



# 16 Communication Workshops



**H**enry VIII is a historical TV drama in two parts produced by Granada Television. It is set in England during the sixteenth century. The exciting story is based on historical fact – Henry VIII had six wives, executed two of them, and broke with the Catholic Church in order to get a divorce from his first wife, Catherine of Aragon.

In the first episode, shown on TV last Sunday night, Henry meets and falls in love with his second wife, Anne Boleyn. After Anne's failure to give him a son, Henry turns against her and she is executed despite being innocent of any crime.

Ray Winstone plays Henry like a London gangster, an angry man who becomes a cold, calculating killer. Nevertheless, he can also be a caring husband and an affectionate lover. Asumpta Serna is excellent as Queen Catherine who is loyal in spite of Henry's treatment of her. Helena Bonham-Carter plays the brave but devious Anne Boleyn very well. Among the all-star supporting cast, there are some outstanding performances although some of the dialogues sound unnatural.

The filming is imaginative with good action scenes, for example when Henry fights in a tournament. However, some

of the scenes are violent and the film is definitely not for children. The costumes are beautiful and the film is shot in some spectacular locations, such as Arundel castle.

To sum up, this episode shows how history can be more exciting than any modern gangster film or soap opera. Don't miss the second episode next Sunday!

## Writing

### Before you start

**1** Look at the photo. Do you know anything about Henry VIII of England? What kind of person do you think he was? Read the review and find out more.

**2** Look at the underlined linking words in the text. Which of them are used to contrast ideas?

### A Review

Write a review of a film or TV drama series. Follow the stages below. See Writing Help 4 on page 141.

#### Stage 1

Choose something to watch on TV (e.g. a film, an episode of a series or soap opera). While you are watching, take notes in English about these:

- background to the story; where and when it is set
- main events in the plot
- actors and the characters they play
- location, scenes and costumes

#### After you have watched:

- write a brief personal comment about it and think about who you would recommend to watch it.

#### Stage 2

Use your notes to write a review in five paragraphs. Use linking words.

#### Stage 3

Check your review.

#### Talkback

Work in groups. Read each other's reviews. Discuss the programmes.

**Example** *I saw that programme, too, but I didn't like it because ...*

## Listening

### A TV Debate

Listen to a television debate.

**1** Listen to a TV debate and complete the sentences with the correct option (a, b or c).

- The woman thinks that ...
  - a young people are addicted to TV.
  - b TV stops people reading.
  - c people don't go out enough.
- The man thinks that ...
  - a TV is educational.
  - b TV causes many problems.
  - c TV is complete rubbish.
- The woman thinks that ...
  - a most programmes are educational.
  - b there is too much violence on the news.
  - c some young people copy TV violence.
- The man thinks that ...
  - a people copy violence they read about in the papers.
  - b newspapers shouldn't pay criminals.
  - c newspapers make too much money.
- The woman is in favour of ...
  - a more sport.
  - b treatment for Internet addicts.
  - c control of the media by the government.

**2** Which guest interrupts the other rudely – the man or the woman? Do you remember how he/she interrupts? What words or phrases did he/she use?

## 3 A Report (page 41)

### Layout

#### Heading

To: \_\_\_\_\_ From: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Subject: \_\_\_\_\_

#### 1 General Description

Introduce the report with your aim and a general description of the place.

*Beverley is a small town in the east of England. The aim of this report is to ...*

#### 2 List of good points

Give a list of things that you think are good about the place.  
*There are several things tourists will find attractive ...*

- a It has got ...*
- b In addition, there is ...*

#### 3 List of bad points

Give a list of your criticisms of the place.

*On the other hand, tourists might find some things disappointing.*

- a There are not enough ...*
- b Another thing is the ...*

#### 4 Conclusion

Finish the report with a brief summary of the main points and make suggestions.

*To sum up, ...*

*The council need to do something to ... They should ...*

### Useful Vocabulary

**Positive adjectives:** cheap, clean, easy, excellent, free, frequent, punctual, safe

**Negative adjectives:** damaged, dangerous, dirty, expensive, inefficient, polluted, unsafe

**Nouns:** accident, museum, old buildings, pedestrians, pollution, public transport, shopping centre, traffic jam, train service

### Linking

#### To list ideas:

*The old buildings are dirty and damaged.*

*The old buildings are dirty. Some of them are damaged, too.*

*The old buildings are dirty. Some of them are also damaged.*

*The old buildings are dirty. In addition, some of them are damaged.*

*The old buildings suffer from dirt plus damage.*

#### To contrast ideas:

*The buses are cheap but not very frequent.*

*Although the buses are cheap, they are not very frequent.*

*The buses are cheap. However, they are not very frequent.*

*On the one hand, the buses are cheap. On the other hand, they are not very frequent.*

### Checking

**Layout:** Have you followed the layout above? Has your report got clear paragraphs?

**Linking:** Have you used the linking words in the list above?

**Spelling:** Use the Mini-dictionary to check spelling of words you are not sure about.

## 4 A Review of a film or TV drama (page 52)

### Layout

#### 1 Introduction

Give basic information about the film or programme. Say where and when it is set and give some background.

*This episode of the historical drama 'Clifton Heights' was on Friday night at 7 pm on Channel Four. It is set in Bristol in the 19th century and is about the people who live in a beautiful square.*

#### 2 The plot

Briefly mention some of the main events – don't go into details. Use present tenses.

*In this episode, Polly's daughter Charlotte gets lost when they are out shopping in the town centre. Luckily, Sebastian is there to save the day and takes her back.*

#### 3 The actors, characters and dialogue

Evaluate the performance of the main characters. Comment on the script and dialogue if you wish.

*Gemma Harvey (Polly) is convincing as the absent-minded housewife with a secret fantasy life as an actress. However, the performance of Robert Martin (Sebastian), the local police officer is not so good.*

#### 4 Location, scenes, costumes

Evaluate the filming, locations, costumes. Mention one specific scene if you wish.

*The old locations are very realistic, and the costumes are excellent.*

#### 5 Conclusion

Finish with a brief comment and make a recommendation.

*To sum up, this episode was another example of a historical drama with fantastic locations and costumes but a rather dull plot. I certainly would not recommend you to watch it.*

### Useful Vocabulary

**plot:** locations exciting/gripping; predictable/boring; too much action/sex/violence; not enough dialogue/action

**dialogues:** realistic/funny; unnatural/tedious/dull

**acting:** a strong/outstanding/convincing performance  
a weak/uninspired/unconvincing performance

**filming:** imaginative/unimaginative

**costumes:** beautiful/realistic/unrealistic

**locations:** spectacular/unspectacular/beautiful

### Linking

#### To contrast ideas:

*Although the acting was good, the filming was poor.*

*The acting was good. However, the filming was poor.*

*The acting was good. Nevertheless, the filming was poor.*

*The film was good in spite of the poor filming.*

*Despite the poor filming, the film was good*

### Checking

**Layout:** Have you followed the layout above? Has your review got clear paragraphs?

**Vocabulary:** Look at the adjectives you have used. Can you be more descriptive? Use the Useful Vocabulary and the Mini-dictionary to help you.

**Mistakes:** Check through your review for mistakes of grammar and spelling.