

DU Learning Guide

Digital TV

"Lots more channels, and they're still free!"

What's it all about?

Digital TV uses similar technology to that used by the Internet. The technology enables you to receive more TV channels and radio stations than "analogue" and all sorts of additional features can be provided, like online programme guides, audio description and interactive services.

Digital TV has been available for some time via satellite and cable, and is also broadcast free to TV aerials in some parts of the country by 'Freeview'. To make the free broadcasts available in all areas, the Government has decided that analogue transmissions will be phased out and replaced by digital. This "digital switchover" has started and will continue TV region by TV region to 2012.

You don't need to convert your TV to digital until your area's switchover date. But many people choose to convert earlier, to get the benefits of digital TV now.

Websites that can help you

Digital UK

www.digitaluk.co.uk

An organisation set up by the BBC, ITV, Channel 4, Five, S4C and Teletext to provide information on digital switchover.

Use their 'Postcode checker' to find out when your area switches and how to get digital TV now.

Ricability

www.ricability-digitaltv.org.uk

An independent research charity that has been commissioned by the Government to test and provide impartial reports on digital TVs, set top boxes, digital TV recorders and indoor aerials.

They also have advice on what to buy and ease of use, a 'connection wizard' to help with setting up and a 'jargon buster' to explain all the new words that are used about digital TV.

BBC Digital

www.bbc.co.uk/digital

Information on digital TV and radio from the BBC plus a 'Beginners' Guide to Digital'.

Radio & Telly

www.radioandtelly.co.uk

Information and lots of links to other sites about digital TV and radio.