



HOME

Find Your Lunch Table: Which Champs Are Friends?

LUNCH TABLE

CLAIRVOYANCE BLOG

ARTICLE BY BILBY & JEOPARDY, DESIGN BY NANCYMON

PICKING YOUR CHAMP IS A BIG DEAL. A champ can motivate you to play, it can carry you to challenjour, it can say something about you (for better or worse) even before you load into a game. More often than not, the other players in the game don't even call you by the name you've given yourself, but by the name of the champ you've picked—hopefully preceded by adjectives like “amazing,” “godlike,” or “super fed.”

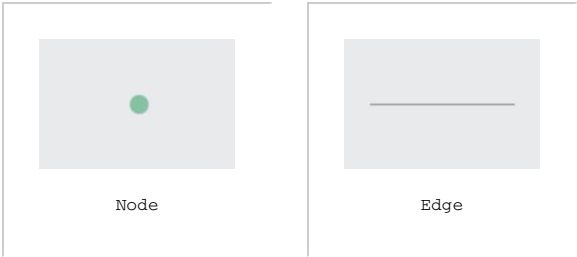
For us (hi, we're Jeopardy & Bilby), a champion can reflect how you connect with the game: Jeopardy came from a fighting game background (WHEN'S MARVEL), so he instantly clicked with Riven's combo-heavy playstyle. Bilby, meanwhile, started playing Fizz because he's a Moby-Dick nerd, and Tundra Fizz had a whale ult.

There are plenty of perfectly valid ways to pick a champ, but what do those choices say about you? And, once you've found one that clicks, which other champs are you also likely to play, and what ties those champs together? Do they split into cliques, like kids in a cafeteria? If so, who would sit together? Thanks to data that we gather during every game, we've found some answers.

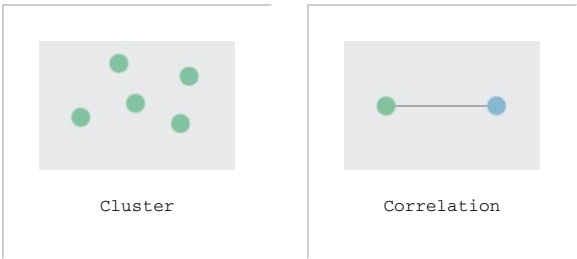
HERE'S WHAT WE ANALYZED

JEOPARDY'S DATA CORNER: We sampled from the population of all players who played at least 25 games during the first half of March this year. The key stat we looked at was "number of games played on each champion" for each individual player.

In the data we gathered, two champions are correlated if players tend to play those two champions together—if many players play Riven and Azir, then Riven and Azir would have a higher correlation. If many players play Riven but proactively avoid playing Malphite for whatever reason (perhaps because you perceive him as too easy and binary and rewarding for being passive in lane, for example), then Riven and Malphite would have a much lower correlation.



To help us better understand these champion correlations, we created a network visualization of the champions, which you can explore below. We call this handy tool the **CHAMP FRIENDSHIP COMPATIBILITY DEVICE (CFCD)**. The **CFCD** network graph consists of nodes and edges: a **node** represents a single champion, and an **edge** is a line that links two champions together. The edges of this graph are **undirected**—a line from Annie to Olaf is treated the same as the line from Olaf to Annie. For the network graph, we filtered out all correlations that were below a certain threshold, so only stronger relationships would appear in the visualization.



CHAMP FRIENDSHIP COMPATIBILITY DEVICE

For your research and entertainment, here is the tool we used. You can explore the champ groupings (sorted by color), or look at individual champs and their strongest correlations to other champs (shown at the bottom, in order). Maybe you'll find a new champ to try out!





HERE'S WHAT WE FOUND

We analyzed the **modularity** of the network to sort champs into communities based on playrate correlations. Modularity measures the strength of a community within a larger network—high modularity means that communities are well-defined, such that nodes within a community correlate stronger with each other than with nodes from other communities. We also factored in edge weights: stronger correlations were weighted heavier toward defining tighter communities, and weaker correlations were weighted less.

