

COMMUNICATION

Video games and artistic expression

LEVEL

Upper-Intermediate
(B2)

NUMBER

EN_B2_2071X

LANGUAGE

English



Learning outcomes

- I can explore the differences between arcade games and video games.
- I can give a detailed opinion on whether games are art or not and talk about artistic expression.





Warm-up

**Are there any video
arcades where you
live?**



**Do you know anyone
who loves playing video
games?**

Who do you agree with?

1. **Read** the opinions below.
2. **Tell** your classmates who you **agree with** and why?



Seth

I used to go to video arcades when I was a child. When I look back at that time, I feel nostalgic. The games in the arcade were simple, dazzling, and most importantly, enjoyable! Video games nowadays are much too elaborate and fast-paced for me.



Erica

I love how realistic video games have become. In games with high production values, the graphics are just as good as those in animated films. The best video games have an episodic storyline. They can be hard to keep track of, but it makes the experience of playing all that much more rewarding.



Matching

Match the words and phrases to their definitions.

1

nostalgic

a

very bright and exciting

2

production value

b

stories divided into several parts

3

dazzling

c

feeling happy and slightly sad when you think about the past

4

elaborate

d

a measure of the level of quality and skill used to make something

5

episodic

e

containing many details or parts



The storylines can be hard **to keep track of**.

What are some things that are difficult for you **to keep track of**?



Discuss

Answer the questions below.

**Have you ever played
pinball?**

**What was the
experience like?**

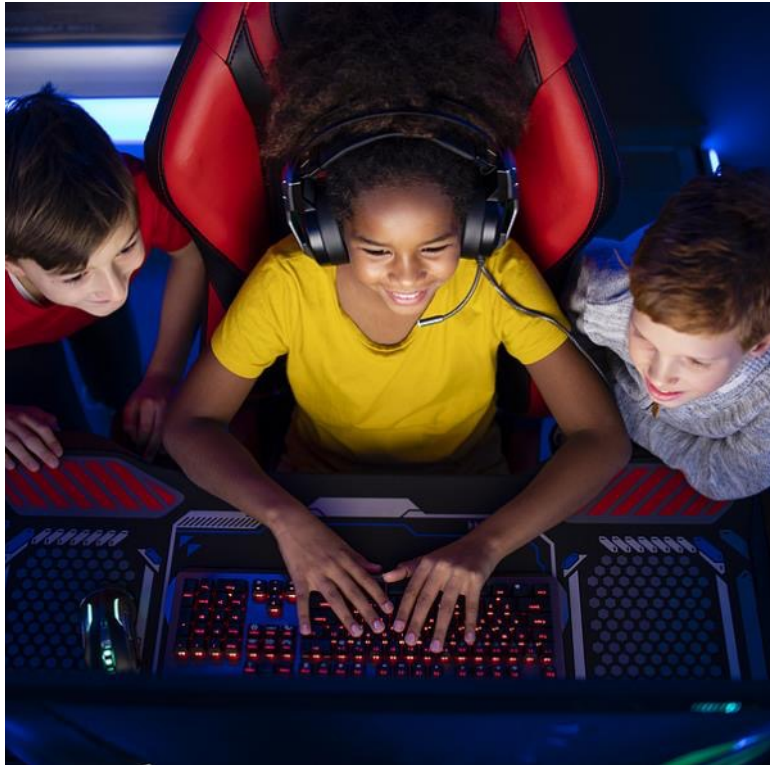


**Do you think video
games require more
skill to play than
arcade games?**



Complete the sentences

Complete the sentences with your own ideas.



I like/don't like arcade games because...

I like/don't like to play video games because...

I play/don't play games on my phone because...

