

Switch it off

1 VOCABULARY & SPEAKING television

- a Look at the bold words in the TV survey below. What do they mean? How do you pronounce them?
 b In pairs, ask and answer the questions.



Your TV habits

How many TVs are there in your house? Where are they?

Do you know anybody who doesn't have a TV?

How many **channels** do you have?

Do you have **satellite** or **cable** TV?

Which channels do you watch the most?

Do you watch any foreign channels? Which ones?

How much TV do you watch during the week / at weekends?

Who watches most / least TV in your family?

What kind of TV programmes do you like? What kind do you hate? Write L (like), H (hate), or DM (don't mind) in the boxes.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> quiz shows | <input type="checkbox"/> cartoons |
| <input type="checkbox"/> reality shows | <input type="checkbox"/> documentaries |
| <input type="checkbox"/> comedy shows | <input type="checkbox"/> drama series |
| <input type="checkbox"/> chat shows | <input type="checkbox"/> films |
| <input type="checkbox"/> soap operas | <input type="checkbox"/> sports programmes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> the news | |

Do you think there are too many adverts on TV in your country?

Do you think TV programmes in your country are getting better or worse? Why?



2 GRAMMAR phrasal verbs

- a How many phrasal verbs can you think of connected with television?
 b Read the three stories on p.109 and complete them with phrasal verbs A-H.

A look out
 B sold out
 C picked up
 D switch off
 E looking forward to
 F turn off
 G find out
 H passed away

- c Read the texts again, then cover them and look at the pictures. In pairs, tell the stories from memory.
 d Now look at how *look forward to* and *turn off* appear in a dictionary. How does the dictionary show you if the verb and the particle (e.g. *off*, *on*, etc.) can be separated or not?

look forward to sth to wait with pleasure for something to happen
turn sth off to stop the flow of electricity, water, etc. by moving a switch, tap, etc.

- e p.142 Grammar Bank 7C. Read the rules and do the exercises.

TV-B-Gone

An American, Mitch Altman, went to a restaurant with some friends. He was ¹ _____ some lively conversation. But instead of talking, his friends spent the whole time watching a TV in the corner. Mitch wished he could ² _____ it _____, and this suddenly gave him the idea for a new gadget. He invented TV-B-Gone, a remote control which allows you to ³ _____ any TV within 17 metres of where you are. When the gadgets were first marketed on the Internet, they ⁴ _____ after the first two days.



Dead or alive?

The BBC were planning to make a programme about the Bob Marley hit song *No Woman No Cry*. A researcher from BBC3 contacted the Bob Marley Foundation to ⁵ _____ if they could interview him over the summer. The researcher added that filming was scheduled for June, July, and August but 'our schedule is flexible'. Unfortunately, Marley's schedule is not: he died in 1981. A friend of the Marley family told the *Daily Mirror*: 'We didn't think there was anyone on the planet who didn't realize Bob ⁶ _____ years ago.' A BBC spokesman admitted: 'We're very embarrassed.'



Furious football fan forgiven

Two people were nearly killed when a Romanian football fan threw his TV out of the window. Ghita Axinte said he was so angry with the national side when they lost their World Cup qualifier against the Czech Republic 1-0 that he ⁷ _____ the TV _____ and threw it out of the window.

Radu Demergiu, his neighbour, was discussing the match on the balcony below with his brother. Suddenly his brother shouted, '⁸ _____!' and the TV set crashed onto the balcony, almost hitting the two of them. But Radu is not going to take any action against his neighbour. 'At first I was angry with him, he could have killed us. But when he told me he had been watching the football, I completely understood. We had also been watching it and I was furious with the Romanian team too.'

