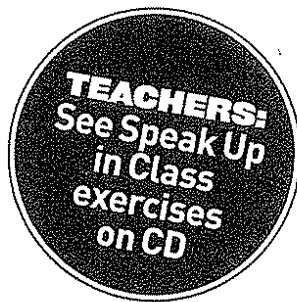


LANGUAGE LEVEL: **A2-PRE-INTERMEDIATE**

# DAVID LETTERMAN

## TALKING TO AMERICA

Ingenioso y locuaz, David Letterman es el presentador favorito de América. Salpicado por varios escándalos, es un personaje que sólo se relaja frente a la cámara.

**D**avid Letterman, 62, hosts<sup>1</sup> America's number one talk show: *The Late Show with David Letterman* on CBS. He has interviewed everybody, from presidents like Obama and Clinton to film stars like Tom Hanks and Sharon Stone.

### SPECIAL INGREDIENTS

Why is Letterman special? It's his bizarre and sarcastic sense of humor. He says he's just an ordinary person – from Indianapolis, Indi-

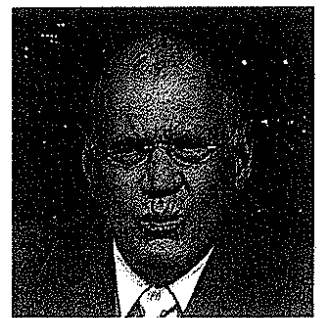
ana. "What do I know?" he asks, then answers: "Nothing!" He opens every show with a topical<sup>2</sup> monologue. Audiences also love his funny 'top ten' lists.

### BLACKMAIL!

Recently, Letterman opened the show with a revelation: a CBS producer, Robert Halderman, had asked him for \$2 million – to keep silent about Letterman's affair with a female colleague<sup>3</sup>. Letterman looked up at the audience and asked, "That's blackmail<sup>4</sup>, is-

n't it?" The audience laughed<sup>5</sup> and applauded as Letterman admitted his transgressions. Later the police arrested Halderman and *The Late Show's* ratings<sup>6</sup> increased dramatically<sup>7</sup>!

As one Letterman fan said: "We love Letterman. It doesn't matter what he does. He's still hilarious!<sup>8</sup>"



### Quotes

"Everyone has a purpose<sup>9</sup> in life. Perhaps yours is watching television."

"Fall<sup>10</sup> is my favorite season in Los Angeles, watching the birds change colour and fall from the trees."

"I'm just trying to make a mark<sup>11</sup> on the collective unconscious<sup>12</sup>."

"Traffic signals in New York are just suggestions<sup>13</sup>."

### Letterman's Early Life

David Letterman was born in Indianapolis, Indiana in 1947. He began his career on a student radio station, WBST, while at university. He was fired<sup>14</sup> because of his unusual sense of humor. In 1975 he moved to Los Angeles and worked as a stand-up comedian<sup>15</sup>. He says he was inspired by two men:

his father and Johnny Carson, America's king of the chat show. He eventually met Carson, who became his mentor, and Letterman often guest hosted<sup>16</sup> on the star's NBC show. In 1980 Letterman got his first show – a morning comedy program on NBC. It wasn't a success, but his next show, *Late Night with*

*Letterman*, quickly became popular. When Johnny Carson retired in 1992, Letterman expected to take over<sup>17</sup> the show; instead, NBC chose Jay Leno. Letterman moved to CBS and brought his team with him. Jay Leno has now retired, but the *Late Show with David Letterman* is still running<sup>18</sup> on CBS!

### GLOSSARY

- 1 TO HOST: presentar
- 2 TOPICAL: de actualidad
- 3 FEMALE COLLEAGUE: compañera de trabajo
- 4 BLACKMAIL: chantaje
- 5 TO LAUGH: reír
- 6 RATING: índice de audiencia
- 7 TO INCREASE DRAMATICALLY: aumentar espectacularmente
- 8 HILARIOUS: divertidísimo
- 9 PURPOSE: fin
- 10 FALL: otoño
- 11 TO MAKE A MARK: dejar huella
- 12 COLLECTIVE UNCONSCIOUS: subconsciente colectivo
- 13 SUGGESTION: sugerencia
- 14 TO BE FIRED: ser despedido
- 15 STAND-UP COMEDIAN: cómico de cabaret
- 16 TO GUEST HOST: ser presentador invitado
- 17 TO TAKE OVER: ocupar el puesto
- 18 IS STILL RUNNING: se sigue emitiendo