

Reality Television

Reality television is a genre of television programming which, it is claimed, presents unscripted dramatic or humorous situations, documents actual events, and features ordinary people rather than professional actors. It could be described as a form of artificial or "heightened" documentary. Although the genre has existed in some form or another since the early years of television, the current explosion of popularity dates from around 2000.

Reality television covers a wide range of television programming formats, from game or quiz shows which resemble the frantic, often demeaning programmes produced in Japan in the 1980s and 1990s (a modern example is Gaki no tsukai), to surveillance- or voyeurism- focused productions such as Big Brother.



Critics say that the term "reality television" is somewhat of a misnomer and that such shows frequently portray a modified and highly influenced form of reality, with participants put in exotic locations or abnormal situations, sometimes coached to act in certain ways by off-screen handlers, and with events on screen manipulated through editing and other post-production techniques.



Part of reality television's appeal is due to its ability to place ordinary people in extraordinary situations. For example, on the ABC show, *The Bachelor*, an eligible male dates a dozen women simultaneously, travelling on extraordinary dates to scenic locales. Reality television also has the potential to turn its participants into national celebrities, outwardly in talent and performance programs such as *Pop Idol*, though frequently *Survivor* and *Big Brother* participants also reach some degree of celebrity.

Some commentators have said that the name "reality television" is an inaccurate description for several styles of program included in the genre. In competition-based programs such as *Big Brother* and *Survivor*, and other special-living-environment shows like *The Real World*, the producers design the format of the show and control the day-to-day activities and the environment, creating a completely fabricated world in

which the competition plays out. Producers specifically select the participants, and use carefully designed scenarios, challenges, events, and settings to encourage particular behaviours and conflicts. Mark Burnett, creator of Survivor and other reality shows, has agreed with this assessment, and avoids the word "reality" to describe his shows; he has said, "I tell good stories. It really is not reality TV. It really is unscripted drama."

Exercise 1. Read the text and answer the following questions.

1 - In the first line, the writer says 'it is claimed' because

- a- they agree with the statement.
- b- everyone agrees with the statement.
- c- no one agrees with the statement.
- d- they want to distance themselves from the statement.

2 - Reality television has

- a- always been this popular.
- b- has been popular since well before 2000.
- c- has only been popular since 2000.
- d- has been popular since approximately 2000.

3 – Japan

- a- is the only place to produce demeaning TV shows.
- b- has produced demeaning TV shows copied elsewhere.
- c- produced Big Brother.
- d- invented surveillance focused productions.

4 - People have criticised reality television because

- a- it is demeaning.
- b- it uses exotic locations.
- c- the name is inaccurate.
- d- it shows reality.

5 - Reality TV appeals to some because

- a- it shows eligible males dating women.
- b- it uses exotic locations.
- c- it shows average people in exceptional circumstances.
- d- it can turn ordinary people into celebrities.

6 - Pop Idol

- a- turns all its participants into celebrities.
- b- is more likely to turn its participants into celebrities than Big Brother.
- c- is less likely to turn its participants into celebrities than Big Brother.
- d- is a dating show.

7 - The term 'reality television' is inaccurate

- a- for all programs.
- b- just for Big Brother and Survivor.
- c- for talent and performance programs.
- d- for special-living-environment programs.

8 - Producers choose the participants

- a- on the ground of talent.
- b- only for special-living-environment shows.
- c- to create conflict among other things.
- d- to make a fabricated world.

9 - Paul Burnett

- a- was a participant on Survivor.
- b- is a critic of reality TV.
- c- thinks the term 'reality television' is inaccurate.
- d- writes the script for Survivor.

10 - Shows like Survivor

- a- are definitely reality TV.
- b- are scripted.
- c- have good narratives.
- d- are theatre.

Exercise 2. Vocabulary

Find words in the text that mean:

1. Humiliating, degrading (paragraph 2).
2. Presents, Promotes, (paragraph 1).
3. An amount or extent of variation , (paragraph 2).
4. To depict or represent pictorially; make a picture of, , (paragraph 3).
5. Imprecise, inexact, or erroneous, (paragraph 5).

