

# MEDIA

## Newspapers

Newspapers bring people information about current events. They are usually published every day. Some newspapers try to be serious and bring real information to people. In English, these newspapers are called **broadsheets**. Other newspapers write mostly about scandals, sex and the private lives of celebrities. In English, these newspapers are called **tabloids**.

Some of the most popular newspapers in the UK are *The Daily Mail*, *The Daily Mirror*, *The Daily Telegraph*, *The Guardian* and *The Times*. The first two newspapers are tabloids, the other three are broadsheets.

Some of the most famous newspapers in the USA are *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, *The Los Angeles Times* and *The Washington Post*. Today, most newspapers also have **an online version**. Sometimes, it is free. Sometimes, you can read only a few articles every month without paying.

Every newspaper has a lot of sections. There is usually **news about politics, sport, technology, business, lifestyle and culture**. There is usually also a section with **opinions** and a section with **cartoons** that makes fun of politicians. Some newspapers are **more left-wing** and others are **more right-wing**. This can be seen in the opinion section.

## Magazines

Magazines are similar to newspapers. They are not published every day but **once a week or once a month**. They are usually smaller and use better paper than newspapers. They can often be specialized: there are special **magazines about animals, gardening, cars, books and other things**. Some magazines are written specifically for people of certain age and sex: there are **magazines for men, magazines for women, magazines for teenagers, magazines for kids, and others**.

## Radio

Radio was invented by the Italian scientist Guglielmo Marconi. Unlike television, it doesn't transmit any pictures, only sound. People often listen to the radio **when they are doing some other, more important activity**, for example driving, cooking, or working.

Today, you can **listen to most radio stations online**. The most famous radio programmes in Britain are probably created by **the BBC** (British Broadcasting Corporation). It has **five national stations** and a lot of **regional stations**.

## Television

Television is much more popular than radio because it transmits not only sounds, but also pictures. If you have a TV at home, you can watch **the news, comedies, horror movies, documentaries, sports matches, reality shows and other programmes**.

In Britain, the most famous television network is again **the BBC**. It is public which means that it is paid for by taxes. Other TV stations in the UK are for example **the ITV** (Independent Television) or **Channel 4**. Channel 4 is public while the ITV is a commercial television, but both ITV and Channel 4 get most of their money from **advertising**.

Now let us have a look at some kinds of programmes that you can watch on TV.

### horror movies

Horror movies are films that want to **make you scared**. In these movies, you can often see monsters such as **ghosts and zombies** and **madmen who kill a lot of people**. Sometimes, they are inspired by horror stories written by authors like Edgar Allan Poe or Stephen King. One of the most famous

directors of horror movies was **Alfred Hitchcock**. One of his most famous movies is *Psycho*. Other famous horror movies are *Dracula*, *The Exorcist*, or *Scream*.

### reality shows

Reality shows are TV programmes that film **ordinary people**, not actors. If they are good, they can help us to see everyday lives of other people. If they are bad, they show us stupid people who behave like idiots in front of a camera. One of the most famous reality TV shows of all time was the *Big Brother*, inspired by George Orwell's book *1984*. In this show, a group of people had to live in one house together and they were filmed all the time.

### cooking shows

Cooking shows are **TV shows about food** and restaurants. There are many kinds of cooking shows. Some of them are **cooking competitions**. In others, a **famous chef** teaches the viewers how to cook some delicious and unusual dish. The chefs who appear in cooking shows often become celebrities. The most famous British TV chef is probably **Jamie Oliver**.

### documentaries

Documentaries are **educational films** that give people information about something. There are **documentaries about nature, documentaries about history, documentaries about science, and others**. You can find a lot of documentaries on the Internet but it is important to be careful because **not everything that you can see in them is true**. One of the most-watched documentaries in the history of television was *Cosmos*. It was first broadcast in 1980 and it has been seen by more than 500 million people.

### sitcoms

Sitcoms are **funny TV series**. The word sitcom means "situational comedy". Great Britain is very famous for making these TV series and there is even a special word for British sitcoms – they are called **Britcoms**. Some of the most famous British sitcoms are *Blackadder*, *Red Dwarf* or *The Thin Blue Line*.

