

TV411

Practical, accessible literacy and life skills

Emmy Award-winning **TV411** focuses on parenting, money matters and health. Lively video lessons teach practical math and writing, reading comprehension, and include motivational interviews with popular personalities and adult learners.

30 videos (DVD or VHS) cover a variety of topics, strengthening reading, writing and math skills in real-life contexts. [Program descriptions](#) are available at www.tv411.org. DVDs provide clickable menus highlighting key topics.

12-page workbooks explore concepts presented in each program, with practice in real world context such as filling out an application; understanding a paycheck; and deciphering food and medicine labels.

TV411 Learner's Guide answer basic questions about using the videos, workbooks and website and helps learners articulate their goals and develop a portfolio for keeping track of their work.

Program Descriptions

1

Question Man uses a thesaurus to find synonyms, while Stephen Colman illustrates the use of synonyms and antonyms in slam poetry. Laverne helps a coworker figure out how much of her pay is taken out in taxes, job seekers create dossiers to help in their job hunts, a Nashville mechanic shares his experiences, and Michael Franti of Spearhead explains how he writes songs.

2

Members of the Dallas Cowboys use football to illustrate examples of decimals and percentages; Agent Know How shows how to get a library card; poet Jimmy Santiago Baca tells how he discovered the power of language while serving time in prison, then leads a writing seminar; and Question Man explains when to use apostrophes.

3

Job seekers prepare for filling out applications by creating personal data sheets, and singer/songwriter Phoebe Snow talks about music and the composing process. A mother creates a medical "bible" in order to document and track her chronically ill child's medical history.

4

Actress Kathy Bates talks about books that have been made into movies, a woman from Pittsburgh tells how she reached her goal of becoming a travel agent, the book club reads Laura Esquivel's *Like Water for Chocolate*, and Malik Yoba shares tips on how to keep a journal.

5

The book club reads *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou, Agent Know How goes looking for information at the library, and Laverne helps a new father of triplets multiply his shopping list. The Lifelines segment shows how to prepare for a visit to the doctor.

6

Question Man shows how to take a phone message, Laverne helps shoppers get the best deals on television sets, and pop/rock band BETTY teaches about homonyms. Job seekers learn how to write résumés, and an Indiana woman talks about going back to school as an adult so she could become a nurse.

7

Olympic track star Florence Griffith Joyner introduces a segment in which skaters Tai Babalonia and Randy Gardner calculate an average. An animated segment shows how to look up a word in a dictionary, and New York artist Esperanza Cortez shares her battle with dyslexia.

8

Job seekers work on writing cover letters for applications, Laverne helps a shopper with diabetes get nutritional information from food labels, and "Dictionary Cinema" shows how to look up a word you don't know how to spell.

9

Agent Know How tries out the library computer to find a book, and a father shares tips on reading to children. The book club members read *Angela's Ashes* and meet author Frank McCourt.

10

A young couple gets advice on getting their finances under control from a credit counselor, and John Fugelsang hosts a look at the fine print on "too-good-to-be-true" credit card offers. The "Rip Off" segment looks critically at a TV ad, and author Studs Terkel reads from his book *Working*.

11

Salsa musician Rubén Blades performs some of his songs and talks about his writing process. An El Paso mother enters the Even Start program and learns ways to bring her family closer together through reading and writing. Then Question Man shares tips on taking tests.

12

Laverne helps a young man write a card to his girlfriend, parents choose a school for their child, and bluegrass singer/songwriter Hazel Dickens shares some of her music.

13

Professional women basketball players explain applications of fractions and percentages in their sport, new immigrants get advice on applying for citizenship, and Laverne helps a customer fill out an application for store credit. An Oakland woman shares how writing a letter can generate change in a community.

14

A son writes an emotional letter to his estranged father, and Dictionary Cinema shows how foreign words are listed. An adult learner talks to his boss about his continuing education. LaPhonso Ellis and Alan Henderson of the NBA demonstrate how to figure out time and distance on a map when planning a trip. Also, tips on highlighting text, a pop quiz about word origins, and an explanation of the word *reconcile*.

15

Question Man goes to the library for books on parenting, and Laverne explains how to use a glossary to read a health insurance plan. Street Beat offers advice on figuring the tip in a restaurant, and a mother and daughter create a daily schedule. Poet Jimmy Santiago Baca shows a group of adult learners how to keep a journal. Other topics include energy consumption of appliances and the word *stereotype*.

16

Question Man looks at the economics of rent-to-own deals, basketball pro Olympia Scott-Richardson shows how she uses her day planner to stay organized, and actor Dennis Franz gives a tip on reading the newspaper. Laverne helps a painting contractor figure the cost of a job, and singer-songwriter Toshi Reagon writes a song on the spot. Other topics include credit card debt and the word *analogy*.