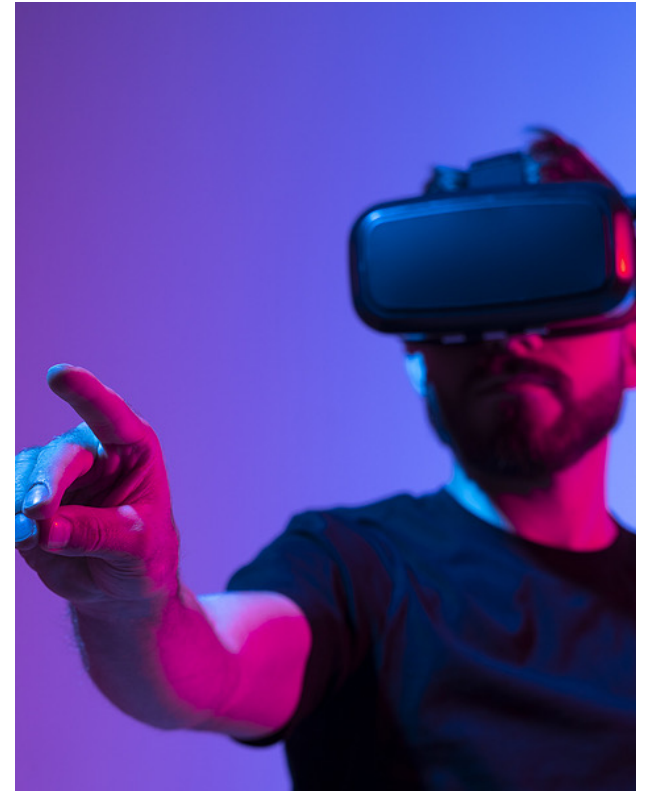
I think/don't think it's possible to tell a good story through a video game because...



What's your opinion?

**Can video games
be classified as
art?**

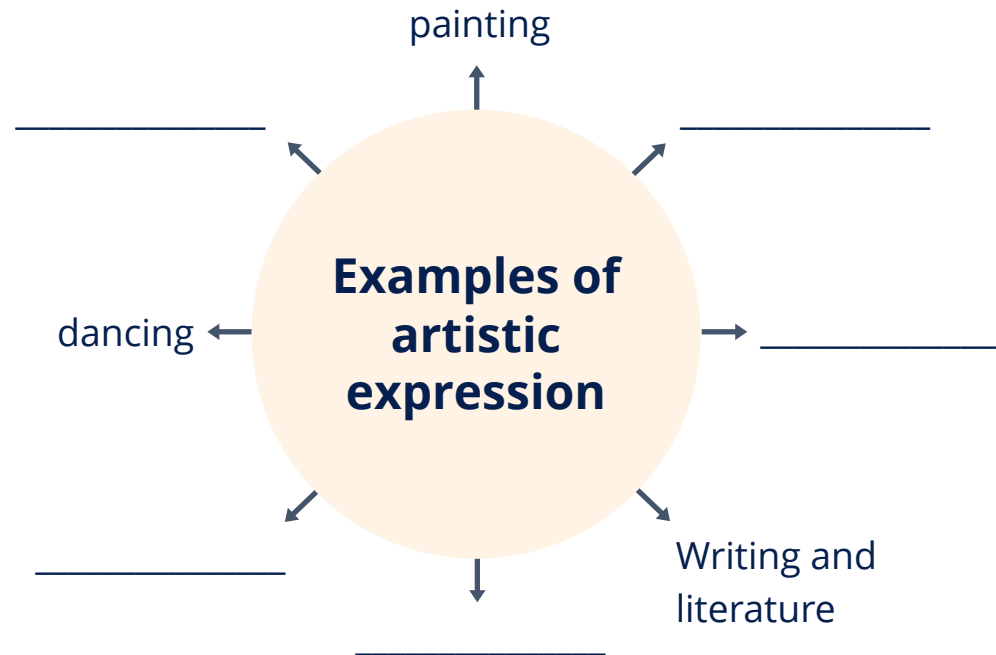
**Share your opinion with the
rest of the class!**





Brainstorm

Think of some examples of artistic expression.





What is artistic expression?

In breakout rooms or together as a class, **answer** the questions below.



What is the purpose of artistic expression?

