

17.TV & Movies

A lot of people in modern society are hooked on TV. The idiot box has become a "third parent" to our children and a "second spouse" to our wives and husbands. Indeed, in some homes the children, and individually the parents, spend more time with the television than each other. Critics worry that passively watching TV is too absorbing of our time and attention. We, not only do not get enough physical exercise, but we do not stimulate our mental activity either.

Another problem is the tendency toward copycat behavior: we dress, talk, and behave in ways that we model after characters on TV and in the movies. This is especially worrisome since so many of these programs are excessively violent and sexually suggestive. Many legal experts believe that delinquency problems are made much worse by young people imitating what they see in the media.

Two steps need to be taken. First, parents need to do a better job of policing their TV sets, not only in terms of what their children watch but also how much time they spend doing it. Second, parents and teachers must educate kids to develop a more conscious, critical attitude toward what they watch, instead of just absorbing it all like a sponge.

Comprehension

1. Name three problems with watching movies and television.
2. Why do legal experts blame TV for so much delinquency?
3. How should the problem be addressed?

Express Yourself

1. What programs do you usually watch on TV?
2. How many hours a day do you watch TV?
3. Do your children watch much TV? How much?





4. Do you subscribe to cable TV?
5. Who has the most power over channel selection in your home?
6. Do you change the channel when commercials come in?
7. Do you think commercials are a good source of product information?
8. Do you think watching TV is educational?
9. How often do you go to a movie theater?
10. How many video tapes or DVDs do you watch?
11. What kind of movies do you like? Do you like American films? What kind? Science fiction? Comedies? Dramas? Horror? Crime? Adventure?
12. What do you think about Japanese movies?
13. What was the most impressive movie you've ever seen?
14. Who's your favorite movie star?

