

dragon ball series in order

Dragon Ball series in order is a crucial topic for anyone looking to dive into the expansive universe created by Akira Toriyama. The franchise encompasses a variety of media, including manga, anime, films, and video games. Understanding the chronological order of the series can enhance your viewing experience and provide a deeper appreciation of the characters and plots that have captivated fans for decades. This article will guide you through the Dragon Ball series in the correct order, highlighting key elements and significant arcs within each installment.

Overview of the Dragon Ball Franchise

The Dragon Ball franchise began its journey in 1984 with the release of the original manga. Since then, it has evolved into one of the most popular and influential anime series in the world. The franchise includes:

- Manga
- Anime series
- Animated films
- Spin-off series
- Video games

The main storyline follows Son Goku, a Saiyan warrior, as he trains in martial arts and explores the world in search of the Dragon Balls—magical orbs that grant wishes when gathered. As the series progresses, Goku encounters powerful foes, allies, and new transformations, ultimately leading to epic battles and life-changing events.

Chronological Order of the Dragon Ball Series

Understanding the chronological order of the Dragon Ball series makes it easier to follow the plot and character development. Below is a comprehensive list of the main series and films in the order they were released:

1. Dragon Ball

The original Dragon Ball anime aired from 1986 to 1989, covering the early adventures of Goku as he meets his friends, trains under various masters, and participates in martial arts tournaments. The 153 episodes encompass the following arcs:

- Emperor Pilaf Saga
- Tournament Saga
- General Blue Saga
- Fortuneteller Baba Saga
- Tien Shinhan Saga
- King Piccolo Saga
- Piccolo Jr. Saga

2. Dragon Ball Z

Dragon Ball Z, which aired from 1989 to 1996, continues Goku's story as he matures and faces more powerful foes. This series is divided into several sagas:

- Saiyan Saga
- Frieza Saga
- Cell Saga
- Majin Buu Saga

Dragon Ball Z consists of 291 episodes and introduces fans to iconic characters such as Vegeta, Frieza, and Cell. It also adds significant transformations, including Super Saiyan forms.

3. Dragon Ball Z: Movies

Several movies were released during the Dragon Ball Z era, most of which are non-canon to the main storyline. Some notable films include:

1. Dragon Ball Z: Dead Zone (1989)
2. Dragon Ball Z: The World's Strongest (1990)
3. Dragon Ball Z: The Tree of Might (1990)
4. Dragon Ball Z: Bardock - The Father of Goku (1990)
5. Dragon Ball Z: Broly - The Legendary Super Saiyan (1993)

While these films are entertaining, they do not impact the main storyline.

4. Dragon Ball GT

Dragon Ball GT aired from 1996 to 1997 and follows Goku's adventures after the events of Dragon Ball Z. It is important to note that GT is not based on Akira Toriyama's original manga. The series revolves around Goku being turned back into a child and his quest to find the Black Star Dragon Balls.

Key arcs include:

- Black Star Dragon Ball Saga
- Baby Saga
- Super Android 17 Saga
- Shadow Dragons Saga

Although GT received mixed reviews, it introduced new characters and forms, such as the Super Saiyan 4 transformation.

5. Dragon Ball Z Kai

Dragon Ball Z Kai is a remastered version of the original Dragon Ball Z series, featuring updated animation and a re-recorded soundtrack. It aired from 2009 to 2015 and condenses the original series into 167 episodes, removing filler content while maintaining the essence of the story.

6. Dragon Ball Super

Dragon Ball Super, which aired from 2015 to 2018, is a direct sequel to Dragon Ball Z and is based on an original story by Akira Toriyama. It introduces new characters, universes, and powerful forms. The major arcs include:

- Battle of Gods Saga
- Resurrection 'F' Saga
- Universe 6 Saga
- Future Trunks Saga
- Universe Survival Saga

Dragon Ball Super explores concepts such as God Ki and Ultra Instinct, adding depth to the series' lore.

7. Dragon Ball Super: Movies

Following the success of Dragon Ball Super, two movies were released that tie into the series:

1. Dragon Ball Z: Battle of Gods (2013)
2. Dragon Ball Z: Resurrection 'F' (2015)
3. Dragon Ball Super: Broly (2018)

The movie "Dragon Ball Super: Broly" reintroduces the character Broly and integrates him into the canon storyline, showcasing an epic battle that fans loved.

8. Dragon Ball Super: Super Hero

Released in 2022, "Dragon Ball Super: Super Hero" marks another addition to the franchise. Set after the events of Dragon Ball Super, this film focuses on the Red Ribbon Army and features Gohan and Piccolo in leading roles. It utilizes 3D animation techniques, which is a departure from the traditional style, but maintains the series' engaging storytelling.

Spin-off Series and Additional Content

In addition to the main series, the Dragon Ball franchise has spawned several spin-off series and additional content. These include:

- Dragon Ball: Yo! Son Goku and His Friends Return!! (2008) - A TV special that features Goku and friends in a lighthearted adventure.
- Dragon Ball: Episode of Bardock (2011) - A special that follows Bardock, Goku's father, in an alternate timeline.
- Dragon Ball GT: A Hero's Legacy (1997) - A TV special that concludes the GT storyline.
- Super Dragon Ball Heroes - An ongoing promotional anime based on the arcade game, featuring various characters from different timelines.

Conclusion

The Dragon Ball series in order provides a comprehensive look at one of anime's most beloved franchises. From the original Dragon Ball to Dragon Ball Super and beyond, each installment offers unique stories, memorable characters, and exciting battles. Whether you are a new fan or a long-time follower, understanding the chronological order enhances the viewing experience and allows for a deeper connection with the narrative. As the franchise continues to grow, fans can look forward to even more adventures in the Dragon Ball universe.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the correct chronological order of the Dragon Ball series?

The chronological order is: Dragon Ball, Dragon Ball Z, Dragon Ball Z Kai, Dragon Ball GT, Dragon Ball Super, and the Dragon Ball Super: Super Hero movie.

Are Dragon Ball Z Kai and Dragon Ball Z the same?

No, Dragon Ball Z Kai is a remastered and condensed version of Dragon Ball Z that eliminates filler episodes to closely follow the manga.

Does Dragon Ball GT fit into the main timeline?

Dragon Ball GT is considered non-canonical as it was not based on the original manga by Akira Toriyama, but it occurs after the events of Dragon Ball Z.

Is Dragon Ball Super a sequel to Dragon Ball Z?

Yes, Dragon Ball Super is a direct sequel to Dragon Ball Z, taking place after the defeat of Majin Buu and before the epilogue in Dragon Ball Z.

Should I watch Dragon Ball in its original release order or chronological order?

It depends on personal preference; watching in original release order preserves the experience as fans originally enjoyed it, while chronological order provides a clearer storyline progression.

What is the significance of the Dragon Ball Super: Super Hero movie in the series timeline?

The Dragon Ball Super: Super Hero movie takes place after the events of Dragon Ball Super and further develops the story of Gohan and Piccolo, introducing new characters and threats.

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