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Warm up questions

1. Do you like to watch television? Why?
2. How many hours of television do you watch each day/week?
3. What are the different genres (types) of television programs?
4. What is your favourite television show? What genre is it?
5. Can you name all the television stations available in Sydney?
6. Did you watch television in your home country? What type of shows did you watch?
7. What were your favourite shows as a child?
8. What is the difference between cable and free –to- air television?
9. Do you have pay TV? If yes, why did you get it?

Vocabulary

Remote control	<u>genre</u>	
Commercial television	news	current affairs
Advertisement / add	sport	soap opera / soapie
Censorship	weather	game show
Channel	comedy	talk show
Show / program	drama	documentary
pay tv: foxtel / cable	reality tv	movies

Common abbreviations for television:

Telly
TV

Ratings:

General viewing (G)
Parental guidance recommended (PG)
Mature audience (MA 15+)
Restricted (R 18+)

Functions and Structures

FUNCTIONS	STRUCTURES
Asking what's on the television	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are you watching? 2. What's on telly? 3. Anything interesting on? 4. What's this program?
Saying what's on	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The news 2. I'm not too sure, I just turned it on 3. I'm not too sure, I wasn't paying attention 4. I'm not sure, I haven't seen this before 5. I don't know, I wasn't really watching it.
Asking to change channels	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can I flick through the channels? 2. Can I see what else is on? 3. Do you mind if I change the channel? 4. Are you watching this? Can I watch (program name) instead? 5. Any idea what else is on?
Asking about a program	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. So, what's it about? 2. Who's in it? 3. What's happened so far? 4. Who's he/she? (ask this whilst watching the show) <p>Did you see Four Corners last night? Did you watch the news last night? Did you catch A Current Affair yesterday?</p>
Giving an opinion about a program	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. So what do you think about Big Brother? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I'm not really into reality TV shows • I think it's <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Terrible Awful Ridiculous Boring OK Alright Great Hilarious Bizarre Wonderful Great entertainment Brilliant
Agreeing or Disagreeing with an opinion	<p>I think Big Brother is awful!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I couldn't agree with you more • Absolutely

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definitely • Without a doubt • That's so true • I completely agree • Too right • For sure • So do I / me too (practise this option with low level) • I guess so • I suppose so • I'm not too sure • Yeah, you're probably right • I don't really know • I disagree • I don't think I agree • Yes, but.. • I know, but.. • Yes, but don't you think... • You may be right but.. • Oh, come on! • I get your point, but... • I know what you're saying but... • No way!
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Language Extension

Adjective practice.

Terrible	Awful	Ridiculous	Stupid	Boring
OK	Alright	Great	Hilarious	Bizarre
Wonderful	Brilliant			

- Add or remove some words depending on your student's level
- Cut the words out and place them upside down on the table.
- Get the student to turn each card over and make sentences or give opinions using each of these words.
- Ask the student follow-up questions to get them to expand their statement/opinion

e.g.: Student: The public transport in Sydney are great

Tutor: Why do you think that?/ How are they different from your country? etc

Low level students

For 'giving opinions' with low level students, you may want to stick with this format:

A: I like chocolate
B: So do I (me too/same here)

A: I don't like spiders
B: Me neither/neither do I.

A: I love pizza
B: Really? I don't. (extension – it's terrible!)

A: I don't like bush walking
B: Really? I do. (extension – I love it!)

You may want to write out a survey sheet and go through some examples with your student.

Dialogue:

A: What's on telly?
B: I'm not sure, I just turned it on
A: Do you mind if I change the channel? I really want to watch Neighbours
B: Oh no! I think Neighbours is terrible!
A: I know, but it's a good way to practise listening to the Australian accent

If you have a chance, log onto the Behind The News website. You can encourage your students to watch this news program, and then do any of the exercises that are posted on the site.

<http://www.abc.net.au/tv/btn/teachers/>