Answers:

Exercise 1:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
d	d	b	c	c	b	d	c	c	d

Exercise 2:

1. *demeaning*, 2. *features*, 3. *wide range* 4. *portray*, 5. *inaccurate*

Practice activities: So that, to, for.

Exercise 1:

Match the beginnings of the sentences to the correct endings.

1.	I bought a lovely new dress...	a.	... for marking important parts of documents.
2.	A small notebook is useful...	b.	... so that I could be first in the queue when the shop opened.
3.	David worked really hard...	c.	... for painting the best picture.
4.	Highlighter pens are great...	d.	... for writing down new vocabulary.
5.	I gave my teacher a big bunch of flowers...	e.	... so that we'll have enough for the weekend.
6.	I got up early...	f.	... to wear to the party.
7.	My son won a prize at school...	g.	... to pass the final exam.
8.	I ordered an extra loaf of bread...	h.	... to say 'thank you'.

Exercise 2:

Read the sentence and choose the one option a-c which best fits the space.

- I took some tablets rid of my headache
 - to get
 - to getting
 - for get
- Paul quit his job more time with his family
 - for to spend
 - so to spend
 - so that he could spend
- This liquid is good stains out of cotton clothes
 - for getting
 - for get
 - for to get
- When you visit the waterfall, it's a good idea to take a plastic coat you dry
 - to keep
 - to keeping
 - keep
- I got up really early I wouldn't miss my flight
 - to
 - for
 - so that

6. I drink chamomile tea before I go to bed to sleep
- for go
 - to help me go
 - so that go

To, for, so that: practice activities Answers

Exercise 1:

Match the beginnings of the sentences to the correct endings.

1.	I bought a lovely new dress...
2.	A small notebook is useful...
3.	David worked really hard...
4.	Highlighter pens are great...
5.	I gave my teacher a big bunch of flowers...
6.	I got up early...
7.	My son won a prize at school...
8.	I ordered an extra loaf of bread...

f.	... to wear to the party.
d.	... for writing down new vocabulary.
g.	... to pass the final exam.
a.	... for marking important parts of documents.
h.	... to say 'thank you'.
b.	... so that I could be first in the queue when the shop opened.
c.	... for painting the best picture.
e.	... so that we'll have enough for the weekend.

Exercise 2:

Read the sentence and choose the one option a-d which best fits the

space. 1. I took some tablets . rid of my headache

- to get - Correct - you have used an infinitive with 'to' to give the purpose of an action**
- to getting - Wrong - 'to' should be followed by the infinitive
- for get - Wrong - you should use an infinitive with 'to', or 'for' with verb-ing

2. Paul quit his job . more time with his family

- for to spend - Wrong - but this is sometimes used in colloquial speech
- so to spend - Wrong - we don't usually use 'so' and 'to' together
- so that he could spend - Correct - 'so that' is followed by a subject and verb to explain the purpose of an action**

3. This liquid is good ... stains out of cotton clothes

- for getting - Correct - 'for' + verb-ing is usually used to describe the purpose of an object**
- for get - Wrong - we don't usually say 'for get'
- for to get - Wrong - we don't usually say 'for to'

4. When you visit the waterfall, it's a good idea to take a plastic coat . you dry
- a. **to keep - Correct - you have used an infinitive with 'to' to give the purpose of an action**
 - b. to keeping - Wrong - 'to' should be followed by the infinitive
 - c. keep - Wrong - you should use an infinitive with 'to' to give the purpose of an action
5. I got up really early ... I wouldn't miss my flight
- a. to - Wrong - 'to' should be followed by the infinitive
 - b. for - Wrong - 'for' should be followed by verb-ing
 - c. **so that - Correct - 'so that' is usually followed by a subject and verb**
6. I drink chamomile tea before I go to bed . to sleep
- a. for go - Wrong - 'for' should be followed by verb-ing
 - b. **to help me go - Correct - you have used an infinitive with 'to' to give the purpose of an action**
 - c. so that go - Wrong - 'so that' is usually followed by a subject and verb

Grammar Point - 'regret' Form

Exercise 1:

Read the sentence and choose the option a-d which best expresses a regret.

