

# TOP FIVE BRITISH COMEDY PANEL SHOWS TO FOLLOW

FATIUL HUQ SUJOY

The current British comedy scene is dominated by panel shows that emphasize on humorous banter and the comic value of things rather competing for a grand prize. Not only do they work as great stress busters, but there's a lot of random information to learn from since most of them are based on current affairs. Here is a list of the top five British comedy panel shows that are still airing:



## MOCK THE WEEK:

Network: BBC Two  
 Runtime: 30 minutes  
 Mock The Week is the best in the business when it comes to improvised topical comedy fused with satire and the occasional dark humour; all as just a part of a panel of seven comedians ridiculing the news of the week. The show is hosted by Irish comedian Dara Ó Briain and has been airing since 2005. The show consists of regular game rounds: 'Headliners', 'Wheel of News', 'If This Is the Answer, What Is the Question' and



'Scenes We'd Like to See'. The show's success is mainly due to its emphasis on having stand up comedians as panellists and giving them full freedom on cracking jokes. Their leniency on jokes,

though sometimes a cause for controversy, sets it apart from other panel shows and creates a whole bunch of laugh-out-loud moments. It is a full-on 30 minutes of genuine entertainment.

## HAVE I GOT NEWS FOR YOU:

Network: BBC One  
 Runtime: 30-40 minutes  
 This show is considered as the father of the panel show boom on British TV. Airing since 1990, the show has reached the landmark of 50 seasons. The show's routine is pretty basic. It consists of various rounds like 'Silent Film', 'Odd One Out', and 'Missing Words' that poke fun at the recent news with satirical and observational humour. The show, without a permanent host since 2002, takes in guest hosts that span from renowned comedians to celebrities like Jeremy Clarkson, Benedict Cumberbatch, Daniel Radcliffe and many more.



## WOULD I LIE TO YOU:

Network: BBC One  
 Runtime: 30 minutes  
 WILTY is a fun game show hosted by Rob Brydon and has been airing since 2007. The panel is divided into two sides led by comedians David Mitchell and Lee Mack who are associated with new guests each week. The show's game involves one party giving a statement and the opposition figuring out if it was true or a lie through rigorous questioning. The show's strength is in its ridiculous stories (which are sometimes surprisingly true) and the improvising of comedians.



## QI:

Network: BBC Two  
 Runtime: 30-40 minutes  
 Hosted by Stephen Fry, QI (Quite Interesting), is technically a quiz show with four panellists. But the questions are usually obscure, and intended for incorrect answers and comical arguments. The show may not be famous for hysterical humour, but it makes for an entertaining 30 minutes and a scope for learning random interesting stuff.

## 8 OUT OF 10 CATS:

Network: Channel 4  
 Runtime: 30 minutes  
 With a name derived from a cat food advertisement tagline "8 out of 10 cats prefer Whiskas", this game show holds its quizzes based on opinion polls. Hosted by comedian Jimmy Carr, the panel is divided into two teams and they face off in rounds like 'What Are You Talking About?', 'Pick of The Polls', 'The Poll With A Hole'. The show has also done mashups with famous TV programmes like 'Countdown' and 'Deal Or No Deal'.

*Fatiul Huq Sujoy is a tired soul (mostly because of his frail body) who's patiently waiting for Hagrid to appear and tell him, "Ye're a saiyan, lord commander." Suggest him places to travel and food-ventures to take at [fb.com/SyedSujoy](https://fb.com/SyedSujoy).*

