The main source of news for millions of people is **television**. With its help we can see everything with our own eyes. The first commercial television broadcast was made on April 20, 1939 by Radio Corporation оf America. Since 1939, TV has become one of the most important facts of modern life. Nowadays broadcasting companies have become symbols of their countries.

Over 99 per cent of British homes have a TV and the average British watches the "box" 26 hours a week. BBC (or the British Broadcasting Corporation) is a state company. Its two channels BBC1 and BBC2 do not show adverts. BBCI broadcasts popular programs (the news, sports programs, shows, children's programs and soaps). BBC2  shows TV plays, classical concerts, foreign films.

Americans also love watching TV. American CNN (or Cable News Network) broadcasts only news but is popular all over the world.

CBC (or Canadian Broadcasting Corporation) can be seen or heard almost anywhere in the country. Thе company broadcasts in English and in French. It broadcasts the news, shows, films and other popular programs. Television has many advantages and disadvantages. One of the advantages of watching television is the possibility to be well informed. TV programs are various and people have a chance to select what they want to see from documentaries, current events and sports programs to films, dramas and entertainment programs. TV brought ballet, opera, and theatre to big masses of people. Television provides great opportunities for education. With the help of TV it is possible to learn foreign languages, to know a lot of wonderful things concerning the world flora and fauna.

TV cuts people from the real world. People become lazy, instead of doing sports they watch TV. Television takes free time of the people. Instead of reading books people watch various TV programs. The best thing is to watch only selective TV programs.

At the same time there are a lot of arguments against TV. The grip it has on many people is great and they do not know how to spend their free time without television. They can watch television programs from about six in the morning to the early hours of the next day watching everything. Among the biggest TV-viewers are not only adults but children as well. It is damaging for their health and abilities.

Only few people today can live without television. Despite of increasing influence of the Internet, video films and other high-technology sources of information television continues to play an important part in the human life.