# Outside Broadcasts




How does LIVE television work?

Sharon Parsons

Nelson Literacy Directions

For teachers' inspection ONLY

# OUTSIDE BROADCASTS




My sincere thanks to the following people for their time, information, images and enthusiasm for this book:

Colin Rothenberg, and the team at The OB Group, Sydney, Australia

Jamie Hurworth, Sydney, Australia

The Weather Channel, Sydney, Australia

Jason Speed, Melbourne, Australia

Dear Reader

My favourite sport to watch on television is tennis. I have often wondered how live tennis action is transmitted to TV screens so quickly! After investigating, I was so interested in the whole process of outside broadcasting, I decided to write about it.

> **YOU'LL MEET AN OUTSIDE-BROADCAST CAMERA OPERATOR WHO HAS FILMED SUBJECTS RANGING FROM SHARKS TO SHIPWRECKS TO DOG GAMES!**

Live broadcasts are filmed and transmitted by outside-broadcasting units, which are mini television studios inside large trucks.

In this book, I feature an outside-broadcasting company, The OB Group – it was interesting and fun observing the team at work. Join me behind the scenes to find out what happens during outside broadcasts – from camera to TV screen.

Enjoy!

Sharon Parsons

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# 1 Live Television Direct to Homes

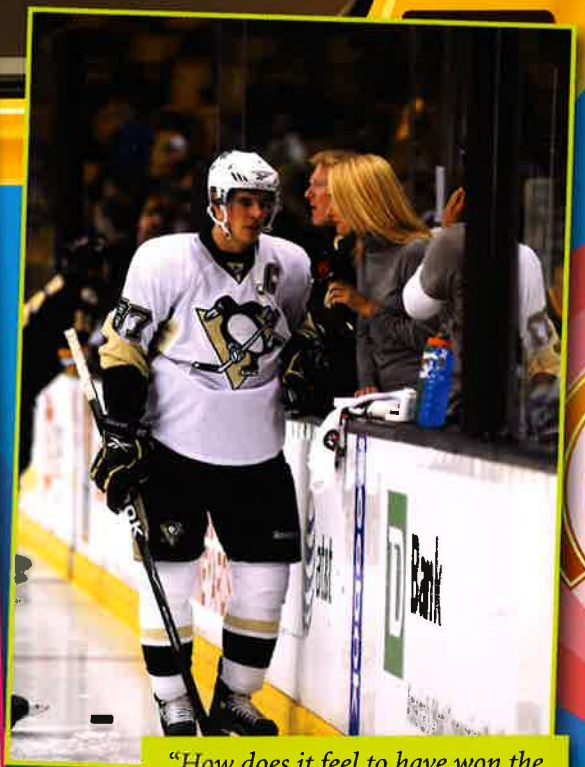
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Think about those times when you and your family have sat down excitedly in front of the television to watch a live broadcast of your favourite sporting event.

At the beginning of an event, reporters and presenters may appear on screen to provide commentary. Then, the vision may switch to glimpses of live action that may only last a few seconds, to set the scene before the full television coverage of the event begins.



"Goal!"

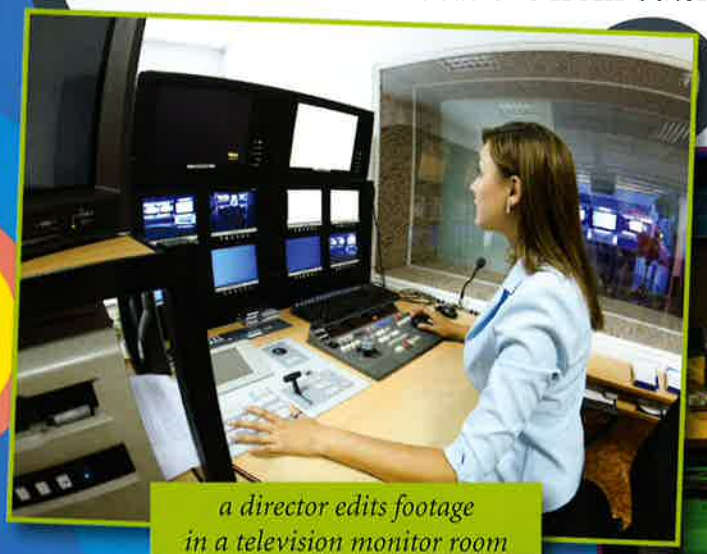


"How does it feel to have won the ice hockey championship again?"

