

# Six texts about TV licences

Pages 1 & 2 are for teacher reference. Do not hand out to learners.

## Overview

A set of six texts about TV Licences that can be used in various combinations for Functional Skills (FS) speaking, listening and communicating; reading and writing activities. Teachers can pick and choose their own texts and create related DARTs (directed activities related to text) and questions to suit. There will also be pre-prepared resources on [www.skillsworkshop.org](http://www.skillsworkshop.org). When selecting texts consider the interests and levels of your learners, **and** what type of text and purpose you want to focus on. Tables 1, 2 and 3 may help.

<b>Scope of study</b>			
DfE 2018 Subject content functional skills: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/functional-skills-subject-content-english">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/functional-skills-subject-content-english</a>			
<i>The content at each level of qualification subsumes and builds upon the content at lower levels.</i>			
	<b>Speaking, listening and communicating should include:</b>	<b>Reading learners should read texts that include:</b>	<b>Writing learners should write texts that include:</b>
<b>E1</b>	simple narratives, information and instructions, and short statements, explanations, discussions, questions and exchanges.	short simple texts that <b>inform, describe</b> and <b>narrate</b> .	short simple texts such as messages and notes
<b>E2</b>	short narratives and explanations, discussions and straightforward information and instructions	Short, straightforward texts that <b>instruct, inform, describe</b> and <b>narrate</b> .	short, straightforward texts such as letters, e-mails and simple narratives
<b>E3</b>	straightforward narratives, accounts, explanations, discussions, instructions, information and descriptions.	straightforward texts that <b>instruct, describe, narrate</b> and <b>explain</b> .	straightforward narratives, instructions, explanations and reports
<b>L1</b>	narratives, explanations, discussions, instructions, information, descriptions and presentations all of varying lengths.	straightforward texts on a range of topics and of varying lengths that <b>instruct, describe, explain</b> and <b>persuade</b> .	straightforward narratives, instructions, explanations and reports of varying lengths
<b>L2</b>	extended narratives and information (which may be on technical, concrete or abstract topics), discussions, detailed explanations and presentations, all of varying lengths.	straightforward and complex texts on a range of topics and varying lengths that <b>instruct, describe, explain</b> and <b>persuade</b>	straightforward and complex articles, explanations, narratives, and reports of varying lengths

Table 1

## Purpose of texts

<i>The 6 listed purposes are specifically mentioned in the Reformed FS Content. Texts often have more than one purpose but it's important that learners (E3 upwards) can recognise the <b>main</b> purpose. Although other purposes such as <b>entertain, record, analyse, argue</b> and <b>find out</b> are not mentioned, you don't have to avoid them!</i>			
<b>Purpose</b>	<b>For level:</b>	<b>This type of text:</b>	<b>Example</b>
<b>Inform</b>	E1 upwards	gives the reader clear facts about something	Broadsheet news reports, government help sheets, event posters, invitations
<b>Describe</b>	E1 upwards	provides details or builds up a picture of an event, place, person or object.	Travel & guide books, estate agent ads, TV reviews, diaries, academic writing
<b>Narrate</b>	E1 upwards	re-tells events (often in chronological order)	Newspaper report, letters (e.g. about a recent holiday), eye-witness accounts
<b>Instruct</b>	E2 upwards	orders or advises the reader how to do something	Flat pack instructions, directions, recipes, safety notices, medicine labels
<b>Explain</b>	L1 upwards	makes it clear to the reader how or why something works / happens	DIY and gardening books, car manuals, letters answering a query /complaint
<b>Persuade</b>	L1 upwards	attempts to influence / change the reader's opinion / behaviour / actions	Newspaper editorials, letters from charities, junk mail, advertisements

Table 2

# Six texts about TV licences

**Text types** (open to interpretation – you may disagree)

Text	Text type	Level	Word count	Complexity	The purpose is to:
A What you need to know <sup>1</sup>	leaflet / poster	E2-E3	200	straightforward	inform
B Licence facts & figures	report / web page	E3-L2	170	straightforward	inform
C 6,000 homes B&W licences	newspaper article	L1-2	250	straightforward	inform explain
D B&W TVs still in use	web page report	L2	400	complex	inform explain
E More than 6,000 households	magazine article	L2	300	complex	Inform entertain
F What we do <sup>2</sup>	infographic	L2	750	complex	inform explain

Table 3

## Pre-reading activities

Pre-reading tasks give learners a reason for reading texts and ‘hook them in’. After the discussion, learners use one or more of the texts to check facts or find more information. **Possible discussion or brainstorming topics include:**

How many active TV licences are there in the UK? *Text B*  
 How do you watch TV? What device do you use? *Text A*  
 Does anyone still watch black and white TV? *Texts C D E*  
 Which town or city has the most B&W licences? *Text D*

How much is a standard colour licence? *Texts A C F*  
 How many people receive a free licence? *Text B*  
 What would happen to BBC if there was no licence fee?  
 Should people over the age of 70 get a free TV licence?