Do you consider yourself artistic?

What form of artistic expression are you drawn to? Why?

Who is the most creative person you know?



What's your opinion?

1. **Read** the two statements. 2. Then **answer** the questions below.

1



Art should be participative. Video games take this to the next level as the player can change the art themselves and have very strong reactions to it.

2



Just as films have the Oscars, there should be awards for video games. The two mediums are not very different.

Do you agree with these statements?
Why or why not?

How are films and video games similar?

Do you think video games can have as big an impact on someone as a film?





End of the lesson

Idiom

Ahead of the game.

Meaning: having an advantage in a situation

Example: He finished the project a week early to stay ahead of the game.



Additional practice



Fill in the gaps

Complete the sentences with the correct word.

- 1 Whenever I play pinball, I feel _____. It reminds me of my childhood.
- 2 Video games today are so _____! There are many different characters and storylines to keep track of.
- 3 The _____ for the game's sequel is very high. A lot of time and money was spent to develop it.
- 4 I love the _____ lights and sounds at video arcades. It makes the experience all that more exciting.
- 5 If you want to play this video game, I recommend starting from the beginning. It's _____, so it won't make sense unless you understand the story.

episodic
dazzling
nostalgic
production value
elaborate



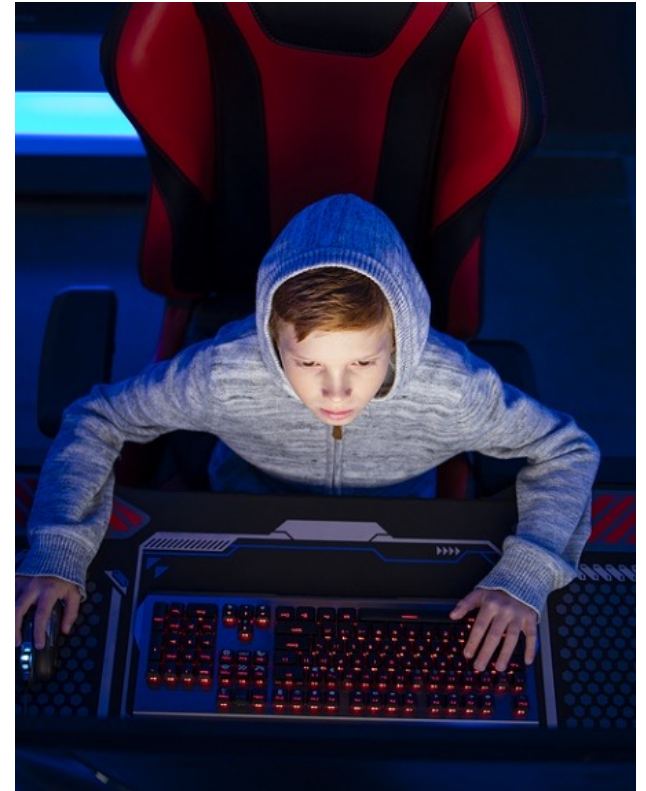
Discuss

Answer the question below.

**Video games are an industry.
Their focus is to make a profit.
Meanwhile, artists create art
to communicate ideas and
spread enlightenment.**

**That's why video games will
never be art.**

Do you agree or disagree?





Discuss

Answer the questions below.

Is there a game that makes you feel nostalgic?



Do you like elaborate games? Why or why not?



Answer key

P.5: 1.) c 2.) d 3.) a 4.) e 5.) b

P.10: *suggestions:* singing, photography, sculpture, drama, architecture

P.16: 1.) nostalgic 2.) elaborate 3.) production value 4.) dazzling 5.) episodic



Summary

Arcade and video games

- *nostalgic; production value; dazzling; elaborate; episodic; to keep track of*
- *I feel **nostalgic** when I think about arcade games.*
- *Lots of video games have an **elaborate** storyline.*



Vocabulary

arcade games

nostalgic

production value

dazzling

elaborate

episodic

to keep track of

