

Helper's guide to **Media and entertainment**

Beginner handout

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About this guide

This document gives helpers practical suggestions and tips on how to hold a session with individuals or groups of beginners. The guide covers the three 'Media and entertainment' hand-outs:

7.1 Reading the news

7.2 Games and Online TV

7.3 Enjoying music

The three hand-outs in the 'Media and entertainment' topic help a beginner to find out how they can access different forms of entertainment including online TV, games and music. Beginners will also discover how they can read the news online.

Remember to review each hand-out, involve beginners and use the **Introduction for helpers** and the suggestions below to plan and deliver sessions that are appropriate to the individual or group's needs and abilities.

Please note that all of the web links referred to throughout the Beginner guides can be found in the Useful Links section at the end of the guides. Check that you have access to these links before your session

Remember to use the glossary.

7.1 Reading the news

This session may take 45 minutes to complete but everyone learns at a different speed.

How can I read my favourite paper online?

Help beginners find their favourite news sites. Explore the types of link (eg images, text, icons) and what they lead to. Help beginners find added-value content, such as podcasts, video clips, image galleries and interactive diagrams.

How can I watch the TV news or listen to radio news?

Beginners will need speakers for this activity. Again, help them find their preferred site and to navigate within it (TV and news websites can be particularly 'busy' with links.)

How can I explore news reports from lots of sources?

You can lead this as a demo by getting beginners to suggest an important news item on the day that you deliver this activity. Try combining news sources, for example, find some TV bulletin video clips as well as articles from newspapers. You could focus on a local news item.

Discussion points

- What are the best news sites for my favourite sport?

7.2 Online TV and games

This session may take 45 minutes to complete but everyone learns at a different speed.

Make sure the group's computers have the most up-to-date media plug-ins installed (such as Flash or ActiveX) before using BBC iPlayer or other online TV services.

How can I watch my favourite programmes online?

You will need speakers for this activity and the ones below. Install iPlayer desktop in advance and use this to demonstrate series downloading and how programmes are stored and will expire. Use beginners' favourites in your demonstration. Be sensitive to other beginners in the group when showing content. Link programme file sizes to beginners' broadband contracts and discuss usage caps etc.

 **Safety warning: don't let beginners install iPlayer on a shared or public computer.**

How can I watch classic series I enjoy?

Ask for ideas for favourite programmes from the past and see what you can find. Be sensitive to other beginners in the group when showing content. Again, link to broadband usage caps. Discuss safe practice when registering and paying online.

 **Safety warning: don't let beginners register until they get home.**

How can my family play games online?

Adapt this to suit the needs of your group. Again, be vigilant about what content you show, especially advertising around games, as this may be unsuitable for some audiences. Warn beginners that some sites may expose them to malware, especially in pop-up ads, on which they should never click. Discuss suitable time limits for using online games as part of overall 'screen time' per day or week and link this to guide 5.1 and safe Internet use for children. Ask for ideas and search for characters etc. that beginners choose. Some beginners might want to find classic games such as chess⁵ search and explore some online options.

Discussion points

- How can I control what my children watch, for example post-watershed programs on iPlayer, or videos on YouTube?
- What are subscription games, like World of Warcraft?

7.3 Enjoying music

This session may take 45 minutes to complete but everyone learns at a different speed.

How can I listen to my favourite radio station?

Link to beginners' preferences and to your local radio stations. Share preferred music styles and do a demonstration search on the Internet radio listings site. Show how to open in Windows Media Player and add a streaming link to the music library. Remind beginners that if they access a radio station this way they still need to be online even though they don't need to have their web browser on.

How can I listen to music on my computer?

Ask beginners to bring in a favourite CD. Respect copyright and don't help beginners to share music illegally. Use one or more of your own CDs to demonstrate how to store and organise music and to create a playlist. Discuss different occasions for playlists: moods and events.

How can I listen to music online?

Register with Spotify in advance so you can demonstrate searching, adding to a playlist and sharing via Facebook etc. Link to safe registering practice.



Safety warning: don't let beginners register until they get home. Bring a CD to demonstrate playing, ripping and accessing tracks via the music library.

Discussion points

- Should I share my music with my friends using the Internet?
- What's wrong about downloading music and films I've not paid for?

