

## 1

# Best reality competition shows

Level:  1**Let's think!**

1. What types of TV shows do you like?
2. Can you name some famous reality TV shows?

PLAYLIST



READ ALONG



## Most unique game shows

**1** Game shows are a type of TV show in which contestants compete for prizes. This kind of show has been around for a long time. Recently, there are various programmes that add a new twist to the classic game show format by introducing unique challenges or mixing different elements. The following three game shows on Netflix are very popular and worth watching.

**1. *Is It Cake?***

**2** *Is It Cake?* is a brand-new cooking competition show in which contestants have to bake a cake that resembles everyday objects such as a handbag, a hamburger or even a sewing machine. In each episode, three contestants will compete by baking a cake which replicates the look of an object within eight hours. They will then present their creations next to the real objects to a panel of judges. Those who can fool the judges into thinking their cakes are the real objects win a cash prize.



**3** The winner of each of the eight episodes will advance to the final. Unlike many other contest shows, the contestants support and complement one another, which gives this show a feel-good atmosphere. Moreover, they take time to explain how to achieve certain effects, so viewers can actually learn something from the show. It is no wonder that *Is It Cake?* is currently one of the most watched series of the platform.

**2. *Floor Is Lava***

**4** *Floor is Lava* is based on a classic children's game in which players would spread cushions, books, and other household items out on the ground. The contestants

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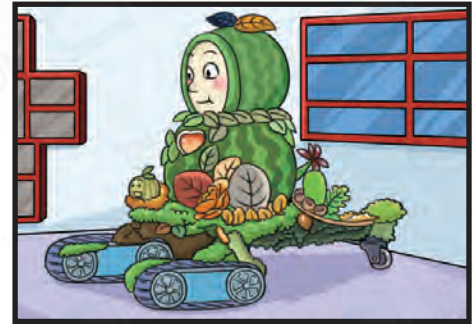
25

pretend the floor is 'lava' and try to make their way from one side of the room to another. In each episode, contestants are grouped into three teams of three. They have to make their way through various obstacles without falling into the red bubbly 'lava'. The team with the highest number of members making it across the room wins.

5 In addition to being exciting to watch, *Floor is Lava* stands out because of its host Rutledge Wood. He makes very funny commentary along the way. The contestants are also well-chosen. Family members or close friends are grouped to compete in teams. Their relationships are highly dynamic.

### 3. *Baking Impossible*

6 *Baking Impossible* is a baking contest, but one with a special twist: it pairs bakers and engineers into nine pairs to create delicious cakes that can withstand the stress test of the particular week within a time limit. One example of the tests is to make a cake that can sail in a watercourse within 45 seconds. In another episode, the teams have to make edible costumes for models to wear on the catwalk.



7 The contestants, the so-called 'bakineers', have to make sure their creations look and taste good. Besides, they need to know how to use edible ingredients in innovative ways. For example, one team comes up with a waterproof dough to make the hull so that the ship does not break apart in water. It is fascinating that the teams consist of bakers and engineers. They are people with vastly different skillsets and experiences. The teammates work together and combine their skills to meet each challenge. At the same time, the audience can learn a great deal about both culinary arts and physics by watching this show.

8 All these shows have proved to be very popular on Netflix. The company is going to produce a new season of each show.

~590 words

### Looking into Grammar

We can use the simple future **will** to refer to the time ahead. We use **be going to** to talk about intended or planned future actions or actions that are very likely to happen. They are followed by the base form of the verb.

- ✓ In each episode, three contestants **will compete** (~~are competing~~) by baking a cake which ...
- ✓ The company **is going to produce** (~~is producing~~) a new season of each show.

? Underline TWO verbs in the simple future in paragraphs 2–3.

Read the text and answer questions 1–14. For multiple-choice questions, choose the best answer and blacken ONE circle only. (28 marks)

1. Read paragraph 1. Which statement is NOT true about game shows?

- A. They have a long history.
- B. Contestants try to win money or other items.
- C. They have few viewers.
- D. There are many different types of game shows.

1 Try to eliminate all the true statements to find the correct answer (i.e. the false statement).

- A      B      C      D

2. Find a word in paragraph 1 that means 'unexpected change'.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Complete the flow chart by filling in each blank with ONE word taken from paragraph 2.

An (i) \_\_\_\_\_ object is selected for every episode.



Contestants make a cake that (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ the object (iii) \_\_\_\_\_ hours.



They (iv) \_\_\_\_\_ their cakes among the objects.



They (v) \_\_\_\_\_ if the judges cannot spot the cakes from the (vi) \_\_\_\_\_ objects.

