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California gets tough on TVs

MANY FLASH AND ONLINE ACTIVITIES FOR THIS LESSON, PLUS A LISTENING, AT:

<http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0911/091118-tv.html>

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ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.

18th November, 2009

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0911/091118-tv.html>

The American state of California is trying to help the environment. It is getting tough on people with old televisions. Very soon, California residents will get a fine if they have a TV that uses too much power. Televisions use up 10% of home energy bills in California. Officials believe Californians will save more than \$8billion in energy bills in ten years. Over the next few years, only energy-efficient TV sets will be on sale. Energy commissioner Julia Levin said: "It will save consumers money, it will help protect public health, and it will spark innovation."

It's great that California is doing this. Many people don't understand how much energy TVs use. The big problem is people don't need to watch TV. They leave it on and don't look at it. A bigger problem is the number of TVs people have. Every member of the family has a television. There's one in every bedroom, the living room and even the kitchen. This is totally unnecessary. I think televisions are a waste of time, a waste of energy and a waste of money. Let's look at TV less, save energy and do more useful things.

PHRASE MATCH

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0911/091118-tv.html>

Match the following phrases from the article.

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. help the | a. too much power |
| 2. getting | b. innovation |
| 3. a TV that uses | c. environment |
| 4. save more than \$8billion | d. few years |
| 5. Over the next | e. tough |
| 6. it will spark | f. in energy bills |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. It's great that California | a. unnecessary |
| 2. people don't need to | b. is doing this |
| 3. They leave it on | c. useful things |
| 4. This is totally | d. money |
| 5. a waste of | e. watch TV |
| 6. do more | f. and don't look at it |

LISTENING GAP FILL

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0911/091118-tv.html>

The American state of California _____ the environment. It is _____ people with old televisions. Very soon, California residents will get _____ a TV that uses too much power. Televisions use up 10% of home energy bills in California. Officials believe Californians _____ \$8billion in energy bills in ten years. Over the next few years, only energy-efficient TV sets _____. Energy commissioner Julia Levin said: "It will save consumers money, it will help protect public health, _____ innovation."

_____ California is doing this. Many people don't understand how much energy TVs use. The big problem is people _____ TV. They leave it on and don't look at it. A bigger problem _____ TVs people have. Every _____ has a television. There's one in every bedroom, the living _____ the kitchen. This is totally unnecessary. I think televisions are a waste of time, a waste of energy and a waste of money. Let's look at TV less, save energy _____ things.

MULTIPLE CHOICE

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0911/091118-tv.html>

The American state of California is (1) _____ to help the environment. It is getting tough on people with old televisions. Very soon, California residents will get a (2) _____ if they have a TV that (3) _____ too much power. Televisions use up 10% of home energy bills in California. Officials believe Californians will save more than \$8billion in energy bills (4) _____ ten years. Over the next few years, only energy-efficient TV sets will be (5) _____ sale. Energy commissioner Julia Levin said: "It will save consumers money, it will help protect public health, and it will spark innovation."

It's great that California is (6) _____ this. Many people don't understand how much energy TVs use. The big problem is people don't need to watch TV. They leave it (7) _____ and don't look at it. A bigger problem is the number of TVs people have. Every member of the family has a television. There's one in every bedroom, the living room and (8) _____ the kitchen. This is (9) _____ unnecessary. I think televisions are a waste of time, a waste of energy and a waste of money. Let's look at TV less, save energy and do more (10) _____ things.

Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- | | | | |
|-----|-------------|------------|-------------|
| 1. | (a) trial | (b) tried | (c) trying |
| 2. | (a) finally | (b) final | (c) finals |
| 3. | (a) using | (b) used | (c) uses |
| 4. | (a) in | (b) on | (c) at |
| 5. | (a) in | (b) to | (c) on |
| 6. | (a) doing | (b) does | (c) did |
| 7. | (a) in | (b) on | (c) up |
| 8. | (a) ever | (b) even | (c) never |
| 9. | (a) total | (b) totals | (c) totally |
| 10. | (a) useless | (b) useful | (c) used |

SPELLING

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0911/091118-tv.html>

Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.

Paragraph 1

1. yngitr to help
2. getting hutgo on people
3. get a fnei
4. uses too much eprwo
5. Over the next few erasy
6. protect ilpbuc health

Paragraph 2

7. how much rgeyne TVs use
8. They eelva it on
9. Every emmrbe of the family
10. ylltoat unnecessary
11. a atwse of time
12. do more slfuue things

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0911/091118-tv.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () It's great that California is doing this. Many people don't understand how much energy TVs use. The big problem
- () power. Televisions use up 10% of home energy bills in California. Officials believe Californians will save more
- () than \$8billion in energy bills in ten years. Over the next few years, only energy-efficient TV sets will be on sale.
- () old televisions. Very soon, California residents will get a fine if they have a TV that uses too much
- () the kitchen. This is totally unnecessary. I think televisions are a waste of time, a waste of energy and a
- () Energy commissioner Julia Levin said: "It will save consumers money, it will help protect public health, and it will spark innovation."
- () people have. Every member of the family has a television. There's one in every bedroom, the living room and even
- (**1**) The American state of California is trying to help the environment. It is getting tough on people with
- () waste of money. Let's look at TV less, save energy and do more useful things.
- () is people don't need to watch TV. They leave it on and don't look at it. A bigger problem is the number of TVs

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

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With a partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. help to trying is California environment the.

2. a get fine will residents . California

3. uses Have too a much TV power that.

4. Over years few next the.

5. money consumers save will It.

6. great It's this doing is California that.

7. People need watch don't to TV.

8. the A number bigger of problem tvs is.

9. time are a I waste think of televisions.

10. things useful more do and energy Save.

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

WRITING

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0911/091118-tv.html>

Write about television for 10 minutes. Show your partner your paper. Correct each other's work.

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find more information about how to save energy. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about television. Include imaginary interviews with two people – one loves TV and the other one hates it. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

4. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

5. LETTER: Write a letter to the Governor of California. Ask him three questions about saving energy. Give him three of your opinions on how to save power. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Your partner will answer the questions you asked.