**Television**

In the modern world TV is an essential part of our everyday life.

A first-rate colour TV set and а cassette recorder have become ordinary things in the household nowadays.

Modern television offers the viewers several programmes on different channels. A wide choice of TV programmes can satisfy people from all walks of life.

In addition to regular newscasts and documentaries you can see teleplays and films, operas and ballets, and watch all kinds of contests, quizzes and chat shows Pupils and students can get a lot of useful information on the educational channel. A good serial perhaps, a detective story, a screen version of a classical novel a comedy, a western can keep the whole family in front of the telly for days Housewives will undoubtedly admire soap operas or gardening programmes And elderly men prefer watching sports programmes and actual actual is a TV programme based on a real event. Long TV marathons are also extremely popular now.

Not long ago commercial or cable TV appeared as an alternative to free TV, private independent stations divide IV markets and broadcast their programmes in their areas. TV is also supported by business people who want to see the advertisements of their goods on the screen.

Television now plays such an important part in so many people's lives that it is difficult to decide whether it is a blessing or a curse. In fact TV has both advantages and disadvantages. Television is an immense source of information; it dominates over radio and newspapers. TV keeps us informed on current events and gives us a splendid opportunity to follow the latest developments in science and politics, besides TV entertains us. Apart from its entertaining value it provides useful topics for conversation. The most distant countries and the strangest customs are brought right into the sitting-room where you are half-sitting and half-lying in a comfortable armchair. So TV is a great comfort for human beings, it helps us to relax after a long working day. It is a true friend to lonely and old people.

The TV screen has a terrible fascination force. Telly addicts become dependent on it. Very often it begins to substitute our соmmunication with our friends and relatives. It makes us forget our duties and responsibilities, put them off or on the backs of other people.

The Americans worked out the so called «aggressive cues 'theory’ ‘which says that presentation of violence on TV makes teenagers regard violence as the norm of behavior. Besides it prevents school children from doing their homework, playing outdoors, doing physical exercise. They just sit with their eyes glued to the screen having made watching TV their main leisure activity and they don't enrich their personal qualities. For many people TV has already become a kind of chewing gum for eyes, they don't concentrate on what they see so their time is largely wasting.

**Vocabulary**

**documentaries** – документальные фильмы

**quiz** - викторина

**telly** – сл. телевизор

**blessing** - благословление

**curse** - проклятие

**substitute** - заменять

**Questions**

1. What can a modern TV offer?
2. Is television run by the government?
3. Is TV a blessing or a curse?