4. How do contestants win on *Is It Cake*? Put a tick (✓) in the correct box(es).

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> trick the judges       | <input type="checkbox"/> finish within time                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> identify the real cake | <input type="checkbox"/> bake a cake that looks like an object |
| <input type="checkbox"/> make a fake cake       | <input type="checkbox"/> make the fanciest cake                |

5. What does 'the platform' (line 22) refer to?

\_\_\_\_\_

5 Try to find the information of the referent in the previous paragraphs.

6. In paragraph 4, who does 'They' (line 30) refer to?

\_\_\_\_\_

7. How do contestants win on *Floor is Lava*?

\_\_\_\_\_

8. According to paragraphs 4–5, which of the following is / are the reason(s) for the popularity of *Floor is Lava*?
- A. humorous comments by the host  
 B. interactions among the contestants  
 C. the thrilling setting  
 D. all of the above

A      B      C      D  
        

9. In paragraph 6, what does 'one' (line 38) refer to?
- \_\_\_\_\_

10. How do contestants win on *Baking Impossible*?
- \_\_\_\_\_

11. Why are contestants on *Baking Impossible* called 'bakineers' (line 45)?
- \_\_\_\_\_

12. Look for words in the text that mean the same as the following:

- (i) \_\_\_\_\_ (para. 3) (v.) to fill up, complete, or make something better or perfect
- (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ (para. 4) (n.) things that block one's way or prevent or hinder progress
- (iii) \_\_\_\_\_ (para. 7) (adj.) related to cooking

13. Determine whether the following statements are True (T) or False (F).

	T	F
(i) On <i>Is It Cake?</i> , contestants compete in pairs.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
(ii) On <i>Floor is Lava</i> , contestants have to get over obstacles and the 'lava' to reach to the other side.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
(iii) One of the tasks of <i>Baking Impossible</i> is to make cakes that look like clothes.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

14. Based on the text, complete the table by writing ONE word to fill in each blank. Make sure your answers are grammatically correct.

	<i>Is It Cake?</i>	<i>Floor Is Lava</i>	<i>Baking Impossible</i>
Genre	a cooking competition	an obstacle course game	a baking contest
Number of contestants	3 per episode	(ii) _____ per episode	(v) _____ per episode
Special feature	The (i) _____ of each episode can stay throughout the season.	The host is (iii) _____ and the contestants have (iv) _____ interactions.	It combines cooking and (vi) _____.

# Vocabulary

GLOSSARY



A. Complete the article below with the given words. Make sure your answers are grammatically correct.

advance (v.)

atmosphere (n.)

complement (v.)

culinary (adj.)

dynamic (adj.)

innovative (adj.)

stand out (phr. v.)

twist (n.)

vastly (adv.)

withstand (v.)

## The transformation of game shows

In the most classic game shows, contestants try their best to win a prize. It can be winning a position at a Michelin restaurant with their (1) \_\_\_\_\_ skills in a cooking contest show. However, with so many game shows on TV or online platforms nowadays, it is more difficult for producers to create game shows that (2) \_\_\_\_\_ from the others.

Lately, producers are creating game shows with a different (3) \_\_\_\_\_ to the usual format. The new ones are more (4) \_\_\_\_\_ because they put less focus on the competition itself. These game shows can create a lively (5) \_\_\_\_\_ with the host's commentary and the chemistry among the contestants. How the contestants go from strangers to teammates, or even to companions is truly inspiring. When working as a team, they (6) \_\_\_\_\_ each other. When some of them cannot (7) \_\_\_\_\_ the pressure of the competition, other contestants encourage them. Seeing our favourite contestants (8) \_\_\_\_\_ to the next round, we feel so excited as if we were at the show.



Game shows are (9) \_\_\_\_\_ entertaining and often suitable to watch with our friends and family. Thanks to the creativity of the production teams, we now have more (10) \_\_\_\_\_ game shows to watch.

B. Complete the conversation below with the given idioms.

### Idioms related to competitions

at all costs

get one up on

go head-to-head

go the extra mile

seal the victory

take it easy

**Host:** Welcome to the quiz show! Before the game starts, let's talk with the two players today. How are you two feeling, David and Tony?

**David:** Great! I'm really excited about the game and I'm ready to think fast and answer your questions.

**Tony:** Me too! I'm going to (1) \_\_\_\_\_ and win the cash prize.

**Host:** I'm sure today is going to be a tough match. The two contestants will (2) \_\_\_\_\_ and both of them are prepared to win (3) \_\_\_\_\_. Speaking of winning, how much have the two of you done to prepare for this final?

**Tony:** My family didn't support me to join this competition from the very beginning. I have to (4) \_\_\_\_\_ and work harder to prove that I'm capable of winning this game.

**Host:** I'm sure your family is now very proud of you. How about you, David?

**David:** I don't want to put too much pressure on myself so I'm trying to (5) \_\_\_\_\_.

**Host:** David and Tony are going to (6) \_\_\_\_\_ each other in the game. Now, let's start the game!

## Writing

### My favourite game show

Write a review on your favourite TV game show in about 200 words.