Okay class, are you still awake? If you wanna stretch and walk around for a little bit, that's cool. Here we go: Segmenting a larger population into groups like this is useful when you're trying to identify similarities and differences between data points—in this case, we can look at the clusters to find relationships between champions based on play rate. Long story short: if you play a champ in one cluster, you're more likely to play other champs in that cluster than ones that aren't. Here's where they fell:

"I FORGOT SMITE/TP" (Top/Jungle). This group consists of top lane fighters (Shen, Renekton) combined with champs that usually play both top and jungle (Hecarim, Trundle, Pantheon). Some jungle-exclusive champs get caught in here (like Amumu).

"LAST HITTING IS HARD" (Supports). There are two subgroups: Supports are split into a Soraka-Nami-Sona-Janna quadrant on one side, with Thresh, Tahn Kench, and Brand on the other. Unlike his self-proclaimed title of "Best Bard Riot," Riot Blaustoise's [research into Banana-Burn Index and Rivals](#) actually holds up here, with support players preferring to play either Babysitters/Caretakers or Playmakers.

"YOU CAN'T SIT WITH US" (Unpopular Champs). This is an interesting group because it seems to be directly shaped by the meta. We've got Urgot, Mordekaiser, Galio, and Yorick in here. (Are you all still beautiful and unique snowflakes when you're in a group together?)

ADCs. These stick together; it's a tightly correlated group.

AP MAGES. Like ADCs—another expected cluster. Ryze, Kassadin, Viktor, Azir, LeBlanc, etc.

"/all OUTPLAYED" (Assassins and Mechanically Difficult Champs). This group spans multiple roles (mid, top, jungle) and consists of champs that are generally considered very difficult to master or have high skill ceilings.

Riven, Fizz, Lee Sin, Ekko, Rengar, Yasuo, and Zed sit here. These highlight montages ain't gonna record themselves.

"I SAW IT IN LCS" Here we've got mostly team-oriented top laners and junglers that seem to do better in pro play than in our own ranked games: Gragas, Kindred, Rek'Sai, Gnar, etc. Teamwork sold separately; batteries not included.

"GAME SENSE / MY MECHANICS" (Starters and Mechanically Straightforward Champs). So you've got no jungling experience, but you have a working R key? Try Warwick. First time toplane? Pick Nasus and attack-move through your lane while mashing Q for the next 45 minutes.

A FEW FUNNY THINGS THAT JUMPED OUT IN THE DETAILS

While poking around the **CFCD**, we found some other interesting groups that we wanted to share.



THE RIGHT CLICK CLIQUE: For the majority of champions, you have to play around and respect their ultimates. But for these champions, the button to respect is their right click—and sadly the cooldown on that is only 0.3 seconds late in the game. Prepare to get outplayed by Tryndamere, Jax, Master Yi, and Xin Zhao. (Maybe they don't have keyboards?)



JUST THE WORST: We expected Heimerdinger to be buddies with other minion/turret masters (hi Zyra), but his closest pals are Teemo and Blitzcrank. We guess these players just enjoy seeing people suffer?



TANK COMMANDERS: If you're playing Nautilus, you're probably also playing Braum, Malphite, Alistar, and Tahm Kench. These champs put the "skill" in "you don't even have to dodge skillshots."



I WAITED IN LINE ALL NIGHT: Illaoi is highly correlated with Jhin, Ekko, and Tahm Kench. Our best guess is that these players prefer shiny new champs.



ONE OF THESE THINGS IS NOT LIKE THE OTHERS: There are a couple champs appearing in unexpected clusters. What's Irelia doing with the AP Mages? Is she the go-to top laner for mid mains?



DUO TO GOLD V OLP STARTER PACK: Sona correlates with Soraka, Janna, and Nami. We're just kidding about the starter pack thing! Please keep healing us.

WHAT DID WE LEARN?

Unsurprisingly, it does seem that a champion's role has a high impact on which group they fall into, which makes sense as players get better in specific positions and start to specialize. But it's also clear that a champ's kit isn't the only thing that matters. There are clusters that span roles like the high-skill-ceiling club, or ones that seem to be based on a champ's (un)popularity. Looking at this data gives a great window into what different types of players are out there, but the reasons that a specific champion resonates with a player seem to be as diverse as players themselves.