1. I left it too late to buy a ticket for the concert, and now they are sold out.
 - a. I regret waiting so long to buy a ticket.
 - b. I regret to waiting so long to buy a ticket.
 - c. I am regret waiting so long to buy a ticket.
 - d. I regret not waiting so long to buy a ticket.

2. He didn't work hard enough, and now he regrets it.
 - a. He regrets he worked not hard enough.
 - b. He regrets working not hard enough.
 - c. He regrets not working hard enough.
 - d. He regrets working hard enough.

3. They bought cheap pens, but they didn't work very well.
 - a. They are regret buying cheap pens.
 - b. They don't regret buying cheap pens.
 - c. They regret not buying cheap pens.
 - d. They regret buying cheap pens.

4. I didn't go to music school but became an actor, and I had a happy career.
 - a. I regret not going to music school.
 - b. I don't regret going to music school.
 - c. I regret becoming a singer.
 - d. I don't regret becoming an actor.

Exercise 2: Positive / Negative

Read the sentence and choose the option which best expresses the regret.

1. I shouted at my little brother this morning. I feel bad about it now.
 - a. I regret shouting at my little brother.
 - b. I don't regret shouting at my little brother.

2. They stayed up really late, so they overslept.
 - a. They regret staying up late.
 - b. They regret not staying up late.

3. I didn't go to the supermarket yesterday. It's closed today.
 - a. I regret going to the supermarket yesterday.
 - b. I regret not going to the supermarket yesterday.

4. I didn't eat any breakfast, and now I'm really hungry.
 - a. I regret not eating breakfast.
 - b. I don't regret eating breakfast.

5. Mary didn't buy the dress she liked, and now they are sold out.
 - a. Mary doesn't regret not buying the dress she liked.
 - b. Mary regrets not buying the dress she liked.

Grammar Point - 'regret' - Answers

Exercise 1: Form

Read the sentence and choose the option a-c which best expresses the regret.

1. I left it too late to buy a ticket for the concert, and now they are sold out.
a. I regret waiting so long to buy a ticket. - Correct - this expresses the regret in sentence 1.
2. He didn't work hard enough, and now he regrets it.
c. He regrets not working hard enough. - Correct - this expresses the regret in sentence 2.
3. They bought cheap pens, but they didn't work very well.
d. They regret buying cheap pens. - Correct - this expresses the regret in sentence 3.
4. I didn't go to music school but became an actor, and I had a happy career.
d. I don't regret becoming an actor. - Correct - this expresses the absence of regret in sentence 4.

Exercise 2: Positive / Negative

Read the sentence and choose the option which best expresses the regret.

1. I shouted at my little brother.
a. I regret shouting at my little brother. - Correct - well done.
2. They stayed up really late, so they overslept.
a. They regret staying up late. - Correct - well done.
3. I didn't go to the supermarket yesterday. It's closed today.
b. I regret not going to the supermarket yesterday. - Correct - well done
4. I didn't eat any breakfast, and now I'm really hungry.
a. I regret not eating breakfast. - Correct - well done
5. Mary didn't buy the dress she liked, and now they are sold out.
b. Mary regrets not buying the dress she liked. - Correct - well done.

Writing Exercise: Write a comparative essay comparing advantages and disadvantages of cats and dogs.

Estuda a estrutura que se propón e o resultado do primeiro exemplo, logo coa segunda proposta escribe unha nova composición.

Option 1.

Cats and dogs make excellent pets, but an appropriate choice depends on pet management, cost, and accommodations.

