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# Movies, series, sitcoms, TV shows

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## Movies, series, sitcoms, TV shows

One of the most popular ways of relaxing at the end of each day is to watch television. We can watch **the news** or a **show** about **current affairs**, a **sitcom** or a **reality TV** show, or we can watch our favourite sports or a movie. But the kind of show that many people enjoy watching the most is called a **series**. This is the kind of show that tells a story over many **episodes**, like *Game of Thrones* and *The Walking Dead*.

When television was first **broadcast** in the 1950s it was **free-to-air**, so anyone who had a TV could watch. They could watch **public television** on a state-owned **channel** like the **BBC** or **PBS**, or they could watch commercial television on a privately-owned **channel** that showed **commercials** during the shows. To find out which TV shows each channel was broadcasting, viewers had to check the TV schedule in a newspaper. In most countries, there were only four or five channels to choose from, but in the 1980s more channels became available when **cable TV** was launched. This meant viewers could pay to have a cable connected to their home that brought lots of new channels. These included sports channels like ESPN, news channels like **CNN**, and also channels like **HBO** that showed movies and TV series.

We can still watch free-to-air or cable TV, but now we can also buy **boxed sets** containing all the episodes of a TV series, or we can pay to have a series **streamed** via the Internet. Before boxed sets and streaming TV, we'd often have to wait a whole week for the next episode of a series to be shown, but now we can watch episodes at any time. We can even watch a whole **season**, or a whole series, in one or two days if we want to. For learners of English, watching a series like *Breaking Bad* or *Downton Abbey* is not only great entertainment, it's also a great way to improve your English.

▪ If you'd like to watch a TV series in English, the list below includes some of the best that are now available:

- *Game of Thrones*
- *True Detective*
- *Stranger Things*
- *The Crown*
- *The Handmaid's Tale*
- *Watchmen*
- *The Mandalorian*

# EnglishClub Wordchecker

- **BBC** (noun): British Broadcasting Corporation, a public broadcaster of radio and television programs in the UK. - *The BBC has some really interesting current affairs shows.*
- **boxed set (also "box set")** (noun): a collection of TV series episodes, music albums or movies on a set of DVD or Blu-ray discs - *I just bought a boxed set of the first five seasons of Doctor Who!*
- **broadcast** (verb): to send television or radio signals over the air - *Most television stations didn't broadcast in colour until the 1960s.*
- **cable TV**(noun): television channels that paying customers receive via coaxial or fibre-optic cable - *When we first got cable TV in 1983, we watched lots of music videos on MTV.*

# EnglishClub Wordchecker

- **channel** (noun): a public or private broadcaster of TV shows - *Let's change the channel and watch something else.*
- **CNN** (noun): Cable News Network, a private cable TV news channel - *CNN was one of the first 24-hour cable channels that only showed news.*
- **commercial** (noun): an advertisement on television or radio - *If a TV channel shows too many commercials, not many people will watch it.*
- **commercial television** (noun): private television companies that make money by showing commercials - *My dad hated commercials, so we never watched commercial television.*
- **current affairs** (noun): political, economic and social events that are current, or happening now - *We usually watch a current affairs show after the nightly news.*

# EnglishClub Wordchecker

- **episode** (noun): one part of a TV series, usually 30 to 60 minutes long - *How many episodes are there in the first season of Game of Thrones?*
- **free-to-air** (adjective): can be watched for free by anyone with a television set - *Before cable television appeared, all television broadcasts were free-to-air.*
- **HBO** (noun): Home Box Office, a private cable TV channel that shows movies and TV series - *John and Liz love watching movies, so they don't mind paying extra for HBO.*
- **PBS** (noun): Public Broadcasting Service, a public broadcaster of radio and television programs in the U.S.A. - *Did you watch that show about Martin Luther King on PBS last night?*
- **public television** (noun): free government-funded TV channels that don't usually show commercials - *There are some really good shows on public television in Australia.*

# EnglishClub Wordchecker

- **reality TV** (noun): a form of television in which members of the public are shown in competitive situations - *Some of the most famous reality TV shows include Big Brother, The Voice and Survivor.*
- **season** (noun): a set of related episodes shown over one single period of weeks or months - *Did you think the second season of Downton Abbey was as good as the first season?*
- **series** (noun) a television show that tells a story over many episodes or seasons - *The best series I've seen recently is called Top of the Lake.*
- **show** (noun): a programme on television or radio - *Did you watch that show on the BBC last night about the history of India?*
- **sitcom (or "situation comedy")** (noun): a TV series about a group of people who keep getting into comical situations - *Julie's all-time favourite sitcoms are The Big Bang Theory and Modern Family.*