What did you find when playing with the **CHAMP FRIENDSHIP COMPATIBILITY DEVICE**? Let us know in the comments below.

READ MORE INSIGHTS FROM THE

CLAIRVOYANCE BLOG

Bard's Big Birthday Datapalooza

The Keybind Wars:
Which Key is Best for Flash?

Ping, Winrate, and Vayne Probs

Discuss (LOGIN TO COMMENT)

373 comments sorted by **BEST**

131
this is a lie, amumu has no friends



Srenne - 5 months ago

45
his first three "friends" are a rock, a robot and an armordillo that only says okay and right, he calls them friends because they can't say they aren't



Pool Party Krepo - 5 months ago

3
The group of players who don't like small talk and idle chit-chat; they just want to get down to business. Mumu with his bandage toss straight into battle. Malphite ults straight into battle. Rammus rolls quickly into battle. And then the lazy players who brings the battle to themselves.



Mark The Gr8 - 5 months ago

1 MORE COMMENTS

10
Lol look at Kennen's result ...



PascalCigale - 5 months ago

2

OMG



Soonontheattack - 5 months ago

1 MORE COMMENTS

1 MORE COMMENTS

1 MORE COMMENTS

23

High Skillcap champs:



Your third mom - 5 months ago

They're easy to pick and play but to actually master them they have a high skillcap. Well except Fizz.

30



astdujsrt - 5 months ago

5

I agree ^^ . Actually, I'm a main and is not that easy; I stopped playing her 2 days and then I got like unhande



CutEddie - 5 months ago

2

After one week without playing , I had to relearn for 2 months. I can confirm this



Zarazyro - 5 months ago

2 MORE COMMENTS

2 MORE COMMENTS

Comment is below threshold ([Show](#))

ah the classic silver player thrash talk, I love it

11



High Elo Troll - 5 months ago

trash* god damn you are talking trash

4



UniqueShadow - 5 months ago

3 MORE COMMENTS

7

THIS JUST MADE MY DAY



oreodragon - 5 months ago

6

and yes, not so much



i need new blade - 5 months ago

Riven is his rival (Yasuo) ! so they are connected in a negative way ?

3



ShadowzXGam3r - 5 months ago

1 MORE COMMENTS

1 MORE COMMENTS

the only one wrong is fizz in my opinion, its true that its easy to kill with all of them but not easy to master yasuo and riven though

5



Angle Kappa - 5 months ago

[5 MORE COMMENTS](#)

3

Coming from a silver player ;/ Also Riven and Yasuo are high skillcap champs that require lots of practice to master or in other words to be a one trick pony-kinda. Just because you get stomped by those champs doesn't mean that they don't require skill.



Hi i am Dante - 5 months ago

2

and i can understand. Bit What the actual cuck is doing in there!!!!



LitchiTheLegend - 5 months ago

[1 MORE COMMENTS](#)

[11 MORE COMMENTS](#)

27

So Gnar is my only friend?



LudoKip - 5 months ago

[3 MORE COMMENTS](#)

3

Uhm why the %%% is Katarina counted as a hard to master champ?



Schouk - 5 months ago

18

Try to play Katarina in higher elo , that's your answer.



Awer Playing Eve - 5 months ago

2

Probably because of how hard it is to get out of lane in one piece. Same reason people consider Vayne hard, learning to make use of low base values in early games + really having to time when you go in are things that take some time to actually completely master.



Dirty Riven - 5 months ago

3

I dont find lane the hardest part. You can lay back and throw qs. The difficult thing is to go in when they have no cc or you can get resets . Most ppl keep some cc just for you if you play her



Godsession - 5 months ago

[2 MORE COMMENTS](#)

17

this is actually great. statistics like that are just purely awesome! but have a look at kennen.. only one connected champion..



