

TV SHOWS FOR LEARNING ENGLISH: BREAKING BAD

TRAVEL CONVERSATION

SEMESTER 3, LESSON 007



TABLETOPIC

Choose and discuss one of these interesting table topic questions in order to get warmed up for the lesson!

Table Topic:

What was your favorite TV show growing up? What's your favorite TV show for learning English?

Hypothetical Table Topic:

Imagine there was a TV show about your life. What would the genre of the TV show be and why?



CHARACTER

Read up on this TV show character.
It's important info for understanding this topic!

Walter White is the main character of the Breaking Bad TV show. A graduate of the California Institute of Technology, Walt was once a promising chemist who helped start the company Gray Matter Technologies with his close friend. He left Gray Matter suddenly, selling his shares for \$5,000; soon afterward, the company made a fortune, much of it from his research. Walt then moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico, where he became a high school chemistry teacher. The TV series Breaking Bad begins on Walter's fiftieth birthday when he is diagnosed with Stage III lung cancer. After this discovery, he resorts to manufacturing **meth** and **drug dealing** to make sure his family can survive financially after his death. He is pulled deeper into the illegal drug trade, becoming more and more **ruthless** as the series progresses, and later adopts the name "Heisenberg", which becomes recognizable as the **kingpin** figure in the local drug trade. Walt's change from **mild-mannered** school teacher and family man to **ruthless** criminal master and murderer is the show's central focus.

Source: www.wikipedia.org



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USEFUL WORDS

Read and practice the vocabulary below.

meth - nickname for methamphetamine, an illegal drug that is created through the mixing of different chemicals. It is believed to be extremely dangerous and addictive and is one of the most problematic drugs in the United States today

During World War II, **methamphetamine** was sold in tablet form under the brand name Pervitin produced by a pharmaceutical company. It was used extensively by all branches of the combined Wehrmacht armed German forces (Nazis).

drug dealing - the selling of illegal drugs

Walter white decided to begin **drug dealing** after he was diagnosed with cancer.

ruthless - having or showing no pity or compassion for others

That kid is **ruthless**, he took all the other kids candy for himself and slowly ate it in front of them!

kingpin - a person or thing that is essential to the success of an organization or operation; the leader of a crime organization

Have you ever seen the movie 'The Godfather'? Marlon Brando played a big **kingpin**.

mild-mannered - (of a person) gentle and not given to extremes of emotion

Steve became much more **mild-mannered** after he got married.



GUIDED CONVERSATION

Use these questions as a guide for conversation. Splitting into small groups for conversation is advisable. The teacher will inquire to see what the students have learned post-conversation.

Have you ever used movies or TV shows to learn English? What was your experience like? Can you recommend a show for me?

What's your favorite TV show? Why?

Have you ever seen 'Breaking Bad'? What did you think?

What are some infamous **kingpins** you know of?

Do you consider yourself **mild-mannered**? Tell me more about your personality.

Is **drug-dealing** an issue in your country? Why or why not?



ACTIVITY

Use this activity to practice the vocabulary and idioms you have learned so far!

Movie Trivia Quiz

The teacher will quote some famous movie or TV show lines or describe some famous characters or movies. Students should work in teams to try and guess what the teacher is describing.



HOMework

Homework! Daily practice is essential
for language learning.

1 MINUTE PRESENTATION/SPEECH

Watch another episode of Breaking Bad. Give a 1-minute speech presenting a summary of it (after the student is through, the teacher will quiz the other students about the speech so as to test their listening comprehension).



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