

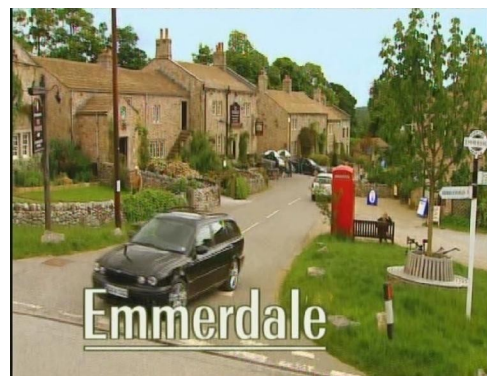
English Culture: Soap Operas

1) *EastEnders* is a long-running, popular television soap opera, first broadcast in the United Kingdom on BBC One on 19th February 1985. It currently ranks as one of the most watched shows in the United Kingdom. *EastEnders* storylines examine the domestic and professional lives of some people who live in London. The series primarily centres around the residents of Albert Square, a Victorian square of terraced houses, and its neighbouring streets, namely Bridge Street, Turpin Road and George Street, and which encompasses a pub, a street market, a night club, a community centre, a café, various small businesses, and a park. Today, four episodes are broadcast each week on BBC1, each 29 minutes long. *EastEnders* tackles many controversial and taboo issues previously unseen on mainstream television in the UK.



2) *Neighbours* is an Australian soap opera, which began in 1984. The series follows the lives of families who live in the six houses at the end of Ramsay Street, a short cul-de-sac in the fictional middle-class suburb of Erinsborough. Storylines explore the romances, family problems, domestic squabbles and other events affecting the residents. The episodes are 22 minutes long and are shown five nights a week.

3) *Emmerdale* is a popular British soap opera that began on ITV in 1972. It is set in the fictional village of Emmerdale in West Yorkshire, England. The storylines mostly centre around farm-life. *Emmerdale* is the third most popular soap opera on British television, behind *Coronation Street* and *EastEnders*. It is shown on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 7pm and on Thursdays at 8pm. Every episode lasts for 22 minutes.





4) Coronation Street is an award-winning prime-time soap opera set in Manchester. It is the longest-running and most-watched soap opera on British television. It was first broadcast on 9th December 1960 and is broadcast in all regions of ITV. The program tackles everyday problems met by various couples and families all living in the same street.

Exercise

1. Which soap opera has been running the longest?
2. Which of the above-mentioned soap operas are set in England?
3. Which soap opera do you think would be the most interesting, and why?
4. Soap operas in England and other countries never finish. What is your opinion of this?
5. If you could produce a soap opera, what kind of storylines would you choose?