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# The Real Meaning of ABC's 'TGIF' Revealed

## Description

It turns out that the famous TV programming block from the 1990s, "TGIF," didn't actually stand for "Thank God it's Friday." According to producer Jim Janicek, who created the block, it actually meant "Thank Goodness it's Funny." The block aired on ABC from the late 1980s to the early 2000s and featured beloved shows like "Boy Meets World," "Family Matters," "Sister Sister," and "Full House."

Janicek revealed that the name was chosen to make Friday nights more entertaining, as they were typically considered a tough time slot for TV shows. Despite initial concerns about the acronym being similar to TGI Friday's restaurant, ABC executives decided to go with "TGIF."

During the heyday of the programming block, Friday nights became a highlight for many families, including Janicek's own childhood memories of watching TV after dinner with his family. The popularity of "TGIF" eventually waned, with the network deciding to move on to other programming.

Looking back, actor Rider Strong, who starred in "Boy Meets World," described the "TGIF" block as a massive success. It brought laughter and joy to households across the country and became a beloved part of television history.

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## Vocabulary List:

1. **Producer** /prə'dju:sər/ (noun): A person responsible for overseeing the production of a show or film.
2. **Programming** /'prɒɡ.ræm.ɪŋ/ (noun): The act of planning and scheduling shows for broadcasting.
3. **Acronym** /'æk.rə.nɪm/ (noun): An abbreviation formed from the initial letters of other words.
4. **Highlight** /'haɪ.laɪt/ (noun): An outstanding part of an event or period.
5. **Popularity** /,pɒp.jʊ'lær.ɪ.ti/ (noun): The state of being liked or admired by many people.
6. **Beloved** /bɪ'lʌv.ɪd/ (adjective): Deeply loved or cherished.

## Comprehension Questions

### Multiple Choice

1. What does "TGIF" stand for according to producer Jim Janicek?

Option: Thank Goodness it's Funny

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- Option: Thank God it's Friday
- Option: Thank Goodness it's Family
- Option: Thank God it's Fun

2. Which TV network aired the "TGIF" programming block?

- Option: ABC
- Option: NBC
- Option: CBS
- Option: FOX

3. Which show was NOT part of the "TGIF" programming block?

- Option: Friends
- Option: Boy Meets World
- Option: Family Matters
- Option: Full House

4. What was the main aim of naming the programming block "TGIF"?

- Option: To promote relaxation on Fridays
- Option: To make Friday nights more entertaining
- Option: To compete with TGI Friday's restaurant
- Option: To target a specific age group

5. When did the "TGIF" block air on TV?

- Option: Late 1970s
- Option: Mid 1990s
- Option: Late 1980s to early 2000s
- Option: Early 2010s

6. Which actor described the "TGIF" block as a massive success?

- Option: Jim Janicek
- Option: Rider Strong
- Option: TGI Friday's
- Option: Ratan Naval Tata

### True-False

7. The acronym TGIF was initially a concern due to its similarity with TGI Friday's restaurant.



8. The "TGIF" block became less popular over time.
9. Friday nights were not traditionally considered a tough time slot for TV shows.
10. Jim Janicek, the producer, had a different interpretation for TGIF than "Thank Goodness it's Funny."
11. Rider Strong was not a part of the TV show "Boy Meets World."
12. ABC executives initially rejected the name "TGIF" for the programming block.

### Gap-Fill

13. The "TGIF" block aired from the late 1980s to the early \_\_\_\_\_.
14. Jim Janicek created the "TGIF" block to make Friday nights more \_\_\_\_\_.
15. The "TGIF" block featured shows like "Boy Meets World" and "Full \_\_\_\_\_."
16. Rider Strong starred in the TV show "Boy Meets \_\_\_\_\_."
17. According to Rider Strong, the "TGIF" block brought \_\_\_\_\_ to households across the country.
18. Friday nights were a highlight for many families during the \_\_\_\_\_ of the "TGIF" block.

### Answer

**Multiple Choice:** 1. Thank Goodness it's Funny 2. ABC 3. Friends 4. To make Friday nights more entertaining 5. Late 1980s to early 2000s 6. Rider Strong

**True-False:** 7. True 8. True 9. False 10. False 11. False 12. False

**Gap-Fill:** 13. 2000s 14. entertaining 15. House 16. World 17. laughter and joy 18. heyday

### CATEGORY

1. Entertainment - LEVEL3

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