A CHANGE OF PLANS - B2

WARM-UP ACTIVITY

Respond freely.

- How do you choose which film or series you are going to watch? What are the criteria?
- In your opinion, what is necessary for a film or television series today to be successful in the competitive streaming market?

READING COMPREHENSION

Read the questions below, then listen to or read the article twice and answer the questions.

https://www.theverge.com/2021/10/19/22735379/netflix-changing-ranking-metric-popular-titles-hours-viewed

1. How did Netflix rank their titles in the past? ....

2. How has the ranking system changed? ....

3. What are 2 reasons cited for the change? ....

4. Why is the 2-minute mark now considered a bad metric? ....

5. Why are clear and transparent streaming figures necessary? ....

6. How has the new metrics system changed the rankings? ....

7. Which series has broken many of its internal metrics? ....

8. How many people have watched it? ....

9. Which metric do you think is better and why? ....

Useful vocabulary

to bail on (something) = to give up / to quit
overlap = when two sets of data match one another
to tune into = to watch something

SPEAKING

What do you remember about the movies and series you have watched over the years? Write down a title for each category below and discuss as a group. Do you share the same feelings and memories as your peers about the same titles? If you have not seen the same movies and series, what do you think you could be interested in together?

...that was a big hit, and I loved it (and why).

...I wouldn't recommend for children or teenagers.

...that was a big hit, but I never bothered watching.

A series or film...

...that was a big hit, but I wasn't interested.

...that got me interested in a career path, hobby or sport.

...that was a big hit, but I found incredibly violent.

...that surprisingly taught me something very important.

...that changed my mind about something.

VOCABULARY EXERCISE

In your opinion, which words below describe a series or movie in a positive way. A negative way? Neutral?

fast-paced   captivating

hilarious   second-rate

imaginative   moving   legendary   juvenile

unwatchable   dreadful   sentimental

slow-moving

moronic

oddball   bloody   riveting

disappointing   first-rate

overhyped   intriguing

low-budget   distasteful

powerful   dramatic   dull   thought provoking

positive:

negative:

neutral:

VOCABULARY EXERCISE

After categorizing the vocabulary, choose the most characteristic words for each of the following tyes of shows:

a cop show

a sitcom

a horror series

a sci-fi series

an action-packed series

a wartime drama

a soap opera

a drama

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1. How did Netflix rank their titles in the past? **It was based on the completion of at least the first two minutes within its first 28 days.**

2. How will they start ranking titles? **They will start ranking their titles based on number of hours watched.**

3. Why has Netflix implented this change? **It matches how outside services measure TV viewing and takes into account rewatching. Netflix believes it is an easier to understand system and better reflects the success of its shows.**

4. Why is the 2-minute mark now considered a bad metric? **It was confusing and had the potential to misrepresent the true success of a series or film. For example, if someone watched 2 minutes of something and bailed.**

5. Why are clear and transparent streaming figures necessary? **Streaming figures affect things like payouts and contract negotiations**

6. How has the new metrics system changed the rankings? **There is some overlap, but it has definitely changed the top titles significantly.**

7. Which series has broken many of its internal metrics? **The Korean drama Squid Game**

8. How many people have watched it? **Depending on which metric you use, it can differ - 87 million people have finished the series, 142 million households watched at least the first 2 minutes.**

9. Which metric do you think is better? **free response**

VOCABULARY EXERCISE

In your opinion, which words below describe a series or movie in a positive way. A negative way? Are there any descriptions we can use in both ways?

positive:

hilarious / imaginative / powerful / moving / intriguing / thought provoking / first-rate / riveting / captivating / legendary

negative:

unwatchable / overhyped / moronic / disappointing / bloody / dull / juvenile / distatsteful / second-rate / dreadful

neutral:

oddball / dramatic / low-budget / slow-moving / fast-paced / sentimental

After categorizing the vocabulary, choose the most characteristic words for each of the following tyes of shows: **free response**