

RATING LABELS

In 1996, Congress asked the broadcasting industry to establish a voluntary ratings system for TV programs. The industry did so by creating the ratings system known as "TV Parental Guidelines."

The TV Parental Guidelines Monitoring Board makes sure that the rating guidelines are applied accurately and consistently to television programming.

Rating labels were created to help parents determine which programs provide suitable viewing for their children.

Each label corresponds to the degree, if any, of the following content contained in the designated program: Violence (V), Sex (S), coarse Language (L), sexual Dialogue (D).

The rating labels appear in the corner of your television screen during the first 15 seconds of each television program. They are also included in the television listings of many newspapers.

Ratings are assigned to all television programming except news, sports, and unedited movies on premium cable channels.

There are six possible ratings that a program can receive:

Children's Programming:



TV-Y Program deemed appropriate for all children, including ages 2-6.



TV Y7 - Program designed for children age 7 and above. May include mild fantasy or comedic violence.



TV Y7 FV - Program contains more intense and combative fantasy violence.



TV G - Program suitable for all ages, although not designed specifically for young children. Contains little or no violence, drug use, or sexual material.



TV PG - Parental Guidance Suggested. Program contains material that parents may find unsuitable for some children under 11.



TV 14 - Parents Strongly Cautioned. Program contains material that many parents would find unsuitable for children under 14.



TV MA - Audience Only. Program specifically designed for adult viewing, and therefore may be unsuitable for children under 17.