



# 101 Best Written TV Series

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Series Title</u>	<u>Network</u>	<u>Writer(s)*</u>
1	<i>The Sopranos</i>	HBO	Created by David Chase
2	<i>Seinfeld</i>	NBC	Created by Larry David & Jerry Seinfeld
3	<i>The Twilight Zone (1959)</i>	CBS	Season One writers: Charles Beaumont, Richard Matheson, Robert Presnell, Jr., Rod Serling
4	<i>All in the Family</i>	CBS	Developed for Television by Norman Lear, Based on <i>Till Death Do Us Part</i> , Created by Johnny Speight
5	<i>M*A*S*H</i>	CBS	Developed for Television by Larry Gelbart
6	<i>The Mary Tyler Moore Show</i>	CBS	Created by James L. Brooks and Allan Burns
7	<i>Mad Men</i>	AMC	Created by Matthew Weiner
8	<i>Cheers</i>	NBC	Created by Glen Charles & Les Charles and James Burrows
9	<i>The Wire</i>	HBO	Created by David Simon
10	<i>The West Wing</i>	NBC	Created by Aaron Sorkin
11	<i>The Simpsons</i>	FOX	Created by Matt Groening, Developed by James L. Brooks and Matt Groening and Sam Simon
12	<i>I Love Lucy</i>	CBS	"Pilot," Written by Jess Oppenheimer & Madelyn Pugh & Bob Carroll, Jr.
13	<i>Breaking Bad</i>	AMC	Created by Vince Gilligan
14	<i>The Dick Van Dyke Show</i>	CBS	Created by Carl Reiner
15	<i>Hill Street Blues</i>	NBC	Created by Michael Kozoll and Steven Bochco
16	<i>Arrested Development</i>	FOX	Created by Mitchell Hurwitz
17	<i>The Daily Show with Jon Stewart</i>	COMEDY CENTRAL	Created by Madeleine Smithberg, Lizz Winstead; Season One – Head Writer: Chris Kreski; Writers: Jim Earl, Daniel J. Goor, Charles Grandy, J.R. Havlan, Tom Johnson, Kent Jones, Paul Mercurio, Guy Nicolucci, Steve Rosenfield, Jon Stewart
18	<i>Six Feet Under</i>	HBO	Created by Alan Ball
19	<i>Taxi</i>	ABC	Created by James L. Brooks and Stan Daniels and David Davis and Ed Weinberger
20	<i>The Larry Sanders Show</i>	HBO	Created by Garry Shandling & Dennis Klein

21	<b>30 Rock</b>	NBC	Created by Tina Fey
22	<b>Friday Night Lights</b>	NBC	Developed for Television by Peter Berg, Inspired by the Book by H.G. Bissinger
23	<b>Frasier</b>	NBC	Created by David Angell & Peter Casey & David Lee, Based on the Character "Frasier Crane" Created by Glen Charles & Les Charles
24	<b>Friends</b>	NBC	Created by Marta Kauffman & David Crane
25	<b>Saturday Night Live</b>	NBC	Season One writers: Anne Beatts, Chevy Chase, Tom Davis, Al Franken, Lorne Michaels, Marilyn Suzanne Miller, Paul Mooney, Garrett Morris, Michael O'Donoghue, Herb Sargent, Tom Schiller, Rosie Shuster, Alan Zweibel
26	<b>The X-Files</b>	FOX	Created by Chris Carter
27	<b>Lost</b>	ABC	Created by Jeffrey Lieber and J.J. Abrams & Damon Lindelof
28	<b>ER</b>	NBC	Created Michael Crichton
29	<b>The Cosby Show</b>	NBC	Created by Ed Weinberger & Michael Leeson and William Cosby, Jr., Ed. D.
30	<b>Curb Your Enthusiasm</b>	HBO	Created by Larry David
31	<b>The Honeyymooners</b>	CBS	Season One writers: Herbert Finn, Marvin Marx, A.J. Russell, Leonard Stern, Walter Stone, Sydney Zelinka
32	<b>Deadwood</b>	HBO	Created by David Milch
33	<b>Star Trek</b>	NBC	Created by Gene Roddenberry
34	<b>Modern Family</b>	ABC	Created by Steven Levitan & Christopher Lloyd
35	<b>Twin Peaks</b>	ABC	"Pilot," Written by Mark Frost & David Lynch
36	<b>NYPD Blue</b>	ABC	Created by David Milch & Steven Bochco
37	<b>The Carol Burnett Show</b>	CBS	Season One: Written by Bill Angelos, Stan Burns, Don Hinkley, Buz Kohan, Mike Marmer, Gail Parent, Kenny Solms, Saul Turteltaub; Writing Supervised by Arnie Rosen
38	<b>Battlestar Galactica (2005)</b>	SYFY	Developed by Ronald D. Moore, Based on the Series <i>Battlestar Galactica</i> Created by Glen A. Larson
39	<b>Sex &amp; the City</b>	HBO	Created by Darren Star, Based on the Book by Candace Bushnell
40	<b>Game of Thrones</b>	HBO	Created by David Benioff & D. B. Weiss, Based on <i>A Song of Ice and Fire</i> by George R. R. Martin
41	<b>The Bob Newhart Show *TIE</b>	CBS	Created by David Davis and Lorenzo Music
	<b>Your Show of Shows *TIE</b>	NBC	Season One: Written by Mel Tolkin, Lucille Kallen, Max Liebman
43	<b>Downton Abbey *TIE</b>	PBS	Created by Julian Fellowes
	<b>Law &amp; Order *TIE</b>	NBC	Created by Dick Wolf
	<b>thirtysomething *TIE</b>	ABC	Created by Marshall Herskovitz & Edward Zwick

