

Live Lesson Notes

Streaming TV Series

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What you will learn

1. Introduction
2. Vocabulary
3. Listening skills
4. Idioms

Some useful Links

Watch and read this **full lesson here**

<https://keithspeakingacademy.com/ielts-speaking-television-tv-lesson-topic-vocabulary>

Learn English with TV Series

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKgpamMIm872zkGDcBJHYDg>

TV show genres

<https://www.esolcourses.com/content/topics/tv/tv-show-genres.html>

New York Times - **Best 50 TV shows on Netflix**

<https://www.nytimes.com/article/best-tv-shows-netflix.html>

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Introduction

There are so many streaming services now that it is hard to keep up to date with all the new releases.

We have got Netflix, HBO, Disney, Apple, Hulu, Hoopla, BBC, Prime video, and many more.

It's also very easy to become addicted to all the wonderful TV series and films on offer.

In this lesson we will learn vocabulary and phrases to talk fluently on this topic.

Which TV series do you enjoy watching?

IELTS Speaking Vocabulary: Streaming TV series

Streaming media = Video or audio accessed via the Internet. E.g Netflix / Youtube

Broadcast media = Traditionally this is radio and television

Video on Demand = Watching a video or series whenever you want e.g. A series on Netflix, A video course on Udemy

To subscribe (v.) = usually **pay on a monthly basis** to access a service

A subscription (n.)

Most online streaming services, such as Netflix, have a monthly subscription fee.

To binge on (v.) = to do 'too much' of an activity (especially eating, drinking, watching tv)

A binge (n.)

I like to relax and **binge on** Game of Thrones

I am going to **binge watch** a series tonight

His **binge drinking** is a problem (=alcohol)

Modern Family is a **series** on Netflix. It has 10 **seasons**, and each season has lots of interesting **episodes**.

To spoil = to ruin something

A spoiler = *when you tell someone the end of a story / season / episode (but they don't want to know)*

A spoiler alert = *give someone a warning that you will tell them the result (of a match, outcome of a series or book...)*

A cliff-hanger = *an exciting end of an episode that **keeps the viewer in suspense***

All of the following are used to describe adverts that we can find on some streaming services.

- commercials
- advertisements
- adverts
- ads

Different kinds / types / genres of series:

Sitcom = *situational comedy*

Comedy = *a funny programme*

Soap Opera = *a series about everyday life*

Period Drama = *a drama set in the past*

Documentary = *programme giving factual information*

Factual = *based on a real story*

Sci fi = *science fiction*

Reality TV = *usually follows unknown people in unscripted situations. E.g. Top Chef, Survivor, The Voice*

Lifestyle = *shows about lifestyle activities such as cooking, decorating a house...*

Horror = *a series with a frightening plot*

The following are similar in that they involve stories of action and excitement.

Crime
Thriller
Action
Drama

Adjectives to describe TV shows

You could use the following words to describe, these different genres:

Horror, Crime, Thriller, Action, Drama

- **Gripping**
- **Thrilling**
- **Enthralling**
- **Captivating**
- **Entertaining**

Scary, spooky = very frightening

Romantic / Romance

- **Tragic** - very sad,
- **Moving**

Comedy/ Sitcoms

- **Hilarious** (very funny)
- **Humorous**
- **Hysterical**

It was _____

It was the most _____ I've ever seen

It was one of the _____ I've ever seen

Listening Task

In this live lesson you will listen to someone talking about their favourite TV series

Can you guess the missing words:

Answers at bottom of PDF

Modern family is [1] _____ one of the [2] _____ shows I've ever seen.

I mean I am not one for comedies really, I am more into dramas and [3] _____, but when I first saw this series it just had me in [4] _____.

I love the diversity of the actors and the really over the top scenarios that they get into. I mean it is just so unbelievable that you can't help laughing.

So, you've got three families who are all interconnected and slightly off-beat, you know, each with their own [5] _____.

For example, there is a gay couple who are like chalk and [6] _____, they never agree, they usually argue and then in the end, they always make [7] _____.

I mean essentially each episode follows the same formula, which is why I guess it has been a success.

It starts with suspense and some [8] _____ or misunderstanding, then this confusion spreads across the 3 families, so massive confusion, then there's a crisis, and finally and happy resolution at the end. Classic Hollywood, to be honest.

Anyway, I would recommend it, if you're in the mood for a [9] _____, nothing too serious, and of course, just take the [10] _____ with a pinch of salt.

Idioms to talk about TV series

I was **on the edge of my seat** = *I was in suspense*

It **kept me guessing** right up to the end

It **scared** the hell **out of me** = *it really scared me*

It **scared me to death**

The following 4 all mean '*it made me laugh*'

- It had me **rolling in the aisles**
- **It had me in stitches**
- It **cracked me up**
- I **split my sides** (laughing)

I was **welling up** it was so sad = *about to cry*

I had to **take it with a pinch of salt** = *don't take it too seriously*

It was so **over the top** = *unrealistic / unbelievable / far-fetched*

Listening Task - ANSWERS

Modern family is [1] **undoubtedly** one of the [2] **funniest** shows I've ever seen.

I mean *I am not one for comedies really, I am more into dramas and [3] **thrillers**, but when I first saw this series it just had me in [4] **stitches** (= it made me laugh a lot)*

I love the diversity of the actors and the really *over the top* (=unrealistic, unbelievable) **scenarios (=situations)** that they get into. I mean it is just so unbelievable that *you can't help laughing*.

So, you've got three families who are all interconnected and slightly *off-beat*, (=unusual) you know, each with their own [5] **idiosyncrasies** (=unique behaviour or characteristic)

For example, there is a gay couple who *are like chalk and [6] **cheese***, they never agree, they usually argue and then in the end, they always make [7] **up** (=become friends)

I mean essentially each *episode* follows the same *formula*, which is why I guess it has been a success.

It starts with suspense and some [8] **confusion** or misunderstanding, then this *confusion spreads* across the 3 families, so *massive confusion*, then there's a *crisis*, and finally and happy *resolution* at the end. Classic Hollywood, to be honest.

Anyway, I would recommend it, if you're *in the mood* for a [9] **laugh**, nothing too serious, and of course, just *take the [10] **plot*** (=story) *with a pinch of salt*. (=don't take it too seriously)