

Before you watch**1 SPEAKING** Work in pairs. Answer the questions.

- 1 What are your favourite TV shows?
- 2 Are they made in your country or abroad?
- 3 What other foreign TV shows are popular in your country? Where are they from?

Comprehension check**2**  Watch the DVD clip. Choose the correct answers.

- 1 *The X Factor* and *Mr Bean* are from
a the USA. b Britain. c Dubai.
- 2 *CSI* is a TV show from
a the USA. b Australia. c Canada.
- 3 *CSI* is popular
a in the USA. b in Britain. c all over the world.

3  Watch again. Are the sentences true or false?

- 1 In 2011, *CSI* had 63 million viewers in the world. **true / false**
- 2 Students can now study the TV show at university. **true / false**
- 3 The scientists in *CSI* work in the same way as real forensic scientists. **true / false**
- 4 The forensic scientist in the DVD clip finds something on a TV screen. **true / false**
- 5 The forensic scientist makes notes on a tablet. **true / false**
- 6 The forensic scientist in the DVD clip collects the evidence and then interviews the suspects. **true / false**

4  Watch again. Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs below.

analyse export know photograph specialise study touch

- 1 Britain _____ TV shows like *Skins* to different countries.
- 2 Now, more people _____ forensic science at university because of *CSI*.
- 3 The forensic scientists on *CSI* _____ the evidence in the laboratory.
- 4 In real life, forensic scientists _____ in different areas.
- 5 The forensic scientist in the DVD clip _____ the evidence before he _____ it.
- 6 People _____ more about forensic science because of *CSI*.

Round up**5 SPEAKING** Work in groups. Answer the question.

Do you watch *CSI* or a similar programme? Do you like it? Why? / Why not?

Vocabulary

6 **RECYCLE** Complete the TV guide with the words below.

drama plot script sitcom special effects talent show

TV tonight

7.00 p.m.	Dancing Shoes	Celebrities dance for a place in next week's final of this popular 1 _____.
8.00 p.m.	Up and Away	A new series of this very funny 2 _____ will make you laugh.
8.30 p.m.	The Street Episode 6	Author Greg Jackson wrote the 3 _____ for this period 4 _____ about life on a small street in 1930s Liverpool.
9.15 p.m.	Gravity	Sandra Bullock and George Clooney star in this gripping science fiction film. The film has a simple 5 _____ about an astronaut in space trying to get back to Earth, but the 6 _____ are spectacular and very realistic.
11.00 p.m.	News and weather	The national news and weather followed by news from where you live.

7 Complete the text with the words below.

entertainment value global ratings viewers

GAME OF THRONES

Game of Thrones is a fantasy drama set in the fictional continents of Westeros and Essos. It was first on TV in the USA in 2011, but now has a 1 _____ audience of hundreds of millions, with 2 _____ in the USA, the UK, Australia, China, India and around the world. Its 3 _____ show that it is one of the most popular TV shows ever. The drama may not be very realistic or informative, but it is high on 4 _____, which is why it is popular all over the world.

Extension

8 **Work in groups.** Invent a TV channel and decide together what you want to be on the channel one Saturday evening. Then write a guide like the one in exercise 6 for what is on the channel from 7.00 p.m. to 11.00 p.m. Include:

- the names and types of the TV programmes.
- descriptions of the programmes.
- your opinions of the programmes.
- one film in the guide.

9 **Look at the other groups' guides and choose which channel you would like to watch. Use the key phrases for making and justifying a choice.**

Making a choice

I'd rather ...
I prefer (to) ...
I think ... will be more entertaining.
I'll opt for ...

Justifying a choice

I've chosen ... because ...
The reason for my choice is ...
I would / wouldn't find it ...

DVD clip summary

The DVD clip is about TV programmes that have become famous throughout the world and in particular the effect that *CSI* has had on its audience.

Background

The UK and the USA produce some of the most popular TV programmes in the world. Exporting TV programmes such as *Top Gear*, *Downton Abbey* and *The X Factor* makes UK TV companies over £1 billion each year. *CSI* is an American crime drama TV series which started in 2000. It is about people who work as crime scene investigators for the police. Although it has been criticised for not being very realistic, it is hugely popular in the USA and other countries, and it has been recognised as the most watched TV drama series in the world.