46	<b>Homicide: Life on the Street</b> *TIE	NBC	Created by Paul Attanasio, Based on the Book <i>Homicide: A Year on the Killing Streets</i> by David Simon
	<b>St. Elsewhere</b> *TIE	NBC	Created by Joshua Brand & John Falsey, Developed by Mark Tinker / John Masius
48	<b>Homeland</b>	SHOWTIME	Developed by Howard Gordon & Alex Gansa, Based on the Original Israeli Series <i>Prisoners of War</i> by Gideon Raff
49	<b>Buffy the Vampire Slayer</b>	WB	Created by Joss Whedon
50	<b>The Colbert Report</b> *TIE	COMEDY CENTRAL	Season One writers: Stephen Colbert, Rich Dahm, Eric Drysdale, Peter Gwinn, Jay Katsir, Laura Krafft, Allison Silverman
	<b>The Good Wife</b> *TIE	CBS	Created by Robert King & Michelle King
	<b>The Office (UK)</b> *TIE	BBC	Created by Ricky Gervais & Stephen Merchant
53	<b>Northern Exposure</b>	CBS	Created by Joshua Brand & John Falsey
54	<b>The Wonder Years</b>	ABC	Created by Neal Marlens & Carol Black
55	<b>L.A. Law</b>	NBC	Created by Steven Bochco & Terry Louise Fisher
56	<b>Sesame Street</b>	PBS	Created by Joan Ganz Cooney
57	<b>Columbo</b>	NBC	Created by Richard Levinson & William Link
58	<b>Fawlty Towers</b> *TIE	BBC	Written by John Cleese & Connie Booth
	<b>The Rockford Files</b> *TIE	NBC	Created by Roy Huggins and Stephen J. Cannell
60	<b>Freaks and Geeks</b> *TIE	NBC	Created by Paul Feig
	<b>Moonlighting</b> *TIE	ABC	Created by Glenn Gordon Caron
62	<b>Roots</b>	ABC	Written by William Blinn, M. Charles Cohen, Ernest Kinoy, James Lee; Based on the Book by Alex Haley
63	<b>Everybody Loves Raymond</b> *TIE	CBS	Created by Philip Rosenthal
	<b>South Park</b> *TIE	COMEDY CENTRAL	Created by Matt Stone & Trey Parker
65	<b>Playhouse 90</b>	CBS	Season One writers: Edna Anhalt, Edmund Beloin, Harold Jack Bloom, Marc Brandel, George Bruce, James P. Cavanagh, Whitfield Cook, Helen Doss, Scott Fitzgerald, Devery Freeman, Frank D. Gilroy, Helen Howe, Speed Lamkin, Ernest Lehman, Herbert Little, Jr., Don Mankiewicz, Elick Moll, Paul Monash, Dean Reisner, Norman Retchin, Selma Robinson, William Sackheim, Rod Serling, Leonard Spigelgass, Leslie Stevens, Brandon Thomas, David Victor, Charles M. Warren, Hagar Wilde, Cornell Woolrich
66	<b>Dexter</b> *TIE	SHOWTIME	Developed for Television by James Manos, Jr., Based on the Novel <i>Darkly Dreaming Dexter</i> by Jeff Lindsay
	<b>The Office (US)</b> *TIE	NBC	Created by Ricky Gervais & Stephen Merchant, Developed by Greg Daniels, Based on the BBC Series <i>The Office</i>
68	<b>My So-Called Life</b>	ABC	Created by Winnie Holzman

