

[Source](#)

A TV series viewing experience in 'Expressió oral i escrita en anglès'

Academic years 2015-2016, 2016-2017, 2017-2018

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- Lucille Ball as Lucy McGillicuddy Ricardo
 - Desi Arnaz as Enrique Alberto Fernando de Acha aka Ricky Ricardo
 - Ricky Ricardo Jr aka Little Ricky
 - Vivian Vance as Ethel (Louise) Potter Mertz
 - William Frawley as Fred(erick) Hobart Mertz
-
- Originally Oct., 1951 - May, 1957 on [CBS](#).
 - After the series ended in 1957, a modified version continued for three more seasons with 13 one-hour specials; it ran from 1957 to 1960 as *The Lucille Ball-Desi Arnaz Show* and later in reruns as [The Lucy-Desi Comedy Hour](#).
-
- 5 Emmy awards and numerous nominations
 - Most watched show in 4/6 seasons.
 - Best TV Show of all time in 2012 by *People Magazine*
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- Colorized Christmas special in 2013 → +8m viewers

The characters



Publicity photo of Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz in *I Love Lucy*

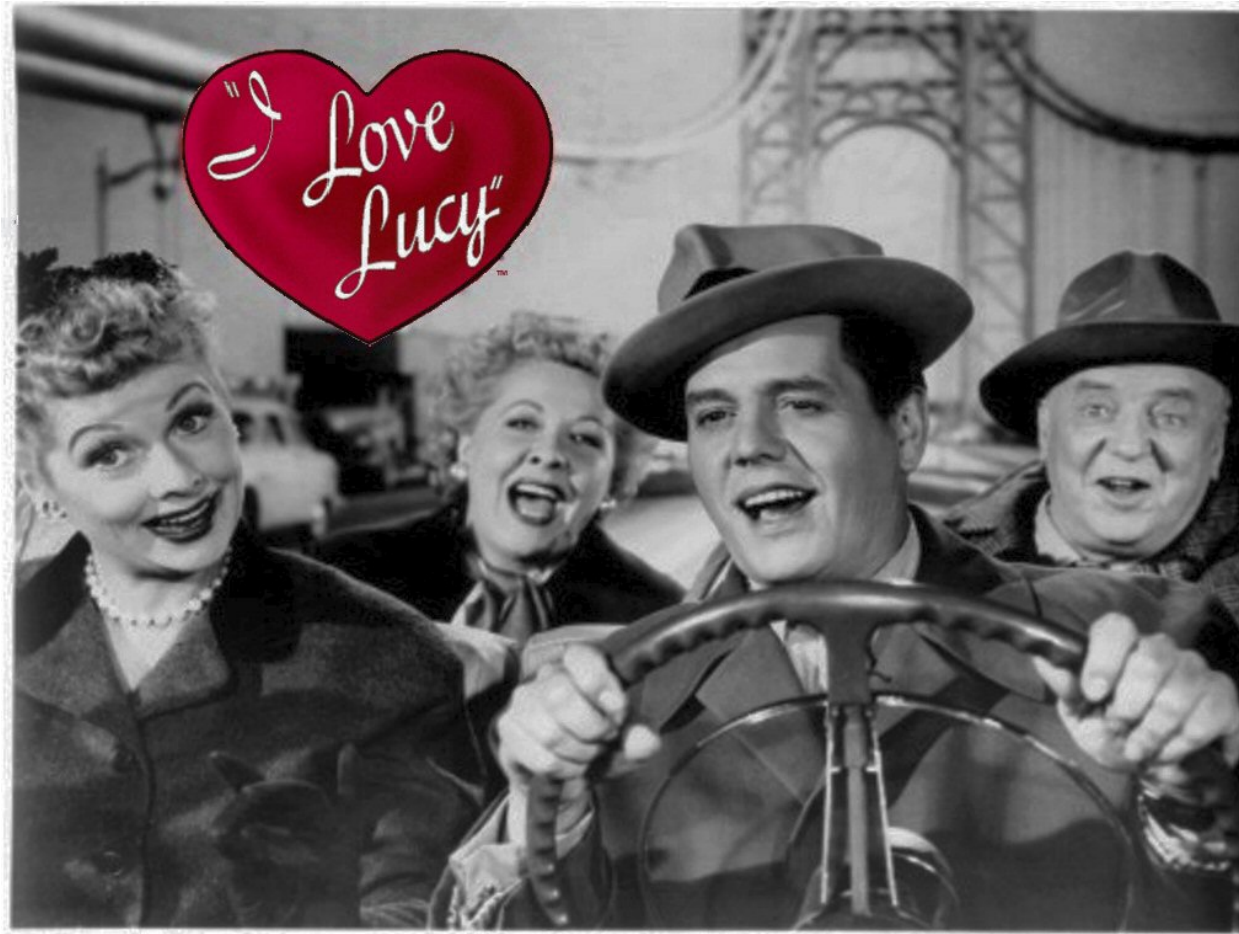
- Lucy: naïve & ambitious; no talent (?!); zeal for stardom; a knack for getting herself and her husband into trouble whenever Lucy yearns to make it in show business.
- Ricky Ricardo: Cuban American, successful actor, bandleader. Excitable personality (cliché?)
- Fred & Ethel: former vaudevillians as a duet
- Ethel: former model, Ricky prefers her over Lucy as she's a talented actress and singer.
- Fred: served in WWI, lived through The Great Depression → stingy with money, bad-tempered (except with Little Ricky)

1950s sitcom

- No character development → inconsistencies in the script
- Clowning and physical comedy
- Female comedians clichés present:
 - secretive about age and hair color
 - careless about money
 - somewhat materialistic: new dresses, boasting about Ricky's job...
 - devoted housewife and attentive mother
 - “expecting” and “enceinte”, not “pregnant” → “Pregnant Women Are Unpredictable”

I Love Lucy's pioneering use of three cameras led to it becoming the standard technique for the production of most sitcoms filmed in front of an audience.

The show's original opening and commercial bumpers: animated caricatures of Lucy and Desi designed and animated by MGM character designer and future *Flintstones* cartoonist, Gene Hazelton (1917-2005)



[Source](#)

I Love Lucy – S0501

'Lucy Visits Grauman's'

Topics

- Hollywood Walk of Fame – TCL Chinese Theatre
- Marilyn Monroe
- ‘Aren’t you nice?’
- ‘I can’t understand you either’
- The role of women and the macho p.o.v.: going back to NY, number of actresses mentioned, Ava Gardner...

Vocabulary

- Hors d'oeuvres
- Scrumptious
- Shriveled

- Scene
- Make a picture
- Fan
- Set

Actors and actresses mentioned

- Genre
- Fun facts
- 3 main movies/films/pictures
- List: Marilyn Monroe, Marlon Brando, Robert Taylor, Richard Widmark, Clark Gable, Jane Russell, Tyrone Power, Joan Crawford, Gary Cooper, John Wayne, Bill Holden, Ava Gardner, Cary Grant, Lana Turner, Harold Lloyd...