1. Topic: Management

Topic 1 - Aspect 1: Cats

- Detail: Don't have to be watched during the day
- Detail:

Topic 2 - Aspect 1: Dogs

- Detail: Shouldn't be left alone
- Detail:

2. Topic:

Topic 1 - Aspect 2: Cats

- Detail:
- Detail:

Topic 2 - Aspect 2: Dogs

- Detail:
- Detail:

3. Topic:

Topic 1 - Aspect 3: Cats

- Detail:
- Detail:

Topic 2 - Aspect 3: Dogs

- Detail:
- Detail:

Conclusion

When considering adopting a pet, a prospective owner must consider the lifestyle, finances, and household accommodations that the pet would require. Owners who neglect to compare these aspects will often not care for their pet in a safe manner.

Cats and dogs make excellent pets, but an appropriate choice depends on pet management, cost, and accommodations.

The first difference between cats and dogs is management. Cats don't have to be watched during the day. And it is easier to get care if the owner travels. In contrast, dogs shouldn't be left alone. They may get in trouble if left by themselves. And it is more difficult to find a good dog resort or someone to look after the dog if the owner travels.

The second difference is cost. Cats are less expensive to own and take care of. Food and health care costs are usually fairly low. Also, cats are less likely to damage property or hurt themselves. On the other hand, dogs often chew on furniture, damage gates or fences and sometimes they get into fights and hurt themselves.

The final difference is accommodations. Cats don't take up much space. They don't need a large area to run around. And they can take care of themselves most of the time. They don't cause trouble to their owners or other people. Dogs, however, often need a yard or fence. And because they like to bark and run around, they need more safety and protective measures.

When considering adopting a pet, you must consider the management, cost and accommodations that the pet would require. Owners who don't think about these aspects will often not care for their pet in a safe manner.

Cats and dogs make excellent pets, but an appropriate choice depends on pet management, expenses, and accommodations.

Now write your own composition. Follow this model.

Option 2.

1. Topic Sentence - Cats make less of an impact on an owner's lifestyle.

Topic 1 - Aspect 1: Cats

- Detail: Don't have to be watched during the day
- Detail: Easier to get care if owner travels

Topic 2 - Aspect 1: Dogs

- Detail: Shouldn't be left alone
- Detail: Harder to get care when away

2. Topic Sentence - Cats are less expensive to own and care for.

Topic 1 - Aspect 2: Cats

- Detail: Food and health care are usually less expensive
- Detail: Less likely to cause property damage

Topic 2 - Aspect 2: Dogs

- Detail: Food is more expensive
- Detail: Over-breeding causes some health problems

3. Topic Sentence - Cats don't need special accommodation.

Topic 1 - Aspect 3: Cats

- Detail: Don't take up much space
- Detail: Less trouble

Topic 2 - Aspect 3: Dogs

- Detail: Often need yard and fence
- Detail: Require more safety and protective measures

Conclusion

When considering adopting a pet, a prospective owner must consider the lifestyle, finances, and household accommodations that the pet would require. Owners who neglect to compare these aspects will often not care for their pet in a safe manner.

Vocabulary: Phrasal Verbs.

grow up, get on with, to take you back, to stand up for yourself, brings you up

Choose the one correct answer for each question.

1. If you *get on with* someone, you ...

- a. annoy them.
- b. are afraid of them.
- c. are friendly towards them.
- d. jump on top of them.

2. I want *to take you back*. This means I want you to ...

- a. try to forget any bad memories.
- b. think about your family members.
- c. think about what you enjoyed about your childhood.
- d. remember something from the past.

3. If someone tells you *to stand up for yourself*, you should ...

- a. defend what you believe in.
- b. raise your voice and become aggressive.
- c. stand up rather than sit down when you speak.
- d. change your opinion about something.

4. The way someone *brings you up* is ...

- a. how they pick you up when you hurt yourself.
- b. how they make you feel better when you are feeling sad.
- c. the way they raised you as a child.
- d. the way they shouted at you as a child.

5. When you *grow up*, you ...

- a. remain immature for a long time.
- b. change from being a young child into an older child or adult.
- c. grow tall very quickly.
- d. become overweight due to lack of exercise.

KEY

- 1) c
- 2) d
- 3) a
- 4) c
- 5) b