## Glossary

Adapted from: DfE 2018 Subject content functional skills: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/functional-skills-subject-content-english>

**Common words** are those that occur frequently. someone who is unable to read or spell these words will therefore be at a disadvantage. A number of attempts have been made (e.g. by Dolch) to identify those words that students most need to acquire in order to advance in their learning.

**Complex** texts could include one or more of the following: abstract ideas, unfamiliar topics, complex sentence structures, specialist words and unfamiliar vocabulary. The text type or formatting (e.g. academic excerpt with footnotes) or the intended audience could also be less familiar.

**Narrative:** Text or speech that re-tells events, often in chronological sequence.

**Short text:** Denotes words, sentences and texts of such a length as to be accessible to students and to enable them to experience a sense of achievement at having successfully decoded them. A short text is typically used to communicate everyday or functional information such as in notices, announcements, instructions, messages and invitations.

**Simple:** When applied to narratives, words or sentences, this means a basic, uncomplicated structure. A simple sentence structure, for example, follows the standard pattern of subject, verb and, optionally, object. A simple narrative will follow a chronological sequence and be told from one viewpoint only.

**Straightforward:** subjects and materials that students often meet in their work, studies or other activities. Straightforward content is put across in a direct way with the main points easily identifiable; usually the sentence structures of such texts consist of more than one subject or more than one independent clause (i.e. compound sentence), and students will be familiar with the vocabulary. Straightforward texts are more demanding than simple texts containing simple sentence structure. The vocabulary of straightforward texts will typically consist of a range of familiar and **common words**, and some specialist words.

<sup>1</sup> There is a separate Entry 2 Reading resource based on this text at:

[https://www.skillsworkshop.org/resources/how\\_to\\_buy\\_a\\_tv\\_licence\\_reading\\_and\\_writing\\_tasks](https://www.skillsworkshop.org/resources/how_to_buy_a_tv_licence_reading_and_writing_tasks)

<sup>2</sup> There is a separate L1-2 Maths resource based on this text at:

[https://www.skillsworkshop.org/resources/tv\\_licensing\\_l12\\_functional\\_maths](https://www.skillsworkshop.org/resources/tv_licensing_l12_functional_maths)

**Further reading and writing resources will be added in January 2020**

# TV Licences – what you need to know

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Source: TV Licensing Annual easy read information about TV licensing

<https://www.tvlicensing.co.uk/easy-read> (adapted)

## Text A



## Things you need to know about the TV Licence

### You will need a TV Licence if you:

- watch or record TV programmes live on any channel; or
- download or watch any BBC programmes on iPlayer – live, catch up or on demand.

## You can watch TV in lots of different ways:



On a TV set



On a computer or laptop



On a mobile phone or a tablet (like an iPad or Samsung Galaxy)



Using a digital box that works with your TV (like Sky or Virgin)



Using a Blu-ray, DVD or video recorder



With a games console (like a PlayStation or Xbox)

## A TV Licence costs **£154.50**



If you're aged 75 or older you could get a free TV Licence.



If you're blind you could get a half-price TV Licence.



If you live in a care home you could pay less for a TV Licence.

## Getting a TV Licence

### There are different ways to buy a TV Licence.



You can use your credit or debit card.



You can pay at any PayPoint using a debit card or cash.



You can set up a direct debit.



You can send us a cheque in the post.

For help or more information go to **tvlicensing.co.uk** or call **0300 790 6114**

*For better resolution and clarity download and print this as a separate A4 PDF from the link above.*

# TV Licence facts and figures

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Adapted from: <https://www.tvlicensing.co.uk/about/foi-licences-facts-and-figures-AB18>

## Licences in force

### How many TV Licences are in force in the UK?

The number of licences in force in the UK for the last ten financial years is shown below.

#### UK total number of licences in force\*

Financial year	No. of licences
2018/19	25,752,560
2017/18	25,836,495
2016/17	25,826,118
2015/16	25,558,189
2014/15	25,507,726
2013/14	25,419,296
2012/13	25,338,330
2011/12	25,226,072
2010/11	25,103,079
2009/10	24,963,799

\*As at the end of each financial year i.e. 31 March.

### How many households in the UK have a TV?

As at March 2019, statistics from the Broadcasters Audience Research Board (BARB) show that around 95% of UK households may be licensable.

### How many black and white (mono) TV licences in force were there in 2018/19?

As at September 2019, 6586 black and white (mono) TV licences were in force.

## Concessions

### How many free, over 75 licences are in force?

At the end of March 2019, there were approximately 4.6 million free over 75 TV Licences in force. The number of over 75 TV Licences in force for the last ten financial years is shown below. This information is also available in the [BBC Annual Report and Accounts](#).