69	<b><i>The Golden Girls</i></b>	NBC	Created by Susan Harris
70	<b><i>The Andy Griffith Show</i></b>	CBS	Episode 1, "The New Housekeeper," Written by Jack Elinson and Charles Stewart
71	<b>24 *TIE</b>	FOX	Created by Joel Surnow & Robert Cochran
	<b><i>Roseanne</i> *TIE</b>	ABC	Created by Matt Williams, Based on a Character Created by Roseanne Barr
	<b><i>The Shield</i> *TIE</b>	FX	Created by Shawn Ryan
74	<b><i>House</i> *TIE</b>	FOX	Created by David Shore
	<b><i>Murphy Brown</i> *TIE</b>	CBS	Created by Diane English
76	<b><i>Barney Miller</i> *TIE</b>	ABC	Created by Danny Arnold & Theodore J. Flicker
	<b><i>I, Claudius</i> *TIE</b>	PBS	Written by Robert Graves and Jack Pulman
78	<b><i>The Odd Couple</i></b>	ABC	Episode 1, "The Fight of the Felix," Written by Peggy Elliott & Ed Scharlach
79	<b><i>Alfred Hitchcock Presents</i> *TIE</b>	CBS	Season One writers – Gwen Bagni, Samuel Blas, Robert Brees, Ray Bradbury, Richard Carr, James Cavanagh, Eustace Cockrell, Francis Cockrell, Marian Cockrell, John Collier, Robert C. Dennis, Mel Dinelli, Stanley Ellin, Fred Freiberger, Irwin Gielgud, Gina Kaus, Terence Maples, Richard Pedicini, Louis Pollock, Joseph Ruscoll, A.J. Russell, Stirling Silliphant, Andrew Solt, Harold Swanton, Victor Wolfson, Cornell Woolrich
	<b><i>Monty Python's Flying Circus</i> *TIE</b>	BBC	Conceived and Written by Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Neil Innes, Terry Jones, Michael Palin
	<b><i>Star Trek: The Next Generation</i> *TIE</b>	SYN	Created by Gene Roddenberry
	<b><i>Upstairs, Downstairs</i> *TIE</b>	PBS	Created by Jean Marsh and Eileen Atkins
83	<b><i>Get Smart</i></b>	NBC	"Pilot," Written by Mel Brooks and Buck Henry
84	<b><i>The Defenders</i> *TIE</b>	CBS	Created by Reginald Rose
	<b><i>Gunsmoke</i> *TIE</b>	CBS	Episode 1, "Matt Gets It," Written by Charles Marquis Warren & John Meston
86	<b><i>Justified</i> *TIE</b>	FX	Developed for Television by Graham Yost, Based on the Short Story "Fire in the Hole" by Elmore Leonard
	<b><i>Sgt. Bilko (The Phil Silvers Show)</i> *TIE</b>	CBS	Created by Nat Hiken
88	<b><i>Band of Brothers</i></b>	HBO	Written by Erik Bork, E. Max Frye, Tom Hanks, Erik Jendresen, Bruce C. McKenna, John Orloff, Graham Yost; Based on the Book by Stephan E. Ambrose
89	<b><i>Rowan &amp; Martin's Laugh-In</i></b>	NBC	Season One: Written by Chris Beard, Phil Hahn, John Hanrahan, Coslough Johnson, Paul Keyes, Marc London, Allan Manings, David Panich, Hugh Wedlock, Digby Wolfe
90	<b><i>The Prisoner</i></b>	CBS	Premiere Episode: Written by George Markstein and David Tomblin
91	<b><i>Absolutely Fabulous (UK)</i> *TIE</b>	BBC	Episode 1, "Fashion," Written by Jennifer Saunders, Based on an Original Idea by Jennifer Saunders & Dawn French

	<b><i>The Muppet Show</i></b> <b>*TIE</b>	SYN	Season One: Written by Jack Burns, Jim Henson, Jerry Juhl, Marc London
93	<b><i>Boardwalk Empire</i></b>	HBO	Created by Terence Winter, Based on the Book <i>Boardwalk Empire</i> by Nelson Johnson
94	<b><i>Will &amp; Grace</i></b>	NBC	Created by David Kohan & Max Mutchnick
95	<b><i>Family Ties</i></b>	NBC	Created by Gary David Goldberg
96	<b><i>Lonesome Dove</i></b> <b>*TIE</b>	CBS	Teleplay by Bill Wittliff, Based on the Novel <i>Lonesome Dove</i> by Larry McMurtry
	<b><i>Soap</i></b> *TIE	ABC	Created by Susan Harris
98	<b><i>The Fugitive</i></b> *TIE	ABC	Episode 1, "Where the Action Is," Written by Harry Kronman
	<b><i>Late Night with David Letterman</i></b> *TIE	NBC	Season One: Writing Supervised by Merrill Markoe, Writers: Andy Breckman, Tom Gammill, David Letterman, Richard Morris, Gerard Mulligan, Max Pross, Karl Tiedemann, Steve Winer
	<b><i>Louie</i></b> *TIE	FX	Season One: Written and Directed by Louis C.K.
101	<b><i>Oz</i></b>	HBO	Created by Tom Fontana