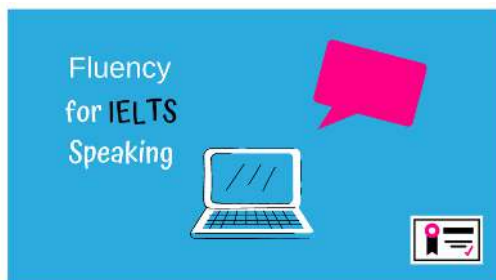


## *Live Lesson Notes*

# Streaming TV Series

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### What you will learn

1. Introduction
2. Vocabulary
3. Listening skills
4. Idioms

## Some useful Links

Watch and read this **full lesson here**

<https://keithspeakingacademy.com/ielts-speaking-television-tv-lesson-topic-vocabulary>

### Learn English with TV Series

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKgpamMIm872zkGDcBJHYDg>

### TV show **genres**

<https://www.esolcourses.com/content/topics/tv/tv-show-genres.html>

### New York Times - **Best 50 TV shows on Netflix**

<https://www.nytimes.com/article/best-tv-shows-netflix.html>

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# Introduction

*There are so many streaming services now that it is hard to keep up to date with all the new releases.*

*We have got Netflix, HBO, Disney, Apple, Hulu, Hoopla, BBC, Prime video, and many more.*

*It's also very easy to become addicted to all the wonderful TV series and films on offer.*

*In this lesson we will learn vocabulary and phrases to talk fluently on this topic.*

*Which TV series do you enjoy watching?*

# IELTS Speaking Vocabulary: Streaming TV series

**Streaming media** = *Video or audio accessed via the Internet. E.g Netflix / Youtube*

**Broadcast media** = *Traditionally this is radio and television*

**Video on Demand** = *Watching a video or series whenever you want e.g. A series on Netflix, A video course on Udemy*

**To subscribe** (v.) = *usually **pay on a monthly basis** to access a service*

**A subscription** (n.)

Most online streaming services, such as Netflix, have a monthly subscription fee.

**To binge on** (v.) = *to do 'too much' of an activity (especially eating, drinking, watching tv)*

**A binge** (n.)

I like to relax and **binge on** Game of Thrones

I am going to **binge watch** a series tonight

His **binge drinking** is a problem (=alcohol)

Modern Family is a **series** on Netflix. It has 10 **seasons**, and each season has lots of interesting **episodes**.

To spoil = to ruin something

A spoiler = *when you tell someone the end of a story / season / episode (but they don't want to know)*

A spoiler alert = *give someone a warning that you will tell them the result (of a match, outcome of a series or book...)*

**A cliff-hanger** = *an exciting end of an episode that **keeps the viewer in suspense***

*All of the following are used to describe adverts that we can find on some streaming services.*

- commercials
- advertisements
- adverts
- ads

### **Different kinds / types / genres of series:**

Sitcom = *situational comedy*

Comedy = *a funny programme*

Soap Opera = *a series about everyday life*

Period Drama = *a drama set in the past*

Documentary = *programme giving factual information*

Factual = *based on a real story*

Sci fi = *science fiction*

Reality TV = *usually follows unknown people in unscripted situations. E.g. Top Chef, Survivor, The Voice*

Lifestyle = *shows about lifestyle activities such as cooking, decorating a house...*

Horror = *a series with a frightening plot*

*The following are similar in that that they involve stories of action and excitement.*

Crime  
Thriller  
Action  
Drama

### **Adjectives to describe TV shows**

You could use the following words to describe, these different genres:

Horror, Crime, Thriller, Action, Drama

- **Gripping**
- **Thrilling**
- **Enthralling**
- **Captivating**
- **Entertaining**

**Scary, spooky** = very frightening

Romantic / Romance

- **Tragic** - very sad,
- **Moving**

Comedy/ Sitcoms

- **Hilarious** (very funny)
- **Humorous**
- **Hysterical**

It was \_\_\_\_\_

It was the most \_\_\_\_\_ I've ever seen

It was one of the \_\_\_\_\_ I've ever seen

## Listening Task

*In this live lesson you will listen to someone talking about their favourite TV series*

*Can you guess the missing words:*

### Answers at bottom of PDF

Modern family is [1] \_\_\_\_\_ one of the [2] \_\_\_\_\_ shows I've ever seen.

I mean I am not one for comedies really, I am more into dramas and [3] \_\_\_\_\_, but when I first saw this series it just had me in [4] \_\_\_\_\_.

I love the diversity of the actors and the really over the top scenarios that they get into. I mean it is just so unbelievable that you can't help laughing.

So, you've got three families who are all interconnected and slightly off-beat, you know, each with their own [5] \_\_\_\_\_.

For example, there is a gay couple who are like chalk and [6] \_\_\_\_\_, they never agree, they usually argue and then in the end, they always make[7] \_\_\_\_\_.

I mean essentially each episode follows the same formula, which is why I guess it has been a success.

It starts with suspense and some [8] \_\_\_\_\_ or misunderstanding, then this confusion spreads across the 3 families, so massive confusion, then there's a crisis, and finally and happy resolution at the end. Classic Hollywood, to be honest.

Anyway, I would recommend it, if you're in the mood for a [9] \_\_\_\_\_, nothing too serious, and of course, just take the [10] \_\_\_\_\_ with a pinch of salt.

## Idioms to talk about TV series

I was **on the edge of my seat** = *I was in suspense*

It **kept me guessing** right up to the end

It **scared** the hell **out of me** = *it really scared me*

It **scared me to death**

The following 4 all mean '*it made me laugh*'

- It had me **rolling in the aisles**
- **It had me in stitches**
- It **cracked me up**
- I **split my sides** (laughing)

I was **welling up** it was so sad = *about to cry*

I had to **take it with a pinch of salt** = *don't take it too seriously*

It was so **over the top** = *unrealistic / unbelievable / far-fetched*



## Listening Task - ANSWERS

Modern family is [1] **undoubtedly** one of the [2] **funniest** shows I've ever seen.

I mean *I am not one for* comedies really, I *am more into* dramas and [3] **thrillers**, but when I first saw this series *it just had me in* [4] **stitches** (= *it made me laugh a lot*)

I love the diversity of the actors and the really *over the top* (= *unrealistic, unbelievable*) **scenarios** (= **situations**) that they get into. I mean it is just so unbelievable that *you can't help laughing*.

So, you've got three families who are all interconnected and slightly *off-beat*, (= *unusual*) you know, each with their own [5] **idiosyncrasies** (= *unique behaviour or characteristic*)

For example, there is a gay couple who *are like chalk and* [6] **cheese**, they never agree, they usually argue and then in the end, they always make [7] **up** (= *become friends*)

I mean essentially each *episode* follows the same *formula*, which is why I guess it has been a success.

It starts with suspense and some [8] **confusion** or misunderstanding, then this *confusion spreads* across the 3 families, so *massive confusion*, then there's a *crisis*, and finally and happy *resolution* at the end. Classic Hollywood, to be honest.

Anyway, I would recommend it, if you're *in the mood for* a [9] **laugh**, nothing too serious, and of course, just *take the* [10] **plot** (= *story*) *with a pinch of salt*. (= *don't take it too seriously*)