



COMMUNICATION

# The rise of documentary film-making

**LEVEL** 

Intermediate (B1)

**NUMBER** 

EN B1 3091X

**LANGUAGE** 

English



# **Learning outcomes**

 I can read a text about the rise of documentary film-making and identify the key points.

 I can recognise a variety of words and phrases used to organise written information.





# Warm-up

**Match** the vocabulary (**1-5**) with the definitions (**a-e**). **Complete** the activity in the yellow box.



1 streaming service

2 to produce

3 narrative film

4 genre

**5** to uncover

**a** to create a product

**b** a film about fictional events

to discover something that was hidden

a site where you can access films and TV series

**e** a particular style of film, literature or music

You are going to read a text about **documentary film-making**.

What are some of the **main features of a documentary**? Discuss as a class.



# 9.

#### **Prediction task**

According to the British Film Institute, the number of documentaries produced in the UK each year rose from 4 in 2001 to 86 in 2015.

How many documentaries were produced in the UK in 2001?

How many were produced in 2015?

Were there more or fewer documentaries produced in 2015 compared to 2001? What could be some reasons for the increase?

Brainstorm as a class.







# Reading

- 1. Skim the text silently. Then read it aloud as a class.
- 2. What **three main factors** are suggested as reasons for the growing popularity of the documentary?

One factor responsible for the growing popularity of the documentary is that streaming services have made documentaries more accessible to a wider audience.

The quality of documentaries has also improved due to better technology, such as small, portable digital cameras. Furthermore, documentary film-makers are experimenting with story-telling techniques from narrative film, transforming what was once considered a boring genre – a lecture delivered through the medium of film – into an informative as well as entertaining viewing experience.

Additionally, there is a high demand for factual content. The true crime genre, for example, has seen a huge increase in popularity. In the context of the 24-hour news cycle, documentaries that dive deeper into social and political issues, highlight new perspectives and help to uncover injustices, seem to be providing viewers with a way of gaining insight and making sense of the world we live in.

1

2





# **Reading comprehension**

**Read** the statements about the text. **Decide** whether they are true or false.

		true	false
1	Streaming services have made it more difficult for viewers to find and watch documentaries.		
2	Better technology, such as smaller, portable cameras, has helped to improve the quality of documentaries.		
3	Documentaries used to be considered a boring alternative to narrative films.		
4	Viewers don't want to watch factual content these days.		
5	Documentaries can provide a way of making sense of the world we live in, for example by showing us new perspectives.		





## 24-hour news cycle

The **24-hour news cycle** refers to the media culture of constant, live updates of breaking stories from around the world.

Where are some places that people can access these news stories?





# **Organising written information**

**Read** the phrases from the text on slides 4 and 5. **Complete** the blue box.

According to the British Film Institute...

One factor responsible for the growing popularity of the documentary is...

The quality of documentaries has improved, due to...

Additionally, there is a high demand for...

 Identify the words or phrases above that are used to...

...refer to a **source** of information

...suggest a reason or cause

...add another point as part of an explanation or argument





# **Categorise**

**Categorise** the words and phrases from the text.







## **Discuss**

Do you use streaming services?

If so, which ones?





What was the last documentary you watched?
Did you enjoy it?





# Make your own documentary



- 1. **Brainstorm** an idea for a documentary. (Option: complete this part **in breakout rooms**).
- 2. **Pitch** your (group's) idea to the rest of the class. Would they like to watch this documentary?

**What** subject would you choose?

**Why** would you choose this subject?

**How** would you tell the story?

Here are some ideas to help you choose a subject:

a personal experience, an unusual event, a social issue, a crime or scandal, an inspiring person



# 9.

### Let's reflect!

 Can you read a text about the rise of documentary film-making and identify the key points?

Can you recognise a variety of words and phrases to organise written information?

Your teacher will now make one suggestion for improvement for each student.



