

THE STORY

READ THE SYNOPSIS AND STUDY THE VOCABULARY. ARE THE SENTENCES BELOW TRUE OR FALSE?

BANALITY SHOW is a "reality show" television programme. When the show begins, we see two men and two women enter a house in an unknown location where they must ¹ live together for some weeks. The house is full of² cameras that will watch them for twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

The contestants³ are all English speakers of different ages and personalities. They are Val (or Valerie), Conan, Kim and Barry. Each wants to win ⁴ the prize of one million euros. Some want to win the money to become rich and famous, while others have different reasons. The contestants can never leave⁵ the house and they can only talk to ⁶ the Voice. We never see the Voice⁷; we can only hear him.

During the show, the contestants must obey⁸ a number of rules⁹. They must try to learn some Spanish, so they cannot read or listen to the radio in English but they can read and listen in Spanish. They can't smoke, drink alcohol or talk on their mobile phones.

Inside the house, the contestants have to¹⁰ complete a number of tests¹¹. In the first test, they have to teach the house parrot¹² to speak in Spanish. In test number two, they must learn a "Sevillanas" dance. In the third test, they have to drink a "popular Spanish" liquid, and in the last test they must answer some questions on Spanish culture and sport.

As the weeks go by ¹³ two contestants are nominated ¹⁴ to leave the house. At first, each of the four players chooses¹⁵ a person and they tell the Voice who they want to leave. The Voice then chooses the second person who must leave. Finally it is the audience who decides who is to win the competition. (So that is YOU!) Who will be the winner? Well you have to come and see BANALITY SHOW for yourself, and then you can vote for who you want to win.

	TRUE	FALSE
1. Banality Show is a radio programme		
2. There are four contestants at the start of the show.		
3. The cameras do not film at night.		
4. The contestants cannot speak Spanish.		
5. They all want to become rich and famous.		
6. Sometimes they can go outside the house.		
7. There are some rules in the house.		
8. They must not read in Spanish		
9. They can drink beer in the house.		
10. They must do four tests.		
11. The Voice nominates the first person to leave.		
12. You decide who is the winner.		

¹ must = *deber*

² full of = *lleno de*

³ contestants = *concurstantes*

⁴ to win = *ganar* ; winner = *ganador / a*

⁵ to leave = *salir de (o dejar)*

⁶ to talk to = *hablar con*

⁷ The Voice = *La Voz*.

⁸ obey = *obedecer*

⁹ rules = *reglas*

¹⁰ to have to = *tener que*

¹¹ tests = *pruebas*

¹² parrot = *loro*

¹³ As the weeks go by = *Con el paso de las semanas*

¹⁴ to nominate = *nominar*

¹⁵ to choose = *elegir*

THE CHARACTERS



BARRY DAVIES is a postman ¹⁶, but his dream ¹⁷ is to form part of a rock band. He likes singing and playing the guitar and his favourite singer is Elvis Presley. Barry calls him "The King". He also loves beautiful women, drinking beer and smoking but he knows very well that cigarettes are bad for him. Barry is vain ¹⁸: he thinks he's very handsome and that all women adore him. He also likes to talk a lot.



KIM KARKRASHIAN is from the United States (the others are British). Her favourite hobbies are shopping ¹⁹, fashion and talking to her best friend on her mobile phone. She's an extroverted ²⁰ person and thinks she's extremely sophisticated and talented ²¹. She is also very egoistic. Kim says she is so rich that she doesn't need to ²² work as her father is a billionaire.



VALERIE THOMAS (or Val) is a quiet, studious woman. She is a lot older than the other contestants. She reads a lot of books and likes learning new languages. She also likes to help others, especially poor people. Barry and Kim think she is too old to be on Banality Show. She can't speak Spanish but she tries hard to learn. Val doesn't smoke, drink or wear ²³ any make-up. She's quite a private person with lots of secrets and an interesting past.



CONAN WOODWARD-SPENCER is an animal rights activist ²⁴. He believes animals are extremely important for the planet's survival ²⁵ and are even more important than people. He has got long hair and is very dirty ²⁶. He doesn't like washing ²⁷ himself because he is trying to save water which is why he smells ²⁸ so bad. Conan doesn't eat meat because he is a vegetarian. He loves yoga and he does it every day.

¹⁶ postman = *cartero*

¹⁷ dream = *sueño*

¹⁸ vain = *vanidoso*

¹⁹ shopping = *compras*

²⁰ extrovert = *extrovertido, nada tímido*

²¹ talented = *con talento*

²² to need = *necesitar* (she doesn't need to work = *no necesita trabajar*)

²³ to wear = *llevar* (she doesn't wear make-up = *no lleva maquillaje*)

²⁴ animal rights activist = *activista o defensor de los derechos de los animales*

²⁵ planet's survival = *supervivencia del planeta*

²⁶ dirty = *sucio*

²⁷ to wash yourself (himself, herself, etc.) = *lavarse*

²⁸ to smell bad = *oler mal*