

Intermediate 2
Unit 8: Reading
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The Media

medium (Singular) ⇒ media (Plural)

media = the internet, newspapers, magazines, television, etc., considered as a group

Point:

The word "media" is sometimes used as the plural form of "medium". But at times, it is used as an uncountable noun by itself.

The media is very important in our society. (media: uncountable noun)

The media are very important in our society. (media: plural form of medium)

The First Writer ⇒ A Retired Old Man

My television set is an important piece of equipment for me. I can't get out of the house very often, but my TV brings the whole world to me. From the evening news and the all-news channels, I learn about events in the outside world: politics, the environment, recent changes in technology and medicine, and so on. I like game shows and travel programs, too. Even the talk shows are exciting — all of these strange people telling their life stories and secrets to the whole world! And I love comedies; I think it's important to be able to laugh. I can even watch shows in other languages and "go shopping" by TV. With the major national networks, the educational and cable channels — and the extra sports, movie, science fiction, history, music, and other specialty channels — I have a choice of fifty different programs at the same time! The only programs I don't watch regularly by myself are the children's shows, but when my grandchildren visit me, those are fun, too! Maybe I'll get a satellite dish. Then I'll have even more TV choices; and if those aren't enough, I can buy or rent a video, listen to radio programming, and so on. How can I ever feel lonely or bored with so much media?

whole = entire, complete

whole + Singular Countable Noun
all + Plural Countable Noun

- ✗ All the town was destroyed by the earthquake.
- ✓ The whole town was destroyed by the earthquake.
- ✗ All the army was ready for the battle.
- ✓ The whole army was ready for the battle.

- ❖ medicine = medical science and profession
- ❖ medicine = drug, medication

and so on = and so forth, etc., blah blah blah

major = big, important

by myself = alone



Satellite



Satellite Dish

so much media ⇒ (media: uncountable noun)

The Second Writer ⇒ A Married Man Living with his Wife and his Son

We used to have a television set in every room of our house. Our eight-year-old son used to spend hours each day in front of the "boob tube". He was beginning to get strange ideas about reality from the violence on many programs. He was having nightmares; he was losing interest in school, in creative play, in other children, and in his family! We (the adults) were starting to get confused, too. Sometimes we weren't sure what we saw on TV and what we experienced in real life. We stopped inviting our friends and relatives to our home or visiting them; because we weren't communicating with each other either, our marriage was suffering. So was our health; we were getting lazy and becoming old and tired very quickly. So, one day we decided to "pull the plug" on our dangerous family addiction. We quit TV "cold turkey" from that time on; there was no television in our lives! It was a very difficult time for all of us. Like most recovering addicts, we had all the signs of withdrawal — feeling of boredom, of loneliness, and of emptiness. Our son was always running to the refrigerator to satisfy his need for pleasure. My wife and I went back to smoking, and to some other bad habits. But we finally recovered — and found the perfect solution to our discomfort and emptiness! Now we each have our own computer at home, and we spend all our free time in front of another screen. We are addicted to the Internet!

We used to have ... = In the past we had ..., but now we don't have ...

the boob tube = TV

violent (adj.) = aggressive

violence (n.) = aggressiveness

pull the plug on sth = stop sth suddenly; get rid of sth suddenly

- addict = معتاد = junkie = a drug abuser
- addiction = اعتیاد
- be addicted to sth = به چیزی اعتیاد داشتن

quit = give up, abandon

cold turkey = suddenly

recover = get better, get back to normal

boredom = feeling bored

discomfort = suffering, pain

The Third Writer ⇒ An Immigrant Learning English

When I came to this English-speaking country, I didn't speak any of the language. I took classes and studied but it wasn't enough. I wanted to learn faster. I began to watch TV for two hours every day: a half-hour of news, a half-hour comedy program, and a one-hour interview show where people asked and answered a lot of questions. I didn't understand anything at first. But then I discovered some new methods to help me understand: for instance, I watched the news in my native language first and then saw the same news in English. I also watched children's programming — the same show several times in the day; I understood almost everything in those programs. Sometimes I recorded a program on videotape and watched it again and again until I got the main ideas, or the points. I also rent or buy videotapes so I can see the same images and hear the same language as many times as necessary. Now I have some new ideas. For instance, I can get closed-captioned TV for the hearing-impaired and use it when I watch certain programs, then I can read the words in English subtitles while I watch and listen — or I can watch films in English while I read the translations in my language. Now I think of TV as one of my best "teachers".

discover = find

for instance = for example

native language = mother tongue, first language

point = an important item



Videotapes = Video Cassettes

image = picture

closed-captioned TV = TV with subtitles

the hearing-impaired = deaf people

subtitles = words shown at the bottom of a film or television picture to show what is being said, or to translate it into a different language:

The Chinese movie was shown with English subtitles.

Source:

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