following questions.

1. When do you often watch TV?
2. How many channels are there on our national TV?
3. How many hours per week do you watch TV?

While you read

Look at some popular TV programmes, and then do the tasks that follow.

VTV


- 05:35 Morning Exercise
- 06:30 Population and Development
- 07:20 Cartoon: The Adventure of Donald Duck
- 08:00 TV Series: Road of Life
- 09:00 News
- 09:15 Film: When the Birds Return
- 10:15 Comedy: Family Secrets
- 11:00 Music
- 12:00 Fifteen-minute News
- 13:00 Film: The Beauty of Life
- 14:20 People's Army
- 16:15 Film: Punishment
- 19:00 News
- 20:00 Sport Comments
- 21:30 Folk Songs
- 23:00 News Headlines
- 23:30 Weather Forecast

VTV3


- 07:30 Quiz Show
- 09:15 Drama: Stolen Heart
- 10:00 Music for Children
- 11:30 Portrait of Life
- 12:00 Film: Deep in the City
- 14:30 Theatre: My Life
- 15:15 Documentary: The Nature of Language
- 16:00 Culture and Education
- 19:00 News
- 20:00 Sports
- 21:30 Film: Guests of the Nation
- 23:00 Football: Liverpool vs. West Ham

VTV2


- 15:15 Wildlife World
- 17:00 Around the World
- 18:30 Science Documentary
- 19:00 Business Comments
- 20:00 Learning English through Songs

 **Task 1.** The words in **A** appear in the reading passage. Match them with their definitions in **B**.

A	B
1. cartoon	a. a play for the theatre, television or radio
2. drama	b. a film or a television programme giving facts about something
3. comedy	c. a film made by photographing a series of changing drawings
4. documentary	d. a film or a play that is intended to be funny, usually with a happy ending

 **Task 2.** Decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F). Correct the false information.

- | | T | F |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. There are five news programmes on the three channels. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. There is a comedy programme on between 10:15 and 11:00. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. <i>The Nature of Language</i> is a documentary programme at 15:15 on VTV2. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. The film <i>Punishment</i> is shown at 4:15 p.m. on VTV1. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. VTV1 starts at 5:35 and ends at 23:30. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |


 **Task 3.** *Work in pairs.* Ask and answer the following questions.

- How many films are on?
- What time can you watch the news?
- Which channel do you recommend to someone who likes animals?
- What programme is on on VTV3 at 7:30?
- Which channel will you watch if you like folk songs?
- What is the last programme on VTV3?

After you read

Work in pairs. Tell your partner about one of the TV programmes you like watching best and explain why.

B. SPEAKING

 **Task 1.** *Work in pairs.* Which of the following are the types of the mass media? Put a tick (✓) next to the words.

dictionaries ☐

books ☐

newspapers ☐

television ☐


magazines ☐

plays ☐

films ☐

radio ☐


the Internet ☐

 **Task 2.** *Work in pairs.* Work out what feature(s) the types of the mass media have in common and what main feature(s) each of them has. Use the cues below.

- provide information and entertainment orally (through mouth)
- receive information aurally (through ears)
- present information and entertainment visually (through eyes)
- receive information visually (through eyes)
- present information and entertainment orally (through mouth) and visually (through eyes)
- get information aurally (through ears) and visually (through eyes)
- provide / deliver information and entertainment

Example:

TV presents information and entertainment visually and we receive them through our eyes.

 **Task 3.** *Work in groups.* Talk about different types of the mass media. Answer the following questions.

1. What are different types of the mass media?
2. What feature(s) do they have in common?
3. What are their distinctive features?


C. LISTENING

Before you listen

Work in pairs. Ask and answer the questions.

1. How often do you listen to the radio?
2. How many hours per week do you listen to it?
3. What programme do you like listening to and why?

While you listen

 **Task 1.** Listen to the two radio news stories and tick the words you hear in the right column under **News story 1** and **News story 2**.

	News story 1	News story 2
healthy ✓
strong
young
cloudy
highest
wonderful


 **Task 2.** Listen to the radio news stories again and fill in the missing word(s).

Heavy rain causes floods all over the country

Heavy rain during the night (1)_____ all over the country today. Many people (2)_____ because rivers (3)_____. Some roads in the north-west are under (4)_____ of water. The rain (5)_____ at the moment, but it's still (6)_____ and there's a (7)_____. Because of the bad weather, people can't go out to work.

