Television

**Out of Range: A TV addict whose television set collapsed and expired on a Friday evening spent a fruitless Saturday trying to get some expert to come and revivify it. "I wonder where all the television repairmen go on the weekends?" he complained to a friend. "I don't know," the friend replied, "but they're probably off somewhere whooping it up with the plumbers and the doctors." *(James Dent, in Charleston, West Virginia, Gazette)***

**Television is a device that permits people who haven’t anything to do to watch people who can’t do anything. *(Fred Allen, comedian)***

**The average American home now has more television sets than people. The typical American household has 2.55 people and 2.73 televisions. Half of American homes have three or more sets. *(Associated Press, as it appeared in The Week magazine, October 6, 2006)***

**Of course, if you watch cable television seven hours a night, it's a bargain. But if you watch it seven hours a night, you're not a bargain. *(Ellen Goodman, Washington Post Writers Group)***

**Before television and radio, the business of life itself consumed most of the waking hours of most Americans. For those who lived on farms, when you weren’t working you were either eating or sleeping. For the urban working class, a short workday stopped at 10 hours. So what were average Americans doing with the time they now devote to television? Nothing, because they didn’t have time. We should rejoice rather than complain that such time for wasting is now the possession of the many, rather than the few. *(Hodding Carter III, in The Wall Street Journal)***

**Before Milton Berle, TV sets were owned only by the few, the rich. Then, in 1948, the Tuesday-night Texaco Star Theater exploded like a stick of nitro, with an assault of vaudeville skits, ancient gags and a man who often dressed as a woman. Suddenly everybody had to have a television -- all because a middle-aged comic with manic energy and a desperate need to please was making a fool of himself, live, in America’s living rooms. Subtle as a spray of seltzer, Berle dominated the young medium’s ratings for years, at his peak winning 80% of the viewing audiences. Eventually, TV grew up -- anyway, it grew older -- and by the mid-’50s, Berle’s innocent vulgarity had given way to more domestic, less frantic fare. But his ghost still haunts the tube. The Fear Factor daredevils, the Jackass prankster-masochists, the talk-show mutants who will do anything for a laugh or a shock -- all are the nieces and nephews of Uncle Miltie. *(Richard Corliss, in Time magazine)***

**Husband: "I think people are starting to get fed up with how our team is playing this year." Wife: "What makes you think that?" Husband: "During televised games, when they break for commercials, the ratings actually go up!" *(Art Sansom, in The Born Loser comic strip)***

**Television can give us so much, except the time to think. *(Bernice Buresh, in Los Angeles Times)***

**Television has changed the American child from an irresistible force into an immovable object. *(Laurence J. Peter, educator and author)***

**Television is democracy at its ugliest. *(Paddy Chayefsky)***

**Late-night TV is educational. It usually teaches that you should have gone to bed earlier. *(Changing Times, The Kiplinger Magazine)***

**Apparently television was having more of an effect on our five-year-old daughter Kate than we had thought. One afternoon when my wife asked her what time she would like her snack, Kate replied, “Five o’clock Eastern time, four o’clock Central. (Gregory A. Hinkle, in Reader’s Digest)**

**If television encouraged us to work as much as it encourages us to do everything else, we could better afford to buy more of everything it advertises. (Cullen Hightower)**

**A Hollywood producer relates how one African headhunter explained his first glimpse of a TV set to another. "It's a wonderful machine where they shrink the whole body." (Hollywood Reporter, August, 1964)**

**Television is an invention that permits you to be entertained in your living room by people you wouldn't have in your home. (David Frost, journalist)**

**Television has made dictatorship impossible but democracy unbearable. (Shimon Peres)**

**The Internet has hardly trumped television. The 90 percent of Americans who watch TV – an audience of 283 million people – consume an average of 146 hours of programming a month, compared with just 12 hours of online video watched by 155 million viewers. Despite all the buzz around digital video, that industry is worth just $3.5 billion, not even 5 percent of the $74 billion television industry. (AdWeek.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, March 14, 2014)**

**Television is a medium because it is neither rare nor well done. (Ernie Kovacs)**

**Television news is like a lightning flash. It makes a loud noise, lights up everything around it, leaves everything else in darkness and then is suddenly gone. *(Hodding Carter, in Reader's Digest)***

**I find television very educating. Every time somebody turns on the set I go into the other room and read a book. (Groucho Marx)**

**Television is a medium. They call it that because a lot of the stuff you see on it is neither rare nor well done. ((Bits & Pieces)**

**The mother's fear that her young son was watching too much television was finally confirmed when she overheard him saying his prayers. "Bless Mommy and Daddy," the boy began, "and give us this day our slow-baked, oven-fresh, butter-topped, vitamin-enriched bread." (Joseph Lozanoff, in Reader's Digest)**

**According to data from the American Time Use Survey, watching television was still the No. 1 leisure activity in 2013, with Americans spending an average of two hours and 46 minutes each day watching TV. Americans also spent more time sleeping than a decade ago, with an average of eight hours and 44 minutes a night. (The Wall Street Journal, as it appeared in The Week magazine, July 4, 2014)**

**Some days the only good things on TV are the vase and the clock. (Laurence J. Peter, in Peter’s Almanac)**

**Television remote controls encourage couch potatoes to exercise their options while broadening their base. (William Arthur Ward)**

**A Night to Remember: I shall long cherish the memory of that delightful evening I spent at home. My wife and I had a simple dinner alone, with pleasant and interesting conversation. Then we sat at the piano and sang many of our favorite songs. When our throats grew weary, we turned on the stereo and danced to beautiful music. When our breath became short, we strolled arm-in-arm, through our moonlit yard. I was so very happy, and I longed for more such evenings. But, alas -- early the next morning, a truck pulled into our driveway and shattered my hopes. It was the TV repairman. (Dr. Bothwell Graham III, in Reader's Digest)**

**We were sitting around watching one of this season's sorry television shows when my son said, "Let's turn off the TV and watch the kitten." (Quoted by Troy Gordon, in Tulsa World)**

**A pastor was preaching an impassioned sermon on the evils of television. "It steals away precious time that could be better spent on other things," he said, "advising the congregation to do what he and his family had done. "We put our TV away in the closet." "That's right," his wife mumbled, "and it gets awfully crowded in there." (Sherri Dormer, in Reader's Digest)**

**You do have to admire one thing about TV-sitcom families -- they never waste time watching television. (Kris Lee, in The Saturday Evening Post)**

**A report introduced in the U.S. Senate states that a child will have witnessed 8,000 murders and 100,000 acts of violence on television before completing elementary school. *(Harry Bright & Harlan Briscoe, in So, Now You Know, p. 59)***

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