Before you watch

Exercise 1

- Read the questions with the class, and elicit answers from individual students. Encourage the students to guess the answers they do not already know and use their suggestions to start a class discussion.
- **Answers:** Students' own answers

Comprehension check

Exercise 2

- **Pre-watching:** Go through the questions with the students.
-  Play the whole DVD clip. The students choose the correct answers. Check their answers.
- **Answers:** 1 b 2 a 3 c

Exercise 3

- **Pre-watching:** Ask the students to say if the sentences are true or false before they watch the DVD clip again.
- **Weaker classes:** Play the DVD clip first and pause after each answer.
-  Play the DVD clip to check the answers.
- **Answers:** 1 true 2 false 3 false 4 true 5 false 6 false

Exercise 4

- **Pre-watching:** Ask the students to try and complete the sentences before they watch the DVD clip again. Remind them that they might need to change the form of the verbs.
- **Weaker classes:** Play the DVD clip first and pause after each answer.
-  Play the DVD clip to check the answers.
- **Answers:** 1 exports 2 study / are studying 3 analyse 4 specialise 5 photographs; touches 6 know

Round up

Exercise 5

- Put the students in groups. Give them a few minutes to discuss the question.
- **Answers:** Students' own answers

Vocabulary

Exercise 6

- Ask the students to read through the TV guide first, then choose the correct answers.
- **Answers:** 1 talent show 2 sitcom 3 script 4 drama 5 plot 6 special effects

Exercise 7

- Ask the students to read through the text first, then complete the sentences. With a **weaker class** you could elicit the meanings of the words first.
- **Answers:** 1 global 2 viewers 3 ratings 4 entertainment value

Extension

Exercise 8 and 9

- **Materials needed:** Paper and pens
- **Preparation:** Put the students in groups of three. Tell them that they have started a new TV channel and need to plan an evening's viewing.
- **Language:** On the board, write *Game of Thrones* and *CSI*. Ask the students to choose one to watch and say why. Elicit the key phrases for making a choice and justifying a choice.
- **Activity:** Ask the students to use the TV guide in exercise 6 to help them. Tell them to think carefully about what is the best time to have certain programmes. Give them about 5 minutes to choose their programmes and another 10 minutes to write their guide. They should also think of a name for the channel and a logo.
- Put the guides up around the room so the students can read each guide and decide which channel they would want to watch. Ask each group to tell the class which channel they have chosen and why.
- **Extension:** Ask more questions about the guides that the students have produced. The students walk around the room reading the guides to try and find the answers.

The *CSI* effect

Exporting TV programmes is big business. Today, lots of countries create TV shows and sell them to other countries. In Britain, this is a huge industry, and the country exports lots of successful TV shows to many different countries. Talent shows like *The X Factor*, dramas like *Skins* and sitcoms like *Mr Bean* all started life in Britain, but are now popular all over the world.

But the USA still leads the way and a lot of the world's most popular programmes come from the States.

CSI: Crime Scene Investigation is a crime drama about forensic detectives. In 2011, a survey – which measured ratings in 65 different countries – found the show had 63 million viewers worldwide. This made it the most-watched TV show on the planet!

In fact, the show is so popular it is having an effect on forensic science in the real world. The number of people studying the subject at university is higher than ever before and lots of people are choosing it as a career.

But the world of *CSI* is very different to the real world of forensic science. On *CSI*, the forensic scientists do all the work. The same character collects the evidence, analyses it in the lab and even questions the suspects. This helps to create a gripping plot, and an imaginative script combined with special effects can make it convincing, but it is very unrealistic.

In the real world, one person doesn't have to do everything. Forensic scientists specialise in different areas. This group, for example, are examining the crime scene. To do this they must wear special suits and they mustn't touch the evidence until they have photographs of everything in the room.

They then take the evidence to the laboratory where another group of scientists study the objects and try to find DNA evidence. None of these forensic scientists have to question suspects and they don't have to prosecute culprits. Their job is to collect and analyse the evidence.

Thanks to programmes like *CSI*, people know a lot more about forensic science, but not everything is accurate. After all, people make these TV shows to entertain, not always to inform. And it's usually this entertainment value that makes TV exports so popular. The more entertaining a programme is, the more countries around the world will want to buy it.

Today, many TV exports like *CSI* and *The X Factor* enjoy global success, and people from lots of different countries and cultures can watch the same TV shows. So whether we're in the USA, Britain or Dubai, we can all share the same experience.