90-year-old American woman climbs Mount Whitney

A ninety-year-old woman has climbed Mount Whitney in California for the (1)_____ time. At (2)_____ metres, Mount Whitney is the highest mountain in (3)_____. The woman says the view from the top is (4)_____, so she tries to climb it often. She also says that the mountain has kept her (5)_____. In spite of her old age, the woman tries to climb the mountain very often.

 **Task 3.** Listen again, and answer the following questions.


1. What has happened during the night?
2. Why have people left their homes?
3. How many times has the old woman climbed Mount Whitney?
4. Why does she climb it so often?

After you listen


Work in groups. Choose one of the news stories and tell your classmates about it.

D. WRITING


Writing about advantages and disadvantages

 **Task 1.** Read about the advantages and disadvantages of television below.

Advantages of television	Disadvantages of television
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Television helps us to learn more about the world and to know and see many new things.● Television can make things memorable because it presents information in an effective way.● It entertains us. Watching it is an enjoyable way to relax.● It increases the popularity of sports and games.● It makes us aware of our global responsibilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Television can make us passive. We don't have to think so our brains become lazy.● It encourages us to buy things that we don't need.● It takes time away from activities such as reading and games.● Some television programmes may make people violent.● Television interferes with family life and communication.

 **Task 2.** *Work in pairs.* Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the mass media, and write them down in the columns below.

	Advantages	Disadvantages
Radio		
Newspapers		
The Internet		

 **Task 3.** Write a paragraph about the advantages and disadvantages of one of the mass media discussed in Task 2.

E. LANGUAGE FOCUS

- **Pronunciation:** /eɪ/ – /aɪ/ – /ɔɪ/
- **Grammar:**
 1. The present perfect
 2. *Because of* and *in spite of*

Pronunciation

- Listen and repeat.

/eɪ/	/aɪ/	/ɔɪ/
play	time	voice
today	wildlife	noise
radio	height	toy
newspaper	buy	enjoy
they	type	destroy

- Practise these sentences.

1. I'm afraid you've made a mistake.
2. They changed the timetable at the end of April.
3. I have ninety-nine pages to type by Friday.
4. Would you like to go for a ride with me on Friday?
5. This is the noisiest Rolls Royce I've ever heard.
6. While you're changing the oil, I'll go and visit my boy.

Grammar and vocabulary

Exercise 1. Complete the letter, using the present perfect of the verbs in the box.

do
meet

be
have

watch
take

live

Dear Tom,

Here I am in New York! I (1) _____ here for two weeks now and it's very exciting.

My friend, Nancy (I met her in London in 1992.)

(2) _____ in New York for seven years, so she knows all about it. I (3) _____ a lot of people and I (4) _____ all the things that tourists usually do.

I (5) _____ a hot lunch in China town. I (6) _____ a trip to the Statue of Liberty.

I even (7) _____ a ball game on TV!

Back on the 19th.

See you later,

Bob



Exercise 2. Complete the following sentences using *for*, *since* or *ago*.

1. Lan and Minh have lived in Ho Chi Minh City _____ 1999.
2. Hoa and Quan quarreled with each other some time _____.
3. The house is very dirty. We haven't cleaned it _____ ages.
4. We haven't had a good meal _____ three weeks.
5. _____ Christmas, the weather has been quite good.
6. They have known each other _____ a long time.

7. They first met a long time _____.
8. They arrived home ten minutes _____.
9. It's two years _____ I last saw Quoc Anh.
10. How long is it _____ you last saw Linda?

Exercise 3. Complete the following sentences, using the information in the box.

- | | |
|--|--|
| a. We could not see what was going on. | e. There were enough seats for everyone. |
| b. He had to cancel the appointment. | f. We all wore shorts. |
| c. We kept the fire burning all day. | g. They enjoyed living there. |
| d. He managed to come to school. | h. Everyone is living on beans. |
| | i. The council demolished it. |
| | j. We have managed to get some beef. |

1. Because of the cold weather _____.
In spite of the cold weather _____.
2. Because of his illness _____.
In spite of his illness _____.
3. Because of the large crowds _____.
In spite of the large crowds _____.
4. Because of the meat shortage _____.
In spite of the meat shortage _____.
5. Because of the bad condition of the house _____.
In spite of the bad condition of the house _____.