

# Soap Opera

## Aims

The aim of this exercise is to help you realise that soap opera is very popular television. It is generally relatively cheap to make. Soap opera tends to have a female audience.

## Activity

Watch an episode of your favourite soap. As you watch it, analyse it. Answer the following questions.

1. How many regular characters appear?
2. How many characters appear in one episode?
3. How many storylines did you see?
4. What are the typical storylines?
5. How many different sets were there?
6. Which sets are 'public spaces'?
7. Are any characters 'bad'? How do you know? What do they do?
8. Are any characters 'good'? How do you know? What do they do?
9. How many men were in the episode that you watched?
10. How many women were in the episode that you watched?
11. What sort of relationships do people have with each other?
12. Were there any members of ethnic minorities in the episode?
13. Are there any disabled people where the disability is not part of the storyline?
14. Were the stories realistic or very dramatic?
15. Was there any humour in the episode?
16. How is the soap opera made to feel real?
17. Do you feel that the soap opera is realistic?
18. Do you mind whether it is real or not?

## Summary questions

What makes soap opera popular?

## Development work

Suggest a new character or even a family for the series.