### soap operas

Soap operas are **radio or TV drama series**. They are called soap operas because they were often **sponsored by soap factories**. They show the **relationships between people and their emotions**. There is often some mystery which the viewers get to know in later episodes. *The Archers* by the BBC is **the world's longest-running soap opera**. It started in 1950 and it still continues today. It has more than 18,000 episodes. *Coronation Street* by ITV is **the longest-running television soap opera**. It started in 1960 and has more than 9,000 episodes.

### cartoons

Cartoons are **TV programmes that use drawn characters instead of actors**. They are often watched by children. One of the most famous cartoon characters of all time is *Mickey Mouse* by **Walt Disney**. Other cartoon characters by Disney are for example *Donald Duck* or *Winnie-the-Pooh*.

### talk shows

Talk shows are programmes where famous guests or normal **people talk about something**. One of the most famous talk show hosts of all time is **Oprah Winfrey**.

### game shows

Game shows are television programmes where **people compete and can win various prizes**. One of the most popular game shows is called *Who wants to be a millionaire?* In this competition, people have to answer multiple-choice questions and can win a lot of money.

## The Internet

Today, the most important medium is probably **the Internet**. It is a global **system of computer networks**. It has a lot of uses. People can use the Internet to **send messages or emails to each other** and they can **browse websites**. They can also **send each other pictures and other files**. They can **buy or sell things** using the Internet and they can use it to do many other things.

One of the most popular uses of the Internet is the **World Wide Web**. If you have an **Internet browser**, you can visit various websites. You can read articles or watch videos there. Some of the most popular internet browsers are *Mozilla Firefox*, *Google Chrome* and *Internet Explorer*. The World Wide Web was invented by Tim Berners-Lee, a British engineer and computer scientist.

If you are trying to find something on the Internet, you usually need to use a **search engine**. The most famous search engine in the world is definitely *Google*. There are other search engines such as *Yahoo* or *Bing*. In the Czech Republic, many people use Seznam.cz. Some people, especially from the older generation, sometimes even think that Seznam and the Internet are the same thing.

### some popular websites

#### Wikipedia

One of the best-known websites in the world is Wikipedia. It is a **huge online encyclopaedia**. It is written by volunteers. It has several language versions. The largest of them is of course the English one. It has **more than 5 million articles**. You can find there information about almost everything. However, **not everything written on Wikipedia is true**.

#### YouTube

YouTube is a website where people can **share their videos**. Everybody can set up his or her own channel and upload his or her creations. It can be used for listening to music and you can watch some stand-up comedians and documentaries there. Very popular are videos with **people and cats doing stupid things**. YouTube can also be used for education. There are lectures by some of the best universities in the world such as Stanford or Yale. You can watch them for free.

#### Facebook

Facebook is a **social networking website**. People can **create a profile** there and they can connect with other people who do the same. Then they can write their **status** – how they are feeling and what they are doing right now. You can also **upload photos and videos on Facebook**. If people like your pictures or comments, they can **give them a like**. People often try to make their life look better on Facebook than it really is. Some scientists say that **using Facebook can make you depressed**.

#### Twitter

Twitter is similar to Facebook, but the messages are shorter and people do not interact with each other as directly. If you are interested in somebody's opinions, you can **follow them on Twitter and read what they think**. Many famous people have their twitter accounts. The two people with the largest number of followers are **Katy Perry and Justin Bieber**.

#### Amazon

Amazon is **the largest Internet shop in the world**. It started by selling books but now it sells almost everything. Its owner, Jeff Bezos, is the richest person in the world.

#### Instagram

Instagram is a website where people can **share photos and videos**. It has more than 800 million registered users and it is owned by Facebook.

#### Netflix

Netflix is an American website where you can **watch films and television programmes**. The company also makes its own TV series. You have to pay for watching videos on this website.

This overview is largely based on the following articles:

[http://www.topics.estranky.cz/clanky/maturitni-temata/15\\_-mass-media\\_-ways-of-communication.html](http://www.topics.estranky.cz/clanky/maturitni-temata/15_-mass-media_-ways-of-communication.html)  
<https://www.zones.sk/studentске-prace/anglictina/7026-newspapers-and-magazines/>  
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<https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/sites/teacheng/files/Reality%20TV%20student%20worksheet.pdf>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cooking\\_show](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cooking_show)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cosmos:\\_A\\_Personal\\_Voyage](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cosmos:_A_Personal_Voyage)

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<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Instagram>