D4rkEmpire - 5 months ago

[2 MORE COMMENTS](#)

Comment is below threshold ([Show](#))

28 I doubt it's the same people doing both jobs.



audriuska12 - 5 months ago

[1 MORE COMMENTS](#)

14 Hey Riot can u pls make like a "sell/delete skin button" (unlimited charges) where u can sell/delete your skin but we only get 60% of what its worth?

PLS LET RIOT SEE THIS



TBM Dooleweerd - 5 months ago

4



Anthonik22 - 5 months ago

[1 MORE COMMENTS](#)

[2 MORE COMMENTS](#)

-15

Not found.They have got no firends because they weak :p



LegendLorik - 5 months ago

19



"We sampled from the population of all players who played at least 25 games during the first half of March this year. "..



Parkour Penguin - 5 months ago

[1 MORE COMMENTS](#)

3



DoubleCrazyDC - 5 months ago

11

Yup, that tasted purple.



Mardi - 5 months ago

[1 MORE COMMENTS](#)

[1 MORE COMMENTS](#)

10

and BFFs <3



Colonel Killjoy - 5 months ago

2

I play them all the time Gnar my main doe



Allumk45 - 5 months ago

7

Rito Amumu has more conections then every one WHAT IS DIS WHY YOU LIE 2 ME RITO :(i even cry with amumus sad mummy song and you tell

me he is popular a% % % %



LUGANO - 5 months ago

7

I absolutely love these Clairvoyance Blogs "> ! Really well done!



Cicote - 5 months ago

7

I'm confused af, please tell me its not just me



FNC Caroline - 5 months ago

[4 MORE COMMENTS](#)

4

why did it take me so long to realise that lee is eating carrots because they help him see in the dark



The Sweaty Yeti - 5 months ago

1

Love how vayne and riven are connected LOL



Haboki - 5 months ago

4

I main Ahri... I was hoping to find a new champ to play... Hey, look! AHRI IS CONNECTED TO EVERY SINGLE GOD-DAMN CHAMPION?!



SonerindigoTR - 5 months ago

[4 MORE COMMENTS](#)

[1 MORE COMMENTS](#)

4

Thats true. connected with both and , all three of my mains.



MasterVilhelm - 5 months ago

2 Rito either forgot the "I'm a girl and therefore play almost exclusively female champs like I do in most games" cluster a certain cluster or they didn't point it out because they thought it might be sexist.

Click and check for correlated champions



9000Niggawatts - 5 months ago

3 Gragas be liek (°_°)



Datengu - 5 months ago

2

ezreal be like "sup ladiez, am coming with ma boi Taric we gonna hav some fun oh ye"



OTP Thrësh - 5 months ago

2 MORE COMMENTS

2

"DUO TO GOLD V 0LP STARTER PACK" Is such a genius sentence. WOW. I'm actually suprised at this one.



Neeje - 5 months ago

2

hello darkness my old friend, i come to talk with you again



RaikoPlays - 5 months ago

2

Kennen is the real Amumu,

check Kennen's friends.



itsChota - 5 months ago

1 MORE COMMENTS

2

Zed is my best friend! ~ <3



Hi im Neiva - 5 months ago

2

= Purple = AP Mages. Ult scaling 0.5 per blade. 4 Blades. AP Irelia Confirmed?



Neo7L - 5 months ago

2

I'm an ADC main but my champs are such - ashe, jinx and vayne depending on team comp. I also like playing supps such as morgana, leona and bard. And teemo ^^ (for top)

I didn't see such a corrolation but I guess that you are right in ur calculations since ppl might prefer to play with similiar champs even tho stratigicly its better to be skilled in a wider variety (more kinds) of champs for the same role rather then relying on the same thing - exp: ez lu tris - all have dashes and are good in the current meta cuz of the need to avoid cc and burst which are prevelent and more significant now but sometimes u might need more cc or more aoepps or a bit more of a dualist\assasin for better team comm cuz u have good peeling supps or tanks\tankier other roles and the enemy might have something like stealth or crazy mobility to over come ur preferred strengths and u then might wish that u knew how to play some other champ with cc or higher burst or something...

I guess such thinking when it comes to preferences in mastering for ranked doesnt come early?



ammannas - 5 months ago

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