What Is Digital TV?

A digital TV receives signals as computer code, produces sharper images than a conventional TV, and includes digital surround sound. But not every digital TV is an HDTV. Here are the differences:

HIGH-DEFINITION TV (HDTV)
-- Pictures consist of at least 720 progressive scanning lines
-- Has a wide screen like a movie (the tech term is "16:9")
-- Offers Dolby Digital audio or equivalent

STANDARD-DEFINITION TV (SDTV)
-- Picture resolution is less than 720 scanning lines
-- Sound is digital audio, but not necessarily Dolby
-- Displays any digital broadcasts, but not with HDTV clarity

DATA: CONSUMER ELECTRONICS MANUFACTURERS ASSN.

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