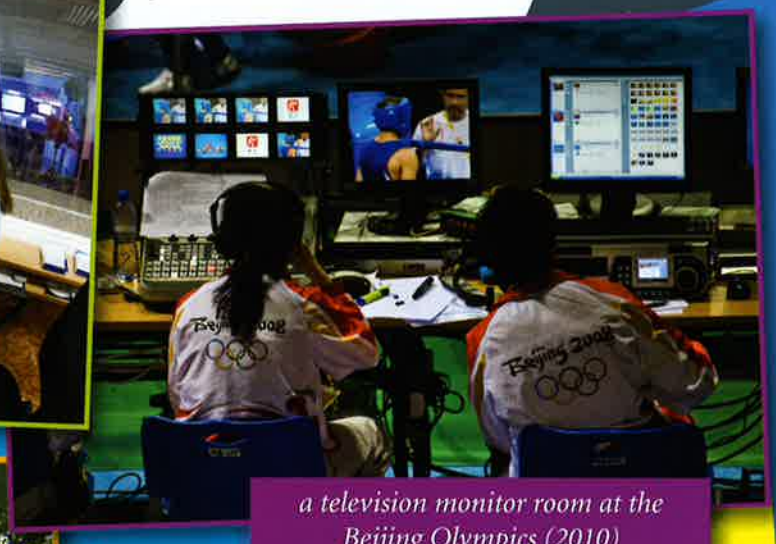
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# Outside Broadcasting for Television

So who are the people behind the scenes deciding what vision you see? And what is the technology that enables you to see live vision of an event on your television screen? This form of broadcasting involves a team of technical people who work in remote locations from outside-broadcasting facilities.