Financial year	Number of over 75 licences
2018/19	4.60
2017/18	4.46
2016/17	4.39
2015/16	4.36
2014/15	4.36
2013/14	4.33
2012/13	4.25
2011/12	4.21
2010/11	4.16
2009/10	4.09

# Black & White TVs still in use

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Source: The Guardian. Nov 12 2019

<https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2019/nov/12/6000-uk-homes-still-have-black-and-white-tv-licences>

Text C

## 6,000 UK homes still have black and white TV licences TV Licensing reveals surprising figures 50 years after advent of colour on BBC One



▲ Figures show there were 6,586 black and white licences at the end of September – down from 212,000 in 2000.

More than 6,000 homes across the UK still have black and white television licences, half a century after the advent of colour on the BBC.

According to the latest figures published by TV Licensing, London leads the way with 1,311 black and white permits, followed by Birmingham with 323 and Manchester with 245.

Published on the 50th anniversary of colour television on BBC One, the figures show there were 6,586 black and white licences at the end of September this year – a fall of 575 from September 2018 and down from 212,000 at the turn of the millennium.

Paul Cooper, a TV Licensing spokesman, said: “When BBC One launched its colour TV service in November 1969, there were only three channels available. Fast-forward to 2019, and more than half (53%) of TV households have in some way an internet connection to their TV and access to hundreds of channels.

“Whilst only accounting for a very small proportion, it’s interesting to know that some households still like to watch their favourite shows on a black and white telly.”

Black and white televisions remain popular with collectors, with vintage and portable TV sets regularly traded online. The black and white annual licence costs £52 – one-third of the £154.50 for colour.



# Black & White TVs still in use

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Adapted from: <https://www.tvlicensing.co.uk/cs/media-centre/news/>



Home > About us > Media Centre

Text D

## Thousands of black and white TVs still in use as BBC One in colour hits 50

As BBC One celebrates its 50th anniversary of colour television this week, TV Licensing has revealed that more than 6,500 UK households are still watching TV programmes on black and white TV sets.

1	London	1311
2	Birmingham	322
3	Manchester	245
4	Glasgow	136
5	Leeds	121
6	Liverpool	108
7	Belfast (NI)	79
8	Nottingham	78
9	Omagh (NI)	71
10	Sheffield	71

According to the latest figures, London leads the way with 1,311 black and white licences, followed by Birmingham with 323 and Manchester with 245 monochrome licences.

Over the years the number of black and white licences has declined considerably across the UK. There were 6,586 black and white TV licences in force at the end of September 2019<sup>1</sup> - a fall of 575 compared to the same time last year. In 2000 this figure stood at 212,000.

The figures show that despite the rapid growth of smart TVs, smart phones and tablets to access TV content, a surprising number of households still appear to enjoy the nostalgia of monochrome TV sets. They remain popular with collectors, with vintage and portable TV sets regularly traded online.

A licence is still needed to watch live TV and stream BBC programmes on iPlayer on a black and white TV or monitor and costs £52. But, if they are used to download BBC programmes on iPlayer or to record any live TV, then a colour TV Licence is needed.

Paul Cooper, spokesperson for TV Licensing, said: “When BBC One launched its colour TV service in November 1969, there were only three channels available. Fast forward to 2019, and more than half (53%<sup>2</sup>) of TV households have in some way an internet connection to their TV and access to hundreds of channels.

“Whilst only accounting for a very small proportion it’s interesting to know that some households still like to watch their favourite shows on a black and white telly.”

BBC One launched its full colour service on 15 November 1969. The new service was also extended to ITV, bringing them in line with BBC Two, which had been offering colour programmes - including Wimbledon, the Olympic Games and The Eurovision Song Contest - since 1967 under controller, David Attenborough.

Programmes showing in colour on the 15th included Star Trek and Dixon of Dock Green, The Harry Secombe Show and Match of the Day, plus the feature film The Prisoner of Zenda.

1. TV Licensing: Mono licences in force, 30 Sep 2019  
2. 2019 Ofcom Media Nations report

# Black & White TVs still in use

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Source: <https://www.radiotimes.com/news/tv/2019-11-12/black-and-white-tv-uk-bbc/>

Text E

## More than 6,000 UK households still using black and white TVs

The BBC revealed the surprising statistic as their colour TV service turns 50



By [David Craig](#)

Tuesday, 12th November 2019 at 3:48 pm

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Thousands of people across the UK are still using black and white television sets, the BBC revealed today.

TV licensing statistics have revealed that more than 6,500 households are still watching television shows on black and white sets.

The cities most loyal to the antiquated format are London (1,311), Birmingham (323), Manchester (245), Glasgow (136) and Leeds (121).

