

Listening to the TV

Over the years, I have noticed more and more difficulty in listening to the TV. I thought that it was my hearing. It is and it isn't.

In his post on Beyond-Hearing@yahoogroups.com (Mar. 18, 2017), Artie explains some of the issues that now confront everyone and not just hard of hearing people. In the analog days, TVs had speakers that were compatible in size/quality to what the recording studio used to set the sound in the original production. That is, some of the problem is in the original mix. "Editors mixed audio so that it sounded good in the environment where it would be listened to."

As consumers moved to flat-screened TVs and digital sound production utilized computers as editing stations, editors switched to high quality headphones. Flat-screen TVs most often have small sometimes 3 inch speakers which do not compare to what the editors used. A Dolby 5.1 surround-sound home theater is closer to what the production editor uses.

To hear sound, we tend to turn the volume up very high. "This increases the background sound as well as the dialogue without actually making the voices clearer." Creative audio soundscapes are being added to the sound track which for HOH people adds more background-sound clutter.

While TV Stations, Networks and Production Editors can do much to match the sound they broadcast to the TVs that are in our homes, we need to help ourselves as well.

1. We need to recognize that the \$1000 flat-screen TV may not have the speaker quality that we need to enjoy the programs. We may need to invest in a quality sound system such as a Dolby surround-sound.

2. Obviously, we need to utilize the captions that are available for us. This may require us to read the instruction manual to find out how to turn them on and off. Today, most programs are required to be captioned. If they are not, we need to advocate for ourselves. We need to contact the cable company, the channel/network broadcaster and/or the FCC to find out why captions are not available. Late night programs may not be required to be captioned. The FCC and network TV broadcasters think it is too expensive for the few HOH people who watch. Tell them you are watching and need the captions.

3. HLAA is a self-help organization. We need to help ourselves. That means, we need to utilize assistive listening devices that are compatible with our hearing aids. Learn what is available.

It is easy to say, "Oh well" and put up with not hearing the TV. We can always read a book and just give up. Or, we can become assertive and advocate for ourselves. We can aggressively seek out Assistive Listening Devices that work for us. We can utilize what we learn via HLAA to make communication better for us.

Thanks to:

Yahoo Groups

Understanding TV, Sat. Mar 18, 2017, Posted by Artie

Courtesy: Florida Deaf Blind Association

Bruce Rogow, KPBS in San Diego