17

A couple of first-time home buyers learn how to read a mortgage chart, Question Man works on understanding his utility bill, and Street Beat shows how to evaluate written information. Four students from California, calling themselves The Freedom Writers, use pen and paper to fight prejudice and intolerance. Also: how to use a thesaurus, a pop quiz about volunteering, and the word *anomaly*.

18

Question Man reads the newspaper, ABC News anchor Antonio Mora hosts a report on multiple intelligences, tennis pro Zina Garrison explains percentiles and rankings, and Jimmy Santiago Baca shows a group of adult learners how to summarize a poem. Street Beat covers looking up government listings in the phone book, while other segments introduce facts about the United States Census and the

word *dynamics*.

19

Tips on how to summarize almost anything, a pop quiz about adults in college, and the word *marginalized*. ABC News anchor Antonio Mora reports on different learning styles, a Maryland steel worker studies for his GED, Laverne explains how to use unit price labels on store shelves, and poet Jimmy Santiago Baca talks about how he discovered the joy of language.

20

While reading a pamphlet on breast cancer, Laverne explains the basics of probability and odds. Elizabeth Daniels Squire, a novelist who is also dyslexic, talks about her work, and Antonio Mora of ABC News reports on dyslexia. Also: different meanings for the same word, how to learn and remember new words, a quiz about water and the human body, and the word *genetics*.

21 - Body Works

Sports Smarts features Olympic medallist Marian Jones running us through the concept of rate; a new strand features two math-savvy Calculating Women who take charge of an overweight friend's calorie-counting; a Lifelines segment explores smart ways to manage multiple medications; Straight to the Source introduces mind mentor Michael Gelb and an innovative technique for brainstorming and retaining ideas; Michael Beech of TV's Third Watch offers tips for handling an emergency.

22 - Personal Finances

Question Man (Joey Kola) gets financial advice from a millionaire; in a moving Lifelines segment, a teenage parent gets help starting up a small lollipop business as he pursues his GED; those math-savvy Calculating Women estimate and calculate their way to the perfect cell phone plan; Straight to the Source asks a federal official to reveal the math behind common money scams.

23 - The Learning Journey

A Lifelines segment presents strategies for reading comprehension on the GED; in Math Behind the Arts, TV chef Curtis Aikens explains ratios and cooking; a Milestone portrait traces how one man left prison and low literacy behind; TV411's Book Club finds out what happens when an entire Midwestern town reads the same novel.

24 - On the Job

Question Man figures out how to decipher legalese; a Milestone portrait shows how an Appalachian man succeeded in changing careers after the end of his coal mining days; TV411's Calculating Women explore strategies for building up retirement savings; Math Behind the Arts features a New York City subway tile artist.

25 - Navigating the System

Calculating Women offer tips on how to avoid credit card debt; Milestones focuses on a New York man who, despite a reading disability, teaches others how to pass written driver's license exams; Laverne (Liz Torres) dispenses sound advice about over-the-counter medicine labels and prescription dosages; three Harlem Globetrotters demonstrate how to read a world map.

26 - Family Matters

A Milestone portrait traces an African immigrant's struggles as she learns to read and raise a family in America; Laverne helps a young parent find ways to childproof her home; an African-American woman learns how to research her family roots over the Internet and in the field; hip-hop star Doug E. Fresh teaches parents and children how to rap while they read.

27 - Writing

Question Man tackles sentence fragments in a grammatically-correct dream; poet Jimmy Baca conducts a dynamic writing workshop with steelworkers; Laverne helps a co-worker create an outline for a GED essay on disciplining children; Straight to the Source takes us behind the scenes at the popular Bernie Mac show for a peek at a professional brainstorming session.

28 - Express Yourself

Newly-minted writer Kathi Wellington enlivens a Milestone with stories of being a female steelworker; Math Behind the Arts visits origami artist June Sakamoto for a geometry lesson; parents and children interpret art and symbolism at the Philadelphia museum; Broadway performers from Russell Simmon's Def Poetry Jam demonstrate how writing poetry can be both literary and exuberant.

29 - Math for Life

Math Behind the Arts asks a drummer and the chorus line of Forty-Second Street to demonstrate fractions in action; a carpenter shows how math is critical to her work; a Sports Smarts segment taps the expertise of Mets pitcher Al Leiter on the perimeter of a baseball diamond; Laverne explains the concept of percentages and multiple mark-downs to bargain hunters.

30 - Media

Question Man gets the scoop from a reporter on how to read between the lines; Straight to the Source looks over the shoulder of political cartoonist Don Margolies as he creates his caricatures; a Sports Smarts segment shows how DC United soccer star Nick Rimando uses computers and the Net while he's on the road; Book Club visits a special class in New York where workers learn about the history of the Depression through Dorothea Lange's celebrated photographs.

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