

# 7.1 BEST OF THE BEEB

▶ GRAMMAR | quantifiers

▶ VOCABULARY | television; multi-word verbs (2)

▶ HOW TO | talk about TV

## VOCABULARY television

1A Work in pairs. Think of one similarity and one difference between the TV programmes. Use your dictionary to help if necessary.

- 1 a wildlife programme – a reality show
- 2 a costume drama – a soap opera
- 3 a sketch show – a sitcom
- 4 a documentary – a docudrama
- 5 a series – a serial
- 6 a thriller – a detective series
- 7 a game show – a quiz
- 8 a current affairs programme – the news

B Work in pairs and discuss. Which of the programme types above do you like most/least? Give some examples.



## READING

2 Work in pairs and look at the photos of five BBC TV programmes. What types of programme are they? Would you watch them?

3A Read the magazine article about five TV programmes and match the programmes with photos A–E.

B How do you know sentences 1–10 are false? Underline the relevant phrase or sentence in the article.

- 1 *EastEnders* is a typical soap opera.
- 2 It doesn't take risks with topics.
- 3 *Top Gear* is a very serious programme.
- 4 It is recorded entirely in the studio and on the test track.
- 5 The dancers on *Strictly Come Dancing* are professionals.
- 6 The judges choose who is in the dance-off.
- 7 Paxman is the only *Newsnight* presenter.
- 8 Guests on *Newsnight* enjoy being 'Paxoed'.
- 9 Doctor Who is an evil character.
- 10 The programme is only popular in the UK.

C Match meanings 1–8 with the correct words/phrases in the article.

- 1 was broadcast (*EastEnders*) aired
- 2 arguments (*EastEnders*)
- 3 done only once (*Top Gear*)
- 4 attractive and exciting (*Strictly Come Dancing*)
- 5 famous (*Strictly Come Dancing*)
- 6 thorough and full (*Newsnight*)
- 7 been criticised (*Newsnight*)
- 8 is popular with all ages (*Doctor Who*)

4 Discuss. Which of the programmes would you most like to watch?

## Check it out

### What's on the Beeb?

If you think Brits spend a good deal of time around the coffee machine talking about the weather, you'd be wrong. They're actually discussing the latest episode of *EastEnders* or *Top Gear*. Want to join in? Then check out a few must-see shows on the Beeb, as the BBC is affectionately known by its viewers.

#### EastEnders

*EastEnders* first aired in February 1985 and since then has remained one of the top-rated programmes in the UK. Set in a fictional east end London square and its surroundings, this award-winning soap opera follows the domestic and professional lives of a group of local residents. There are plenty of typical storylines: family life, rows, romance and business troubles, but the show's writers also aim for greater realism than is found in most soaps. During its long run, the show has tackled quite a few issues previously unseen on mainstream UK TV, such as racism, unemployment and drug abuse.

#### Top Gear

If your idea of heaven is James Bond fantasy car rides, lots of crazy challenges and no rules, this is the series for you. With its humorous style and easy relationship between the three presenters (Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May), each programme regularly attracts 350 million viewers worldwide. A recurring feature is 'The Power Lap', where the Stig (a mysterious white-suited figure) completes a lap around the track to test a car's performance. *Top Gear* is also famous for one-off exploits such as when the four men raced across London: May in a Mercedes, Hammond on a bicycle, the Stig on public transport and Clarkson in a speedboat.