## **End of the lesson**

Idiom

#### That's a wrap!

**Meaning:** The phrase comes from film-making – it means that a scene is completed. We use it to say that something is finished or complete.

**Example:** (After a meeting) Ok, that's a wrap! Great job, guys.







# **Additional practice**



# **Complete the sentences**



**Fill in the gaps** using vocabulary from the lesson.

1	services like Netflix have become very popular in recent years.		
2	There are so many films and TV series to by scrolling through different websites.		
3	They could be documentaries or films.		
4	True crime is a lot of people's favourite at the moment.		
_	More and more true crime documentaries are being		



# **Multiple choice**



1	According	ccording a friend of mine, streaming services are a waste of money.			
	a. for	b. to	c. in		
2	A leading academic suggested that streaming services have seen an increaseviolent programmes.				
	a. to	b. for	c. in		
3	One factor responsible the growth in streaming services is convenience.				
	a. to	b. in	c. for		
4 Improved internet services have made possible for mo		possible for more people to stream.			
	a. it	b. in	c. for		
5	Due sharing accounts, streaming services can be an affordable option.				
	a. for	b. to	c. in		





## **Discuss**



**Answer** the questions below.

1 What is the 24-hour news cycle?

2 How do you access it?

**3** Do you think the 24-hour news cycle is good for us?

4 Do you enjoy staying up-to-date on world news?







# Who do you agree with?



**Read** the statements from Jane and Kyle. Do you **agree** with them? Do you **disagree**? Use the **phrases from the lesson** in your answers.



I think the popularity of true crime is scary. Why do people want to learn about these awful things? To be honest, I think the people who watch this genre are weird!

People have less time and money to go to the cinema. I think this is why people are watching more documentaries. Narrative films are not as good at home because of the smaller screen.



According to Jane...

Kyle says that this is due to...

Jane says that this leads to...





# **Free practice**



**Describe** each of the pictures below.

**Choose one** and use vocabulary from the lesson to **write sentences** about the topic shown.

Example: (3) Due to illegal streaming services, more people are watching sport online for free.















# 9.

# **Answer key**

**P.3:** 1. (d) 2. (a) 3. (b) 4. (e) 5. (c)

P.5:

- 1. Streaming services have made documentaries more accessible
- 2. The quality of documentaries has improved
- 3. There is a high demand for factual content

**P.6**:

1. false 2. true 3. true 4. false 5. true

P.8:

Referring to a source of information: According to...

Suggesting a reason or cause: One factor responsible for... is...; due to...

Adding another point as part of an explanation or argument: Additionally...

P.9:

Suggest a reason or cause: 1, 3, 7, 8, 9

Add another point: 4, 5, 10

Describe a trend: 2, 6

P.15: 1. streaming 2. uncover 3. narrative 4. genre 5. produced

**P.16:** 1. (b) 2. (c) 3. (c) 4. (a) 5. (b)



# 9.

# **Summary**

#### The rise of documentary film-making

- Streaming services have made documentaries more accessible to a wider audience.
- The quality of documentaries has also improved due to better technology.
- Factual content, for example the true crime genre, has seen a huge increase in popularity.

#### **Organising written information**

- Refer to a source of information: According to the British film institute...
- Suggest a reason or cause: One factor responsible for the growing popularity of documentary is...
- Add another point as part of the explanation or argument: Additionally, there is a high demand for...

#### 24-hour news cycle

- This refers to the media culture of constant, live updates of breaking stories around the world.
- People access these stories online using phones, tables, and other devices.
- Stories often stop being covered after only a few days as new stories begin to break.

#### **Useful phrases**

- to make (it) possible...
- to see an increase (in)
- This leads to..





# **Vocabulary**

streaming service narrative film genre to uncover to produce 24-hour news cycle due to to make (it) possible to... additionally furthermore

according to...

This leads to...

to be responsible for...

to see an increase (in)

to rise from... to...





# **Notes**

