

The Truman Show

A. Read and discuss the questions below.

1. Have you ever watched a reality TV show? If yes, which one or ones.
2. What do you think of reality TV? Please explain.
3. Why do you think reality TV is so popular these days?
4. Would you ever go on a reality TV show? Why?

B. Watch the clip and complete the blanks using either present perfect or present perfect

continuous. If either is possible, make a choice and explain your reasoning.

1. They have got (get) about 5,000 cameras in the town.
2. Truman has been living (live) in a fake world since he was a baby.
3. He wonders whether his whole life has been building (building) towards something.
4. Truman has wanted (want) to be an explorer since he was a child.
5. Recently, strange things have happened, have been happening (happen).
6. His best friend has known (know) him since he was seven years old.
7. The producer of the show believes he has given (give) Truman the chance to live a normal life.

C. The Truman Show is an extreme example of reality TV, especially since he had no awareness or

choice in the matter. Usually during a reality TV show, the contestants are interviewed as to what

has been happening and what they have been doing.

In pairs, talk about what you have been doing recently. Do not use specific time phrases such as

‘yesterday’ or ‘on Tuesday’ for which you must use the simple past. Instead use general time phrases

such as ‘recently, lately, this week, already, just etc.’

Consider whether you are talking about a result or permanent state (present perfect), or a duration

or temporary state (present perfect continuous). Remember, non-continuous verbs cannot be used in

present perfect continuous. You must use the simple present perfect.