



Playing Online Games

Conversation > Advanced 7



Exercise 1 – Vocabulary

latest	Newest; most recent.
[adjective]	<i>Ex: Their latest album got poor reviews from the press.</i>

surreal	Bizarre; unusual or unexpected - astonishing.
[adjective]	<i>Ex: Representing my country at the Olympics was a very surreal experience.</i>

pastime	Something done regularly for enjoyment.
[noun]	<i>Ex: His favorite pastimes are tennis and golf.</i>

passionate	Showing strong feelings towards something.
[adjective]	<i>Ex: The lecturer is very passionate about saving the environment.</i>



(be) absorbed in	Very interested and involved in an activity, not paying attention to anything else.
[phrase]	<i>Ex: I was absorbed in reading this book. You should read it, too.</i>

couch potato	A person who does not do anything but sit on a couch, eat and play games or watch TV.
[noun]	<i>Ex: He's been sitting in front of TV all day long; he's a real couch potato!</i>

addiction	The need or strong desire to do or to have something.
[noun]	<i>Ex: His addiction began with prescription drugs.</i>



Exercise 2 – Dialogue

Choose one character and read the dialogue aloud with your tutor.

Howard: You want to play some video games, Chris?

Chris: Not really. I've never really been that passionate about video games.

Howard: But they're so much fun!

Chris: I don't want them to replace all my other pastimes. What if I become a couch potato?

Howard: Don't be ridiculous. I love video games, but that doesn't mean that I have an addiction.

Chris: But aren't they all just mindless and violent?

Howard: Of course not. Here, let's play the latest game I bought. It's called "Puzzled".



Chris: What is that game about, Howard?

Howard: In this game, people make puzzles and put them up online, and then we try to solve them.

Chris: Okay, fine! I'll give it a try.

Howard: See? It's pretty fun, right?

Chris: It's surreal! It's the opposite of mindless and violent. You were right, Howard!

Howard: I told you. We've been playing it for an hour.

Chris: Are you serious? I can't believe it. I was so absorbed in the puzzles it felt like five minutes.



Exercise 3 – Fill in the Blanks

Choose the correct answers from the answer pool below and fill in the blanks.

Answer Pool

absorbed in

addiction

surreal

couch potato

latest

pastime

passionate

1. I have an _____ to mystery stories.
2. Driving through the total darkness was a slightly _____ experience.
3. I hope this is not the _____ fashion trend! It's really bad!
4. Jonathan is _____ about baseball.
5. I enjoy coding, but I pursue it as a _____, not a career.
6. Lisa was so _____ the movie that she didn't even notice me come in.
7. Are you a _____? You sit around all day.



Exercise 4 – Role Play

Take turns with your tutor and act out the scene described below.

Scene: You've discovered a new online game that you really like. Tell your friend Kate what the game is about and explain why you like it so much. The teacher can be Kate.



Exercise 5 – Discussion

Discuss the following questions with your tutor.

1. Do you like online games? Why? Why not?
2. Do you think that online games are addictive? Why? Why not?
3. Do you believe online games can sometimes affect students' academic performance?
4. What do you think are practical ways to avoid becoming addicted to online games?
5. Is it possible to have a social life while playing games? Why? Why not?