# EnglishClub Wordchecker

- **the news** (noun): a television or radio broadcast with the latest news and current events - *When I was a kid, we watched the news on Channel 2 every night at 7 o'clock.*
- Contributor: [Matt Errey](#). Matt is the author of several books including [1000 Phrasal Verbs in Context](#) and [Common English Idioms](#) for learners, and [Matt's ESL Games and Quizzes](#) for teachers. He is also creator of [WORD UP](#), the world's #1 EFL board game.
- <https://www.englishclub.com/vocabulary/tv-series.php>

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# Game of Thrones

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**Lucifer**

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# Supernatural

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# Sex Education



# Grey's Anatomy

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**How to get away  
with murder**

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# Scandal

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**C.S.I.**

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# Criminal Minds

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**Orange is the new  
black**

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# La casa de papel

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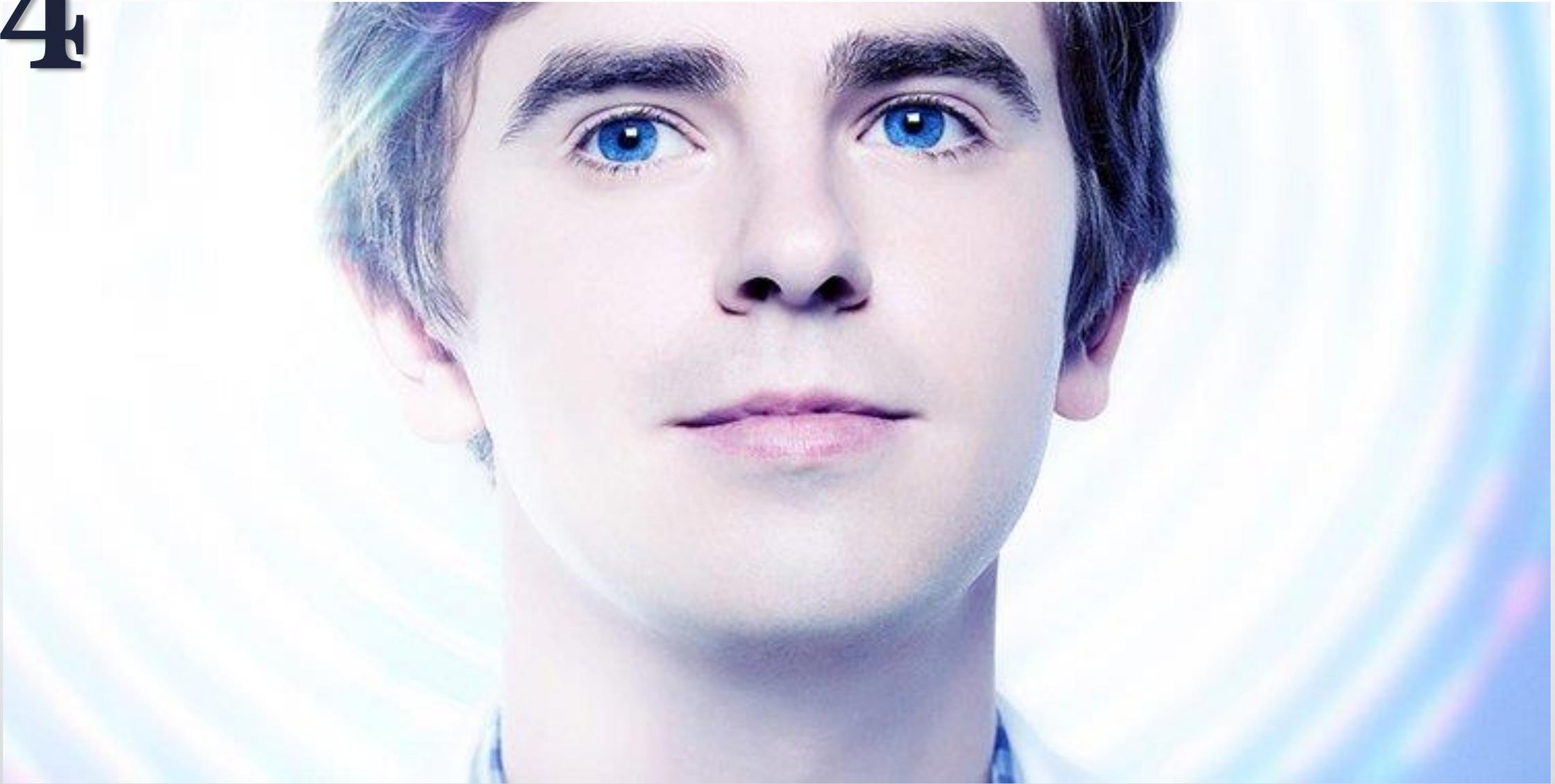
# Bridgerton

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# The Good Doctor

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# Breaking Bad

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**Law and Order:**  
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# Stranger Things

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**Riverdale**