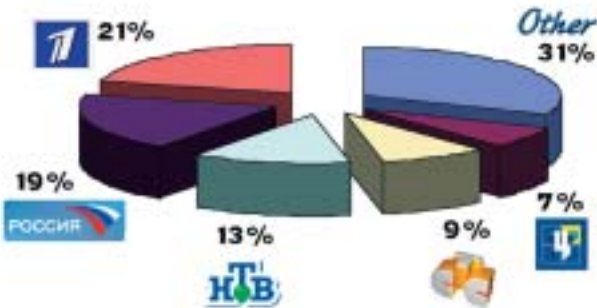




Russian Television

Lead-in

- 1 The diagram below shows the ratings of TV channels. Which of them do you watch? Which is your favourite? Why?



- 2 Which Russian TV programmes might be of interest to foreigners? Read or listen and check.

Reading & Listening

- 3 Listen and circle the TV genres A-N that are mentioned in the text.

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| A cartoon | H news |
| B chat show | I reality show |
| C comedy show | J situation comedy (sitcom) |
| D documentary | K soap opera |
| E game show | L sports programme |
| F lifestyle programme | M talk show |
| G movie | N variety show |

- 4 a) Read the text. What do 'docusoap' and 'rockumentary' mean? Form your own compound nouns to describe programmes which are mixtures of different TV genres.

- b) Explain the words in bold.

Russian television has changed a lot since the Soviet days. Now it looks more or less the same as TV in any other European country. There are a lot of **syndicated programmes** on the air such as *Behind the Glass* (*Big Brother*), *The Weakest Link*, *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire* etc. Also, **soap operas** are in many cases the same as the ones currently **broadcast** in the UK and the USA.

However, there are things that are different. When the next holiday approaches in Russia, all the channels are flooded with **variety shows** and **comedy shows** performed by **stand-up comedians**. TV **debates** between politicians with **live telephone polls** are often much more aggressive than in the UK. Also, Russians seem to appreciate not only the movies produced in the USA and the UK, but also masterpieces of Italian and French **cinematography**. On Russian TV there are only a few **lifestyle programmes** on the air, as opposed to the UK where they take up a huge chunk of the **schedule**. A genre which is also absent from Russian TV is the **docusoap**, which for some reason attracts a large TV audience in the UK. On the negative side, there is too much violence and crime on Russian TV, especially the detailed crime and disaster scenes revealing personal tragedies of the victims and people involved. Where British TV would describe what has happened, Russian TV will show it.

The Soviet era has enriched Russian TV and has given it some unique programmes that cannot be found anywhere but in Russia. One of these programmes is KVN – an abbreviation that in Russian stands for *The Cheerful and Clever Club*. They say that this **acronym** was also chosen because the first Russian mass-produced TV set was called a KVN after the first letters of the names of its engineers. In this programme several teams of young people – usually university students – compete with each other by acting out **humorous sketches** and making jokes about politicians and so on. In the Soviet days this was the only TV programme where one could hear jokes referring to politics.

At the moment there are about a dozen **TV channels**, the biggest are Channel One (ORT), Rossiya (RTR) and NTV. Some of the channels are privately owned and some are controlled by the state. Regardless of the ownership, all the channels except *Kultura* broadcast a lot of adverts, which most people find annoying. To the credit of the UK, they have at least two public channels BBC 1 and BBC 2 that have no adverts at all.



5 Read the text and mark the sentences 1-5 as *B* (British channels) or *R* (Russian channels).

- 1 They mainly show American movies.
- 2 They have a lot of comedy shows.
- 3 They conduct live telephone polls in political debates on TV.
- 4 They don't have many lifestyle programmes.
- 5 They don't show crime scenes.

16:50 **Сам себе режиссер**
Самые забавные видеокадры, снимки на видео, и много других. Смотрите сами, какие кадры, видео и фотографии попали на экран.

17:30 **Бриллиантовая рука х/ф**
Экранизация комедии Гайдая. Уже более четверть века остается одним из любимых в народе кинолент СССР, 1968 год.

17:00 **В поисках приключений. "Сери"**
Мелки Колузуа преданно консультирует детей с помощью из Дании и Швеции. Мелки Ава.

17:45 **В городке**
Популярный Кэп Стэнли в 17-й серии. В очередной "Сериале" Большой перемены" для любимых зрителей русского кино.

20:00 **Зеркало**
Двадцать лет назад Саша для тех, кому не нужны никакие роли, кто может сказать, в суть проблемы и не даст никаких советов.

20:50 **Спокойной ночи, малыши!**
Ураки и Саша обязательно расскажут ребенку что-нибудь страшное и поведут с ними дурачества.

21:20 **Аншлаг**
Это программа для тех, кто знает и знает людей разных возрастных категорий и социального статуса. Смотрите вместе с нами.

22:00 **Нестоянка. "Легенда: Морфей"**
Презент Гайдая углубляет классику, открывает себе дорогу. Была бы его работа полюбилась.
11 серия. Россия, 2007 год.

6 Read the list of top 13 TV programmes from the period of 15th December – 15th January and translate (guess) the names of these programmes into Russian. Classify the programmes by genres A-N from Ex. 3.

TOP 13

	Date		Time	Programme	Ch
1	01.01	Thu	21:29	New Year's Night with the 1st Channel	1
2	30.12	Tue	21:29	The Police Station: 6th episode	1
3	03.01	Sat	19:59	Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?	1
4	31.12	Wed	15:35	Michael Zadornov: a New Year Concert	Россия
5	31.12	Wed	20:13	Vesti: Local Time	Россия
6	20.12	Sat	21:25	The Last Hero. The End of the Game	1
7	20.12	Sat	21:48	Vitaly Klichko vs Dannel Nicholson	1
8	04.01	Sun	20:00	The Moment of Truth	1
9	31.12	Wed	16:23	The Irony of Faith or Bon Steam	1
10	31.12	Wed	16:45	The Big Laundry with Lyudmila Gurchenko	1
11	03.01	Sat	14:27	Vacation in Prostokvashino	1
12	03.01	Sat	20:13	The Cheerful & Clever Club 2003 Final	1
13	16.12	Tue	22:36	Kremlin-9: The Chronicles	1

Speaking

Choose one of the programmes in the TV listing on the left. Present it to your English friend. Mention the genre and the presenter(s) and translate the programme's name and description into English.