As you might expect, the number of black and white sets in the UK has fallen dramatically in recent years, with the rise of smart TVs and online streaming services contributing to their demise.

The remaining 6,586 households are a far cry from the year 2000, when a whopping 212,000 black and white TV licenses were registered with the BBC.

BBC One launched their colour television service on 15th November 1969, almost 50 years to the day, with the likes of Star Trek and Match of the Day being among the first programmes to benefit from it.

Paul Cooper, spokesperson for TV Licensing, said: "When BBC One launched its colour TV service in November 1969, there were only three channels available. Fast forward to 2019, and more than half (53%) of TV households have in some way an internet connection to their TV and access to hundreds of channels.

"Whilst only accounting for a very small proportion, it's interesting to know that some households still like to watch their favourite shows on a black and white telly."

Old television sets have become a collector's item for watching today's television shows. After all, there are few things more enchanting than seeing a soap actor gag on a witchetty grub in a moody noir aesthetic.



# What we do

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Source: TV Licensing Annual review 2018-2019 <https://www.tvlicensing.co.uk/about/our-performance-AB6>

Text F

### How our customers pay

There are different ways to spread the cost, so customers can choose the payment scheme that suits them.

Ways to pay	Percentage
Post Office (Channel Islands & Isle of Man)	0.1%
Online banking	0.1%
Savings card	1.2%
Cheque by post	1.9%
PayPoint	3.2%
Payment card	6.6%
Credit/Debit card	10.8%
Direct Debit	76.3%

Numbers have been rounded

### We are here to help

Some people struggle to afford the licence fee, while others may have a disability that affects their ability to pay or communicate with us.

**This year we worked with over 350** money advice and community organisations across the UK.

Our Simple Payment Plan trial, designed to help those on the lowest income, is running but closed to new entrants. A decision on the future of the plan will be made in the coming year.

### Keeping evasion low

TV Licence evasion is in the range of **6% to 7%**, and **93% to 94%** of addresses are correctly licensed.\*

**We visited 2.7m** addresses last year and **we caught 216,900** people watching TV without a licence.

# What We Do

2018/2019

TV LICENSING ANNUAL REVIEW

**TV Licensing helps people understand when they need a TV Licence and ensures customers are correctly licensed.**

We continue to collect the licence fee in the most cost-efficient way, to fund the BBC's programmes and services. We develop payment plans and policies to support those who find it more difficult to pay, working with money advice and community organisations throughout the UK. A major focus in the coming year will be to assist those eligible for a free over-75s licence from June 2020 and offer every assistance to those who now need to pay.

### Number of licences

There are: **25.8m** licences in force.

The number has declined slightly from the previous year, by 84,500.

### Complaints

We have reduced complaints over the past five years by:

**31.2%**

This year's complaints are slightly higher than last year's, but complaints are only 0.05% of the number of licences in force.

### Going paperless

Over **88%** of people chose an online TV Licence by email when buying on the website, up from **83%** the year before.

Around **9.6m** people now receive their licence by email, up from **8.4m** the year before.

### The cost of collecting the TV Licence

**£15.1m** Communications: reminder letters and information campaigns.

**£12.5m** Postage

**£8.5m** Updates to systems and Simple Payment Plan trial.

**£4.7m** Administration and contract management.

**£1.9m** Depreciation of new systems.

**£59.9m** Collection costs: call centres, visiting officers, detection and services.

### Licence fee increase

A standard TV Licence **now costs: £154.50**

In 2018/19 the cost was £150.50.

In 2016 the Government announced the licence fee would rise with inflation for 5 years from 1 April 2017

### Income generated

In 2018/19 licence fee income was **£3,690m (more than £3.6bn)**.

**£3.6bn+**

A decrease of **£140m** on the previous year.

This decline is due to the Government's decreasing contribution to the cost of over-75s free licences.

### TV Licensing online

There were **26.5m** visits and **9.4m** transactions on our website.

This is an increase of **9%** and **7%** on the previous year.

**75%** of customer contacts are through self-serve channels.

### Over-75s licences

From June 2020 the Government funding of free TV licences for the over-75s comes to an end and the BBC will then fund a **free licence for over-75s receiving Pension Credit**. TV Licensing will provide face to face assistance through an outreach programme delivered by specially trained customer care staff. We will also be working with support organisations to make it **easy to claim the free licence** and help those who now need to pay by offering a new 'Pay As You Go' payment scheme.

**075 LICENCES**

You can find out how the licence fee was spent in 2018/19 by going to the **BBC website**.

[Click here to read this document in Welsh.](#)

**TV LICENSING**

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For further information on TV Licensing please visit [www.tvlicensing.co.uk](http://www.tvlicensing.co.uk)

\*TV Licence evasion can only be estimated within a range, because some figures used in the calculation are estimates. Changes of less than 1% are not statistically significant.

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