

Too much television

A new study suggests that the amount of television young children watch may be directly related to attention problems later in school. They may even suffer a condition known as Attention Deficit Disorder or A.D.D. Experts say that A.D.D. involves an over-stimulation of young developing brains and teachers say many children in the United States are showing signs of the disorder. Some education researchers have believed for years that watching television at a very young age could change the normal development of the brain. For example, they say that children who watch a lot of television are not able to sit and read for an extended period of time, show less ability to listen, pay attention, as well as engage in independent problem solving.

This new study tested the idea that television watching by very young children is linked to attention problems by the age of seven. The findings reported that every hour pre-schoolers watch television increases their chances by about ten percent of developing attention deficit problems later in life. For example, children who watched three hours a day were thirty percent more likely to have attention problems than those who watched no television.

One of the researchers said there are other reasons why children should not watch television. Earlier studies have linked it with children becoming too fat and too aggressive. Other experts say the new study is important, but more work needs to confirm the results and better explain the cause and effect

1. Are the following statements TRUE or FALSE? Copy the evidence form the text. No marks are given for only TRUE or FALSE. (2 points)

- a) It seems that the Attention Deficit Disorder appears when children's brains are not stimulated.
- b) The new study examined the effect of TV on attention problems in teenagers.

2. In your own words and based on the ideas in the text, answer the following questions. (2 points)

- a) According to the new study, how can watching a lot of television affect children's behaviour?
- b) Why didn't earlier research encourage the habit of watching television?

3. Find the words in the text that mean... (1 point)

- a) quantity (paragraph 1)
- b) symptoms (paragraph 1)
- c) examined (paragraph 2)
- d) previous (paragraph 3)

4. Complete the following sentences. Use the appropriate form of the word in brackets when given (2 points).

- a) Thirty years ago, scientists _____ (begin) to study the link _____ aggressive behaviour and television watching.
- b) "How _____ do you go to the cinema?" "I usually go once _____ month."
- c) Switch _____ the TV now, the news _____ (be) about to start.

Complete the following sentence to report what was said

- d) What will you do when you finish your homework? -- He asked the girl...

5. Write about 100 to 150 words on one of the following topics (3 points).

- A. Which are your favourite TV programmes? Describe them and explain why you like them.
- B. Do you think the government should control TV programmes? Discuss.

Answers

Question 1:

- a) FALSE. *Experts say that A.D.D. involves an over-stimulation of young developing brains...*
- b) FALSE. *This new study tested the idea that television watching by very young children is linked to attention problems by the age of seven.*

Question 2:

- a) The study concludes that television watching by young children over-stimulates their brains. And this has obvious effects on their behaviour: they cannot concentrate on any intellectual task, such as reading, listening or trying to solve a problem on their own.
- b) Before this new study appeared, other studies had advised parents not to let their children watch too much TV. The reason is that if children do so, they can put on weight or become more violent.

Question 3:

- a) amount
- b) signs
- c) tested
- d) earlier

Question 4:

- a) began / between
- b) often / a
- c) on / is
- d) He asked the girl what she would do when she finished her homework.

Question 5:

This is a sample composition on topic A.

Which are your favourite TV programmes? Describe them and explain why you like them.

In the present there are not many TV programmes I like, but there are a couple of them I enjoy watching. One of these is "The Simpsons". These cartoons about the everyday life of a weird American family have been on TV for years now, however, they still surprise me with their original and entertaining plots. You never can guess how the episode will end up, they're unpredictable! The only bad thing is that they have shown every episode lots of times in Spain, so you can almost know the dialogues by heart.

Another series I love is "Desperate Housewives" ("Mujeres Desesperadas" in Spain). This is a comedy about the lives of four women who are good friends and neighbours. The most original thing about it is that the narrator is a friend of them who committed suicide in the first episode. Each of these women has secrets and problems she never tells the others. And the most ordinary-looking people in the neighbourhood turn out to have a kind of "mysterious life".