“QualityTime-ESL” presents…

Your English No. 55 – Top US TV Shows

Hi. I’m Marianne Raynaud. My goal is to help my listeners perfect their spoken English. In this series we try to vary the topics and the level. In our other series you can work on your grammar with “QualityTime-ESL Podcasts” or practice song lyrics with “5 Minute TOPs”. In this episode we will train together using the titles of currently popular American TV series and game shows.

You have probably seen or at least heard about many of these shows, but are you sure you can pronounce their titles correctly? Let’s practice with a first group of sixteen. These are not rankings in any way—just lists of popular shows you may wish to talk about.

Listen and repeat this first selection.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Big Bang Theory</th>
<th>2 1/2 Men</th>
<th>Criminal Minds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Walking Dead</td>
<td>Modern Family</td>
<td>Once Upon a Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Game of Thrones</td>
<td>Grey's Anatomy</td>
<td>Doctor Who</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Vampire Diaries</td>
<td>Jersey Shore</td>
<td>Spartacus: War of the Damned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supernatural</td>
<td>Breaking Bad</td>
<td>Persons of Interest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homeland</td>
<td>How I Met Your Mother</td>
<td>Law &amp; Order</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Now let’s do an exercise. I’ll say one word or one syllable to help you and you will say the title. Listen to the examples.

I say: Bang...  
You say: The Big Bang Theory

I say: Walking...  
You say: The Walking Dead

Now you go on in the same way. Be sure to speak before I give the title.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bang...</th>
<th>Modern...</th>
<th>Once...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Big Bang Theory</td>
<td>Modern Family</td>
<td>Once Upon a Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walking...</td>
<td>Grey’s...</td>
<td>Doctor...</td>
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<td>Game...</td>
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<td>Vampire...</td>
<td>How...</td>
<td>Persons...</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Let’s try with a second selection of shows. Listen and repeat.

Desperate Housewives  Mad Men  The Good Wife
NCIS  Boardwalk Empire  Ugly Betty
Shameless  Curb Your Enthusiasm  Private Practice
True Blood  Brothers and Sisters  House of Cards
The Closer  Gossip Girl  The Mentalist

Again I’ll say one word or one syllable and you will say the title. At times I will give two words or two syllables to help you. Be sure to speak before I give the title. So let’s give it a try.

Desperate…  Mad…  The Good…
Desperate Housewives  Mad Men  The Good Wife
NC…  Boardwalk…  Ugly…
NCIS  Boardwalk Empire  Ugly Betty
Shame…  Curb Your…  Private…
Shameless  Curb Your Enthusiasm  Private Practice
True…  Brothers…  House …
True Blood  Brothers and Sisters  House of Cards
The Clo…  Gossip…  The Men…
The Closer  Gossip Girl  The Mentalist

In the last section we will work on some well-known game shows. Listen and repeat.

American Idol  X Factor  Iron Chef America
Dancing with the Stars  America's Got Talent  The Price Is Right
So You Think You Can Dance  Big Brother  The Celebrity Apprentice
The Voice  Biggest Loser  Project Runway

To finish I’ll give you a hint, a little suggestion, and you will say the title of the show. Off we go.

American…  X…  Iron…
American Idol  X Factor  Iron Chef America
Dancing…  America’s…  The Price…
Dancing with the Stars  America's Got Talent  The Price Is Right
So You…  Big…  The Celebrity…
So You Think You Can Dance  Big Brother  The Celebrity Apprentice
The Vo…  Biggest…  Project…
The Voice  Biggest Loser  Project Runway

That’s the end of this podcast. Now you can quiz your friends on these titles or just watch them. Watching shows in English on DVDs with English subtitles is excellent language training together with our different podcast series. Bye for now, and don’t forget to keep smiling.