

Cost-saving on TV viewing

How to enjoy home entertainment television programmes, box sets and films for free

Relaxing in front of the TV, streaming films, or catching up with programmes on iPad or mobile phone can add a lot of extra expense to your household costs. Here are some options for enjoying home viewing for free.

Stream for free

Search for specific films, TV series and programmes on internet or your TV main menu search option. You can often find what you are looking for to view for free on YouTube or other free streaming platforms, instead of choosing rental or purchase options or subscribing.

Subscription channels for free

Most commonly a free seven day trial, but can be anything up to three months free. You can get a free trial by going directly to the channel app either on your TV or any other digital device. Free trials are often offered when you buy a new TV or laptop, or take out a new broadband or mobile contract. Beware the temptation to choose a product purchase because of a free subscription offer, but if it's an extra after you've found the best pricing already then why not take advantage!

Cancel before the freebie ends

Some channels, such as Amazon Prime Video, allow you to set the end date at the same time as you sign-up for a free trial. This is a great way of avoiding going into a paid subscription by accident.

Otherwise count out the free trial days and make a note of when it will end to avoid any charges.

Get the best value

Unless free trials have a use by date, try waiting to sign up until summer holidays, Christmas break, or when someone in your household is stuck at home.

TV license cancellation

You don't require a TV license if:

- no live TV is watched or recorded, including live YouTube streaming
- no BBC iplayer is watched
- no pay TV services are watched, such as Sky
- TV license is free if someone in your household is aged 75 or over and receives Pension Credit, or is registered blind.

Getting a refund

If you pay twelve months of TV license in one go, you can claim a refund in these circumstances:

- any unused months left over after you cancel.
- unused months if you've been away for a while or you have become eligible for a free license.

More TV license information and online form

www.tvlicensing.co.uk/check-if-you-need-one/topics/cancellations-and-refunds

[forms.tvlicensing.co.uk/refund and cancellation.wdf](https://forms.tvlicensing.co.uk/refund-and-cancellation.wdf)

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Visit <https://www.elft.nhs.uk/service-users-and-carers/cost-living> for more tips and advice on how to save on your household bills.