## **B1+/B2** 60 min

# Small Screen, Big Impact



### Skills:

- Can scan quickly through long and complex texts, locating relevant details.
- Can take an active part in informal discussion in familiar contexts, commenting, putting point of view clearly, evaluating alternative proposals and making and responding to hypotheses.

## Here are 5 famous quotes by different TV show characters. Match each quote with the character whom it belongs to:

- Daenerys Targaryen from "Game of Thrones"
- Barney Stinson from "How I Met Your Mother"
- Michael Scott from "The Office"
- Walter White from "Breaking Bad"
- Joey Tribbiani from "Friends"

"That's what she said."
"How you doin'?"
"I am not in danger, Skyler. I am the danger.'

"When I get sad, I stop being sad and be awesome instead. True story."

"I am the blood of the dragon. I must be strong. I must have fire in my eyes when I face them, not tears."



- 1. What is your favorite TV Show? Why?
- 2. Who's your favorite character? What do you like about them the most?



### In groups, brainstorm:

- 1. How do TV shows impact your daily life and routine?
- 2. What can TV shows teach us?



## Match the words with their definitions:



- 1. when people think you are not a good person because of things you have done in the past.
- 2. different ways of looking at or thinking about something.
- 3. something that is enjoyable and keeps your attention.
- 4. deciding between different options or possibilities.
- 5. seeing things as only right or wrong, with no middle ground.
- 6. something that is difficult to understand or deal with because it has many parts or aspects.
- 7. situations where it is not clear what is right or wrong, and there are many different opinions.
- 8. something that doesn't help or benefit you in any way.
- 9. willing to consider new ideas or viewpoints without judging them too quickly.
- 10. having a strong desire to succeed or achieve goals.
- 11. making life more interesting and exciting.
- 12. thinking carefully about what is important to you and what you believe in.



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# 5 Read the text based on <u>this article</u> and put the paragraphs below into the right places in the text. Then, answer the questions in pairs:

TV shows have gotten a bad reputation for being a waste of time. But for me, they've actually been really important. Here's why:

#### I've learned more about people.

The characters in TV shows are like real people. When I watch their stories, I learn about where they come from and why they make the choices they do. It's taught me that the world isn't just black and white – there are a lot of gray areas too.

\_\_\_\_\_(1)

#### They're fun!

Of course, the main reason people watch TV shows is because they're entertaining. Some people think this means it's a waste of time, but I disagree. Life can be stressful, and it's good to take a break and enjoy something just for fun.

\_\_\_\_\_(2)

#### They make me think.

TV shows can teach us a lot. Every show I've watched has given me new ideas and perspectives. It's like learning without even realizing it.

(3) It's not just about the big lessons, either. Sometimes, a show can make us think about small things we never really considered before. BoJack Horseman made me think about how people can change and if famous people are really happy. Mr. Robot made me think more about mental health and inspired me to set big goals. Atypical showed me what life is like for people with autism. Death Note changed how I think about what is fair. Also, some characters are important too, like Daenerys Targaryen from Game of Thrones. She shows women they can be super powerful.

TV shows have made me reflect on my own values and beliefs. They've also introduced me to new ideas and made me more ambitious. So don't be afraid to learn from your favorite shows – they can teach you a lot!

l like to think of it as adding color to my day. Life can be productive and focused on our goals, but it's also important to find joy and fulfillment. So go ahead and watch that episode of your favorite show - it's not a waste of time!

When we see different viewpoints and experiences, it helps us grow as individuals. We become



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a

more open-minded and understanding. So watching TV shows is a great way to learn about the world and ourselves.

This doesn't mean I think every choice is okay. But it does remind me that there might be more to someone's story than I know. Sometimes we judge people without understanding what led them to make certain decisions. TV shows have helped me see that the world is complicated, and it's not always easy to know what's right or wrong.

#### **Questions**:

1. Why does the author believe that watching TV shows is not a waste of time?

2. How have TV shows influenced the author's perspective on right and wrong?

3. What role do TV shows play in helping the author think and reflect?

4. Can you provide an example of how a TV show has made the author consider small things they hadn't thought about before?

5. What TV show affected you the most? And how?

### 6 In groups of 3-4 students, choose a TV show from the list and discuss what it can teach us and what its value is. Then share the conclusions with the rest of the group. Try to use at least 2-3 words from Exercise 4.

1. Friends (1994-2004) This is a comedy about six friends who live in New York City.

2. The Office (2005-2013) It's a comedy about people who work in an office.

3. Game of Thrones (2011-2019) This fantasy show has dragons, knights, and kings.

4. Stranger Things (2016-present) This is a horror show about kids who fight against monsters.

5. Black Mirror (2011-present) A science fiction TV series from the UK. Each episode is a different story.

6. Sherlock (2010–2017) This show is about the famous detective Sherlock Holmes.

7. The Big Bang Theory (2007-2019) This comedy is about some very smart scientists. 8. The Walking Dead (2010-present) Zombies! Zombies! Zombies! This show is about people who fight against zombies.

9. Breaking Bad (2008-2013) A high school science teacher makes and sells drugs.

10. How I Met Your Mother (2005–2014) The main character tells his children about how he met their mother.

11. Orange Is the New Black (2013-2019) This show is about women in prison.

12. Lost (2004-2010) A group of people survives a plane crash on a mysterious island.

13. The Simpsons (1989-present) This is an animated comedy about a family in Springfield.

14. House (2004-2012) House is an American medical drama series. It follows the story of Dr. Gregory House, a brilliant but rude doctor who works at a hospital.



7 Additional vocabulary practice. Fill in the gaps in the following sentences with the words and expressions from Exercise 4.



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## **Correct answers**

#### Made in "Lead-in Activities" + "Find Famous Quotes"

"That's what she said." - Michael Scott from "The Office"

"How you doin'?" - Joey Tribbiani from "Friends"

"I am not in danger, Skyler. I am the danger." - Walter White from "Breaking Bad"

"When I get sad, I stop being sad and be awesome instead. True story." - Barney Stinson from "How I Met Your Mother"

"I am the blood of the dragon. I must be strong. I must have fire in my eyes when I face them, not tears." Daenerys Targaryen from "Game of Thrones"

## **2-3** Made in "Discussion Questions"

#### Made in the "Word-Definition Matching" tool

1. a bad reputation	7. gray areas
2. perspectives	8. a waste of time
3. entertaining	9. open-minded
4. making choices	10. ambitious
5. black and white	11. adding color to my day
6. complicated	12. reflect on my values

5

The text is based on <u>this article</u>. It was simplified in "Simplify or Upgrade" tool. The gaps were made in the "Fill in the Gap" tool. The questions were generated in "Open Questions".

1. c, 2. a, 3. b

#### Correct answers to open questions:

1. The author believes that watching TV shows is not a waste of time because they help you learn more about people, provide entertainment, and make you reflect on your life and values.

2. TV shows have influenced the author's perspective on right and wrong by showing that there may be more to someone's story than meets the eye, leading to a deeper understanding of human behavior.

3. TV shows help the author think and reflect by presenting new ideas, perspectives, and

experiences that contribute to personal growth and open-mindedness.

4. For example, BoJack Horseman made him think about how people can change and if famous people are really happy.

5. Personal questions.



The idea was generated in "Lead-in Activities", the options were generated in the "Create a text" tool.

picture source

#### Made in the "Sentences with Target Vocabulary" + "Fill in the Gap" tools.

a bad reputation
 a waste of time
 make the choices
 black and white
 complicated
 entertaining

7. adding color to my day
8. perspectives
9. open-minded
10. ambitious
11. reflect on your values
12. gray areas