

## Great anchors

### ■ Walter Cronkite

**Walter Cronkite** (1916-2009) was a news legend as an anchorman. After covering the most important events of World War II as a war correspondent, throughout the 1950s Cronkite hosted the CBS shows *You Are There*, an imaginary broadcast of historical events, *The Morning Show*, and a documentary series, *The Twentieth Century*. He also reported on the most important moments of American life in the 1960s, from the assassination of John F. Kennedy to the Apollo 11 Moon landing.

His influence on reporting based on objectivity was best illustrated by his commentary on the Vietnam War. In 1968 he left the anchor desk to report from Vietnam on the **aftermath** of the Tet offensive. After his return, however, Cronkite departed from his usual objectivity, declaring that the war could end only in a protracted **stalemate**.

He continued in his position at CBS through the 1970s, reporting on the decade's most memorable events, including the Watergate scandal, the resignation of Nixon, and the historic peace negotiations between Egyptian President Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Begin.

He omitted his **sign-off line**, "And that's the way it is" on nights when he ended the newscast with opinion or commentary; this exemplified his nickname which was "the most trusted man in America".



### ■ Robert MacNeil

**Robert MacNeil** was born in Canada in 1931. After graduating, he moved to London where he worked for Reuters News Agency and later the NBC. After he returned to Washington, MacNeil co-anchored (with Jim Lehrer) coverage of the Senate Watergate Hearings, for which he won the first of several Emmy Awards. In October 1975, he and Lehrer launched a half-hour nightly news programme, "The Robert MacNeil Report with Jim Lehrer", which dealt with a single issue each night, an innovative approach expanded to "The MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour", the first hour-long evening news programme in the US. "NewsHour" continued to earn major broadcasting awards a decade later.

MacNeil has written several books, explaining the power of television, who is affected by it, and who controls it. He believes that telecommunication is very important because it helps unite people, influences public opinion, politics and governments, and, indirectly, **affects** foreign policy.



**to affect:** *influenzare*  
**aftermath:** *conseguenze*  
**break-in:** *irruzione*  
**cover-up:** *insabbiamento*

**sign-off line:** *battuta finale*  
**stalemate:** *stallo*

**1**  **Answer the questions.**

1. Why is Cronkite famous?
2. What historical event affected Cronkite's popularity the most?
3. What did Cronkite use to say at the end of his news programme?
4. Whose resignation did he cover?
5. What do Cronkite and MacNeil have in common?
6. What news programme did MacNeil launch and why was it different?
7. Did MacNeil cover the Watergate Hearings on his own?
8. Do you agree with MacNeil's idea about the role of information technology?

**2**  **Translate the sentences into English.**

1. Ha fatto l'inviato di guerra durante tutta la Seconda guerra mondiale.
2. Quel conduttore di telegiornale non ha mai vinto alcun premio.
3. Trasmettere notizie con filmati girati all'estero costa molto.
4. Chi ha vinto il Walter Cronkite l'anno scorso?
5. Chi sono le conduttrici di programmi di informazione più famose?
6. Per chi è importante controllare un programma che trasmette solo notizie?
7. Non hai mai visto qualche film sul Watergate?
8. I commenti sono sempre separati dalle notizie nei programmi televisivi di informazione politica?

**3**  **Read the text and complete the table below.**

**Robin Roberts**

Robin Roberts is anchor of ABC's "Good Morning America". Under her leadership, the broadcast has won four Emmy Awards for Outstanding Morning Program and the 2017 People's Choice Award for Favorite Daytime TV Hosting Team. Roberts has been honoured with the Walter Cronkite Award for Excellence in journalism, was admitted to the Broadcasting & Cable Hall of Fame as well as the Sports Broadcasting Hall of Fame and named one of Glamour's Women of the Year. Roberts has founded her own production

company, Rock'n Robin Productions, which creates original broadcast and digital programming for ABC and other networks, ranging from informational shows and documentaries, to live special events. Roberts is the author of *From the Heart: 7 Rules to Live By*, and her memoir, *Everybody's Got Something*, in which she tells the story of her battle against a life-threatening illness, learning life's hardest lessons, and her inspiring return to the GMA anchor desk.



1. Name	
2. Job	
3. Awards and prizes	
4. Production company	
5. Publications	



**WATERGATE**

The Watergate scandal was a political scandal in the USA involving the Administration of U.S. President Nixon from 1972 to 1974 that led Nixon to resignation. Watergate was so synonymous with scandal that it became common practice for the press to use the word *gate* as a suffix after any scandal. In May 1973, the special Senate committee began

televised proceedings on the Watergate affair. During the Senate hearings, former White House legal counsel testified that the Watergate **break-in** had been approved by ex Attorney, General John Mitchell, with the knowledge of the White House, and that President Nixon had been aware of the **cover-up**.