

au·di·ence S2 W2

/ˈɔːdiəns \$ ˈɒː-, ˈɑː-/

noun

- 1 [countable also + plural verb] (**BrE**)^{LISTENWATCH} a group of people who come to watch and listen to someone speaking or performing in public:

The audience began clapping and cheering.

audience of

an audience of 250 business people

*One **member of the audience** described the opera as ‘boring’.*

- 2 [countable also + plural verb] (**BrE**) the people who watch or listen to a particular programme, or who see or hear a particular artist's, writer's etc work:

The show attracts a regular audience of about 20 million.

target audience (= the type of people that a programme, advertisement etc is supposed to attract)

*Goya was one of the first painters to look for **a wider audience** for his work.*

The book is not intended for a purely academic audience.

- 3 [countable]^{MEET} a formal meeting with a very important person:

audience with

*He was **granted an audience** with the Pope.*

COLLOCATIONS – Meaning 1 verbs

perform/play to an audience *The band played to huge audiences in Mexico City and Buenos Aires.*

an audience laughs *He has the ability to make an audience*

laugh.

an audience claps *Most of the audience clapped but a few people jeered.*

an audience cheers *The audience cheered loudly when he came on stage.*

the audience boos *She swore at the audience and they began to boo her.*

adjectives

a capacity/packed audience (= the largest number of people who can fit into a hall, theatre etc) *The lecture attracted a capacity audience.*

an enthusiastic audience *They drew enthusiastic audiences at Europe's biggest rock festival.*

NOUN + audience

stadium audiences *Celine Dion's tour continues to play to sold-out stadium audiences across Europe.*

COLLOCATIONS – Meaning 2

verbs

have an audience *The programme has a massive audience, ranging from children to grandparents.*

attract an audience (= make people want to watch) *The first show attracted a television audience of more than 2 million.*

reach an audience *For an advertiser who wants to reach a large audience, television news easily surpasses other news media.*

appeal to an audience (= be interesting to them) *They brought new fashions into their designs to appeal to a wider audience.*

ADJECTIVES/NOUN + audience

a large/huge etc audience *Messages posted on the Internet can attract a huge audience.*

a wide audience *an author who commands a wide audience*
a worldwide audience *The game has an ever-increasing worldwide audience.*

a young/teenage audience *a magazine with a young audience*

an older audience *The programme mainly appeals to an older audience.*

a mass audience (= a very large number of people) *Radio brought entertainment to a mass audience.*

a television audience (= all the people who watch or listen to a particular programme) *Nearly half the UK television audience watched the programme last Tuesday.*

the target audience (= the type of people a programme etc aims to attract) *The target audience is mostly men aged 28 to 35.*

Word origin

Date: 1300–1400

Language: French

Origin: Latin *audientia* 'hearing', from *audire*; → [AUDIO](#)