*a director edits footage in a television monitor room*



*a television monitor room at the Beijing Olympics (2010)*



*weather reporting on location*

Social Studies

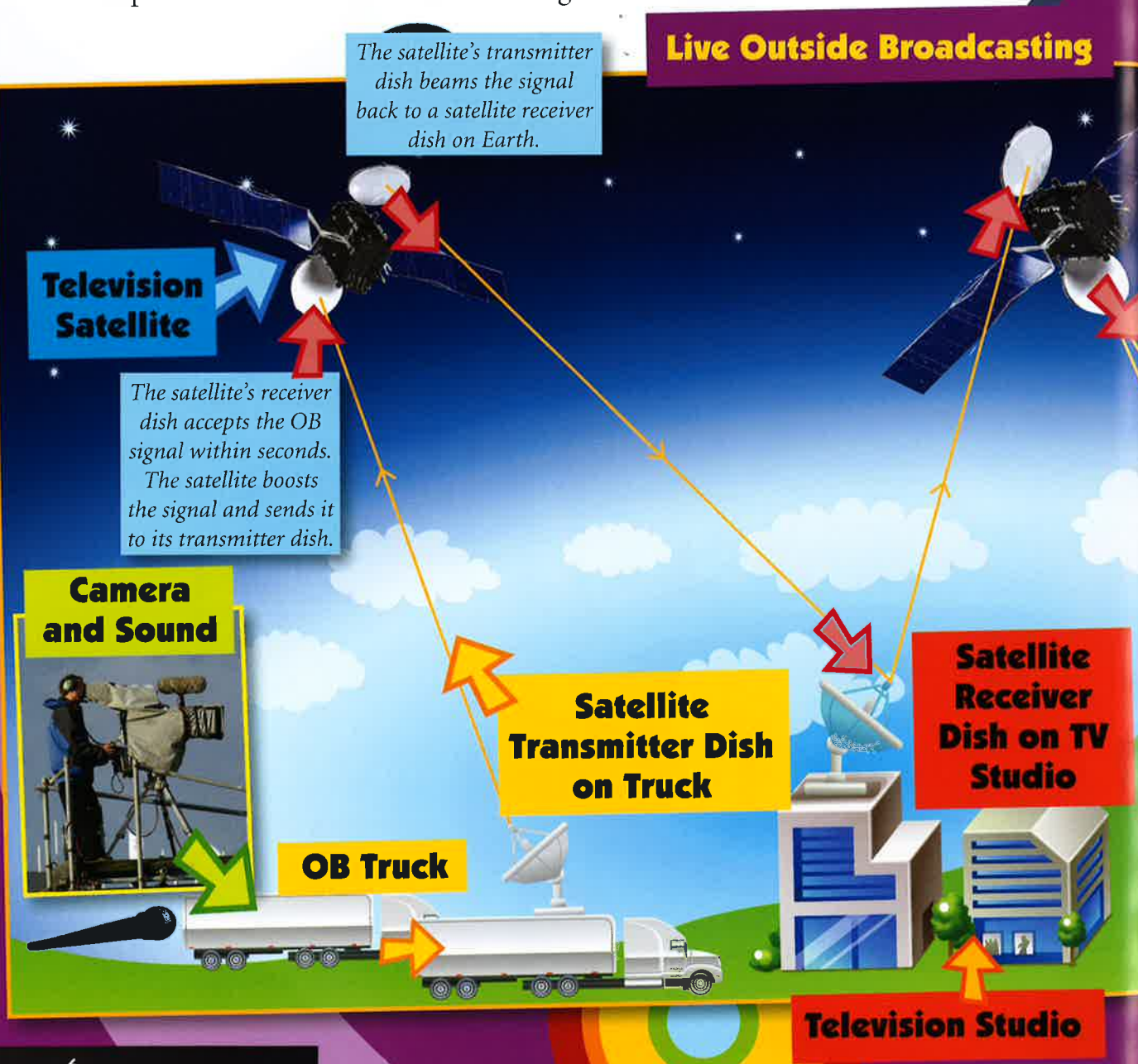
## Live News and Weather Reports

Every day, television reporters present live reports so that viewers can get the most up-to-date news and weather. These reports can be presented from a location that is far away from the studio – even from another state or country. Presenters transmit their live coverage reports using outside-broadcasting facilities.

# 2 What Is Outside Broadcasting?

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Outside broadcasting (OB) involves using a mobile unit with television production people to film and transmit events (news, sports and entertainment), via electronic and satellite technology to television studios (for broadcasting to people's homes). Below is one example of how live outside broadcasting works.



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## Outside-Broadcast Units

Outside-broadcast units are mobile, mini versions of television studios that are usually built inside a large truck or van. When an event that is being broadcast takes place over several days, an OB unit may be set up in a temporary on-site building.



*The V8 Supercars events take place over several days, so the television team sets up their OB equipment in an on-site building.*







## DIRECT-TO-HOME BROADCASTING

"Direct-to-home" (DTH) broadcasting relates to the vision and sound that is transmitted via satellites to people's homes around the world.

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# 3 An Outside-Broadcasting Company

The OB Group is an outside-broadcasting company based in Sydney, Australia. It works on behalf of television studios at public events, and broadcasts them live to viewers. Sometimes, they pre-record an event for the television studio.

Colin Rothenberg owns The OB Group, and his job at each event is to provide direction and technical support for his production team. His outside-broadcasting company specialises in televising outdoor news, sports and entertainment events, and they also film documentary programs.



*Colin completes his technical checks before the live broadcasting begins.*



*Colin leaves the OB truck, satisfied that everything is ready for the live outside broadcast.*

## Colin's "Right-Hand Man"

Jamie is a camera operator who has worked with Colin for many years. He is multi-skilled in all areas of outside broadcasting, so he is often Colin's "right-hand man".

### RIGHT-HAND MAN

"Right-hand man" is an old expression that is still used today to describe a trusted and helpful assistant.

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### Jamie Briefs a Camera Operator



### Jamie Checks Each Camera's Vision



### Jamie Films Event Vision



### Jamie Checks the Video Monitors

