



“Television”

Reading Comprehension – Informational Passages ⁽⁵⁾

Directions: Read the passage. Then answer questions about the passage below.

Many people worked to create television. In 1862, Abbe Giovanna Caselli **invented** a machine called the Pantelograph. Caselli was the first person to send a picture over wires. By the 1880s, Alexander Graham Bell invented a machine that **transmitted** pictures and sound over wires. His machine was called the Photophone. The World’s Fair was held in Paris, France, in the year 1900. The first International Congress of Electricity was held at the World’s Fair. That was when the word *television* was first used – by a Russian named Constantin Perskyi. That name stuck, and is now shortened to “TV.”

At the beginning of TV history, there were several types of TV technology. One system was a mechanical model based on a **rotating** disc. (Rotating discs are discs that spin like CDs.) The other system was an electronic model. In 1906, Boris Rosing built the first working mechanical TV in Russia. In the 1920s, John Logie Baird in England and Charles Francis Jenkins in the United States **demonstrated** improved mechanical systems. Philo Taylor Farnsworth also showed an electronic **system** in San Francisco in 1927. His TV was the forerunner of today’s TV, which is an electronic system based on his ideas.

Now TV is everywhere. Before 1947, there were only a few thousand televisions in the U.S. By the 1990s, there were televisions in 98% of American homes.

Questions:

1) Who first sent a picture over wires?

- A. Boris Rosing
- B. John Logie Baird
- C. Abbe Giovanna Caselli
- D. Alexander Graham Bell

2) The word *television* was first used in...

- A. 1862.
- B. 1880.
- C. 1900.
- D. 1906.

3) The 1900 World’s Fair was in...

- A. Moscow, Russia.
- B. London, England.
- C. Paris, France.
- D. New York, United States.

4) Who invented the Photophone?

- A. Abbe Giovanna Caselli
- B. Charles Francis Jenkins
- C. Alexander Graham Bell
- D. Philo Taylor Farnsworth

5) How many TVs were in the US in 1945?

- A. A few hundred
- B. A few thousand.
- C. A few million.
- D. A few billion.

Vocabulary:

1) **Invented** means...

- A. made for the first time.
- B. moved to a different country.
- C. sent over wires.
- D. sent through television.

2) Another way to say **transmitted** is...

- A. built.
- B. used.
- C. sent.
- D. held.



3) **Rotating** means...

- A. going up and down.
- B. going back and forth.
- C. spinning.
- D. None of the above

4) The best synonym for **demonstrated** is...

- A. based.
- B. called.
- C. showed.
- D. worked.

5) A **system** is a combination of...

- A. parts that make up a unified whole.
- B. parts that are used to make TVs.
- C. broken pieces.
- D. pieces of a machine.