

Young people are not watching TV news

30th July, 2019



Young people in Great Britain are watching less and less news on television. This is according to Ofcom, a regulatory body that oversees broadcasting practices in the UK. This comes as no surprise as young people become increasingly addicted to their smartphones. Youth are opting for online distractions like YouTube videos, social media and games rather than switch on a TV and watch a news programme. Britain's Guardian newspaper reported that: "The youth of the nation are more likely to get their day's news about the world from social media or by reading graffiti in bus stations than seeing it on the telly, with the average 16-24-year-old watching just two minutes' worth of live TV news per day."

Ofcom commissioned research into the news-viewing habits of people around the country. The report is called "News Consumption in the UK: 2019". The research suggests that young people are increasingly using social media as their primary news source. Researchers wrote: "There is evidence that UK adults are consuming news more actively via social media." They reported an increase in posts and comments on Facebook and Twitter about the news compared to last year. Ofcom suggested presenting news stories in a less complicated, more accessible way to attract young people's attention. Some people suggested this would be "dumbing down content for young audiences".

Sources: theguardian.com / ofcom.org.uk / gizmodo.co.uk

Writing

Watching news in the TV is better than watching news on smartphones. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

young people / news / broadcasting / smartphones / youth / nation / graffiti / average / research / habits / social media / news source / evidence / complicated / attention

True / False

- a) A regulatory body said young people are watching less TV news. T / F
- b) The article said it was a surprise that young people watch little TV news. T / F
- c) A newspaper said people get news by reading graffiti in bus stations. T / F
- d) The article says young people watch 2 minutes of live news per day. T / F
- e) The article said young people use the radio as a primary news source. T / F
- f) The article said young people are not using social media to get news. T / F
- g) People are posting more about news on social media. T / F
- h) Some people suggested making news stories more complicated. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. according to | a. main |
| 2. oversees | b. amusements |
| 3. increasingly | c. subject matter |
| 4. distractions | d. inspects |
| 5. live | e. ordered |
| 6. commissioned | f. proof |
| 7. primary | g. as stated by |
| 8. evidence | h. win over |
| 9. attract | i. not recorded |
| 10. content | j. ever more |

Discussion – Student A

- a) How important is the news to you?
- b) What is the best source of news?
- c) Why are young people watching less TV news?
- d) Which is better for news - the radio or newspapers?
- e) Why are people so addicted to their smartphones?
- f) How good is YouTube at providing news?
- g) What do you think of getting news from bus station graffiti?
- h) How much news should we watch each day?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. This is according | a. accessible way |
| 2. young people become increasingly | b. in bus stations |
| 3. online distractions | c. using social media |
| 4. reading graffiti | d. addicted |
| 5. two minutes' worth of | e. source |
| 6. research into the news-viewing | f. like YouTube |
| 7. young people are increasingly | g. to Ofcom |
| 8. their primary news | h. for young audiences |
| 9. in a less complicated, more | i. live TV news per day |
| 10. dumbing down content | j. habits of people |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- Where do you get your news from?
- Is TV the best place to get news?
- What do you think of the news recently?
- Is social media changing the way we consume news?
- Would it bother you never to watch any news?
- Should TV 'dumb down' the news to attract younger people?
- What questions would you like to ask the researchers?

Spelling

- This is dcconriag to Ofcom
- a urloryaegt body
- increasingly ceddtia to their smartphones
- opting for online ioatsirtsdnc
- reading rftafigi in bus stations
- the vgearea 16-24-year-old
- Ofcom omeomcsdinsi research
- their mipyrra news source
- nognmcius news more actively
- less camlictedop
- this would be udmnbig down content
- for young seenduaci

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. d	3. j	4. b	5. i
6. e	7. a	8. f	9. h	10. c

Role Play

Role A – Celebrity News

You think celebrity news is the best news category. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their category isn't as interesting. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): business news, local news or political news.

Role B – Business News

You think business news is the best news category. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their category isn't as interesting. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): celebrity news, local news or political news.

Role C – Local News

You think local news is the best news category. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their category isn't as interesting. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): business news, celebrity news or political news.

Role D – Political News

You think political news is the best news category. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their category isn't as interesting. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): business news, local news or celebrity news.

Speaking – News

Rank these with your partner. Put the best news at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|----------|---------------|
| • sports | • celebrity |
| • local | • environment |
| • world | • political |
| • fake | • business |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	F	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.