**A National Obsession**

Americans watch a lot of television. There are more TVs than people in the typical American home today – only ..(1).. of homes have just one TV, and half of all homes have three or more. Fifty percent of American children have got a TV in their bedroom. The average American watches TV for about ..(2).. hours a day, and ..(3).. of people regularly watch TV while they’re having dinner. In fact, on average, Americans spend about ..(4).. of their entire life watching TV!

Maybe this isn’t surprising. The USA was one of the first countries to sell commercial TV sets, and it started showing regular programmes in ..(5)… The Americans made and exported iconic programmes that the entire world saw and loved: drama series like “Star Trek” and comedies like “Happy Days”.

Today, the most popular types of TV programme in the USA are drama series like CSI and talent shows like American Idol. However, every year millions of people watch the Super Bowl, the most important American Football game of the year. In 2010 ..(6).. viewers watched it on TV, the biggest audience ever for a US TV show.

All this TV can have negative results. Americans see a lot of violence on TV – the average child sees over ..(7).. murder on TV before they start high school. Many people think this increases violent behaviour and can cause social problems. One organisation, the Center for Screen-Time Awareness, encourages people to switch off their TVs, at least for one week a year. They call it “Mental Detox Week”. It is becoming more popular every year – in 2008, ..(8).. Americans took part.

**Complete the text using the numbers in the box**

8000 9% 41/2 106.5 millon 19% 66% 20 million 1928

**Answer the questions**

What does the text say about half of all homes in the USA?

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How long does the average American watch TV for every day?

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Why is it not surprising that TV is so important in the USA?

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Which programme always has the biggest TV audience?

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How can TV have a damaging effect on society?

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What do people do during Mental Detox Week?

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**Answer the questions**

How many TVs have you got in your home? Have you got one in your bedroom?

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What TV programmes do you watch? How many hours a day do you watch TV?

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What kinds of TV programmes are popular in Spain?

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Which American TV programmes do you watch?

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Do you think TV can influence behaviour?

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Do you think Mental Detox Week is a good idea? Would you take part?

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**Write a summary of the text**