**Reading and speaking. Media.**

* **Discuss the following questions in small groups.**
* How important is television to you personally? How many hours of TV do you watch in an average week?
* Do you consider (рассматриваешь) yourself, or anyone you know, a 'telly addict'?
* Why might someone decide to give up TV?
* **Read the text quickly. Which sentence best describes the attitude of the writer towards television?**
* He adores (боготворит) TV, but decided to give it up because it was dominating his life. **[\*]**
* He's found it virtually impossible to reduce the amount of TV he watches.
* He finds himself less and less devoted to television, but still can't stop watching it completely.
* He's totally disillusioned with television and has lost all interest in it.

**3. Read the text again. Tick the things the writer did.**

* He slowly reduced the amount of television he watched, NO ACTUAL INFO, but believe it's true
* He spent more than an hour looking for something interesting to watch.
* He watched television twenty-four hours a day as a child,
* He found it hard to find other things to do instead of watching TV. **NO (reading book)**
* He stopped following the news on TV. **YES**
* He stopped watching his favourite TV programme, *The Simpsons.* **NO**
* **The writer uses colourful, figurative language to describe his relationship with TV. Check the literal meaning of the words in bold in your mini-dictionary. Then answer the questions.**
* Why does he talk about **'gorging** himself on news' (paragraph 2), and **'devouring** a whole book' (paragraph 9)? What impression does this create?

**gorging** - trying to be up-to-date

**devouring** - it's more grippping than watching TV

* What impression does the phrase **'flicking listlessly'** give (paragraph 3)?

He did it without any target, impression of lazyness

* Why does he talk about 'falling out of love' with TV (paragraph 4)?

Addicted like a child

* What does he mean when he says 'television needed frequent breaks from me' (paragraph 4)?

His parents didn't allow him to spend a lot of time watching TV or actually in the past some channels stopped broadcasting at night

* Why does he feel that 'television had come to hate me personally' (paragraph 8)?

He understood that binge-watching is useless. TV stopped entertain him and he lost sense of watching black box in the corner

* What comparison is he making when he says he feels **'sour** at how he was **betrayed' (предали)** (paragraph9)?

см выше

* **Discuss the following questions in small groups.**
* Do you think the writer will ever give up TV totally?
* Should, and could, you give it up?
* What would you do instead?
* Do you think people generally watch too much TV?

**Giving up TV.**

First off, I have to admit the falseness of the title. You can’t give up television. You might want to. You might try. You might even succeed for about 24 hours. But, eventually (конце концов) you will go back. I know. I’ve spent the last three years trying to wean (отвыкнуть) myself off the box in the corner.

It started simply. I have satellite TV, and therefore have, at the best guess, some 200 or so channels available, eighty percent being completely devoted (посвященны) to shopping. Of the remainder, some I felt I couldn’t live without. There were channels offering comedy, a host of BBC entertainment programs I had previously enjoyed, drama, a huge choice of instant headline news to gorge upon, historical documentaries…

Then one day I found, with an audible (слышимый) start, I had been sitting for over an hour flicking listlessly through all seven million or so channels (листая вяло через все семь миллионов каналов), resting on each programme for no more than thirty seconds or so.

A thought suddenly occurred to me. I was falling out of love with television. I've been in love with television now for almost my entire life. When I first fell in love, television needed frequent breaks from me. (Когда я впервые влюбился, телевидение нуждалось в частых перерывах от меня.) Then came twenty-four-hour television. The satellite revolution brought more delights (изыски) I couldn't get enough of. More awful talk shows. More cheap adverts. More 'straight to video' movies. A twenty-four-hour diet (though most go off between three and six a.m., thus giving me a chance to grab some sleep) of television without limits.

And we both lived happily ever after.

Until that day, when I had wasted an hour of my life on television without actually finding anything to entertain, inform or educate me.

Never mind. The next night, I was back, lying in front of The Box in the corner, idly flicking (лениво переключая). And finding nothing. At that point, I decided to give up television. It's been nice knowing you, but it's over. So long, and thanks for all the eyestrain. (Приятно было тебя знать, но все кончено. Так долго, и спасибо за все напряжение глаз.)

But it isn't possible. I didn't manage (не справился с тем чтобы) to give up. But I did manage to detach (но мне удалось оторваться). If I missed a programme I had read about I didn't mourn or worry (Если я пропустил программу, о которой читал, я не оплакивал и не беспокоился). I let the programme go. Next, I gave up surfing. Easy. It was never rewarding – proof not only that television had fallen out of love with me at the same time I had fallen out of love with television, but that television had come to hate me personally. Finding other things to do was easy. (Затем я отказался от серфинга. Легко. Это никогда не было полезным - доказательство не только того, что телевидение разлюбило меня, в то время как я разлюбил телевидение, но и то, что телевидение стало ненавидеть меня лично. Найти другие вещи было легко.)

I went back to reading, devouring (пожирая) a whole book in an evening. Finally came news. I love news, possibly more than I love television. So this was the hardest to give up. But television actually helped. The Internet gave me instant, always-on news at any time, better written and more succinct (краткий) than television or radio has ever managed.

But that leaves a single gap. *The Simpsons*. I can't tear that link (могу разорвать эту связь). The equivalent of keeping a wedding album years after the divorce is, for me, *The Simpsons*. (Для меня эквивалентом хранения свадебного альбома спустя годы после развода является «Симпсоны».) Whilst (в то время как) every other programme has dropped away, *The Simpsons* remains. One day, I know I'll give that series up too. At that point television will be part of my history. I'll remain forever fond of the good times, and sour at how I was betrayed. But I'll be free. (Я навсегда останусь в восторге от хороших времен и буду страдать от того, как меня предали. Но я буду свободен.)

Some time after the next episode of *The Simpsons*.

**Wordspot. *Speak and talk***

**Complete the gaps with the correct form of either *speak* or *talk.***

* ‘Actions \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ louder than words' means that what you do is more important than what you say.
* Someone who \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ their mind isn't afraid to say exactly what they mean.
* It's rude for work colleagues to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ shop when outsiders are present.
* He knows what he's \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ about: he's an expert on gardening.
* If you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ well of someone, you say good things about them.
* A \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ point is a subject lots of people want to discuss.
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ radio has phone-ins and interviews rather than music.
* If your voice is very quiet, people may ask you to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ up.
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to yourself is often considered to be a sign of eccentricity.
* Small \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is polite, friendly conversation about unimportant topics.
* They had a huge argument. Since then they haven't been on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ terms.
* Peace \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are negotiations between the two sides in a war.
* A \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_show features interviews with celebrity guests.