

Unit 29

VIDEO GAMES – FREE CONFIGURATION HOURS

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1 Game platforms

A) In pairs, discuss these questions.

- Do you play video games?
➔ Yes, i play videogames because, for me, it's like a escape route.
- What are your favourite games? Make a list.
➔ My favourite games are action games of one player, like The last of us, Horizon Zero Dawn, The Witcher, etc.; and shooters, like Counter Strike, Call of Duty, Overwatch, Battlefield, etc.

B) Label the pictures (a-f) with the types of game in the box.

- PC games -> B
- Console games -> C
- Arcade games -> D
- Handheld games -> A
- Mobile phone games -> F
- Massively multiplayer online games -> E

C) Video games are played on a variety of electronic devices, or platforms. Complete these sentences with game platforms from the box and types of game from B.

1 Console games are played on video game consoles, such as the Sony PS3 or Microsoft Xbox 360. In the past, these electronic devices were just connected to a standard TV or video

monitor; now they can also be connected to the Net, via cables or wirelessly.

2 Handheld games are played on portable gaming devices, such as the Sony PSP and the Nintendo DS. You can also play games on some graphing calculators and watches.

3 Don't worry if you don't have a game console. You can still play PC games on a personal computer. The graphics are even more impressive if you have a high-resolution monitor. You can buy games on CDs and DVDs, or download them from the Internet.

4 Massively multiplayer online games allow you to play against other users in other parts of the world using the Internet – something unique to electronic gaming. Players connect to a game server hosted by an ISP, a game company, or an individual enthusiast.

5 Some mobile phones games are programmed to run natively on the chip of 3G mobile phones. For instance, Snake is installed on many Nokia phones. Many Java-based games are also available via download.

6 Arcade games are played on coin-operated machines, typically installed in restaurants, bars and amusement arcades. For example, you can fly an aircraft or a spaceship using a joystick.

D) In pairs, discuss these questions.

Give reasons for your answers.

- Which is your favourite game platform? What advantages and disadvantages does it have over other game platforms?
 ➔ My favourite platform is PC, because it's vastly better than consoles at all; performance, graphics, gameplay... It's like you're playing in other world totally different. You can also use the pc otherwise, and not just to play.
- Which game platform would you most like to own?
 ➔ As i said, a pc, since it has the advantage of being able to use it for other purposes, the console can only be used for entertainment.
- Do you play games on your mobile phone? What is the experience like?
 ➔ Yes, i play games on my mobile phone but

2 Game genres

- A) How many different game genres can you think of? In pairs, make a list and then read the text to see how many genres from your list are mentioned.

FPS	It's mentioned.
MMORPG	Moreless mentioned.
Action games	It's mentioned.
Sports	It's mentioned.
Strategy	It's mentioned.

(Also, it's mentioned other genres like puzzle games, simulation games, or fighting games.)

B) These statements about gaming are all false. Read the text again and correct them.

- a. Role-playing games are currently the most popular.
→ The first-person shooter (FPS) and action genres games are currently the most popular.
- b. Massively multiplayer online RPGs have been made possible by widespread internet Access.
→ Massively multiplayer online RPGs has been made possible by widespread broadband access.
- c. Oblivion is an Action game.
→ Oblivion is a RPG game.
- d. The Sims series is the least popular in the Simulation category.
→ The Sims series is the most popular in the Simulation category.
- e. Strategy games are mainly restricted to game consoles.
→ Strategy games are mainly restricted to PC.
- f. Warcraft belongs to the Fighting genre.
→ Warcraft belongs to the Strategy genre.
- g. Console gamers typically prefer Simulation and Strategy games.

→ Console gamers typically prefer Sports, Racing, Fighting, RPGs and FPS games.

C) Find words or phrases in the text with the following meanings.

1. now; at this time or period -> **Currently**
2. existing or happening in many places and/or among many people -> **Widespread**
3. In spite of; notwithstanding -> **Despite**
4. more and more -> **Increasingly**
5. a smaller category within a particular genre -> **Sub-genre**
6. big successes -> **Massive hits**
7. sold in very large numbers -> **Best-selling**
8. modernized -> **Update**

D) In pairs, discuss these questions.

Give reasons for your answers.

1. What is your favourite and least favourite genre of game?
→ My favourite genre is FPS and the one i like the lest is Fighting, because FPS games are more frenetic and you can play casually, and i don't like fighting.
2. What are your favourite games? Describe them to your partner.
→ My favourite game today is Overwatch, which is a frenetic shooter with héroes like characters who have a common goal. It has diferents game modes, like catch the point or carry the load to the end of the map.

3 Language work: adverbs

A) Look at the HELP box on page 148 and then complete these sentences with the adverbial form of the words in brackets.

1. Simulation games are **widely** used in both universities and businesses.
2. Massively multiplayer online RPGs have **recently** become more popular, **mainly** due to faster internet connections.
3. Strategy is a genre mainly restricted to PC.
4. Video games often come with a clear set of motivation tools, such as scores and moving to higher levels when a player performs **well**.
5. Cheap PCs don't process data **fast** enough to support high-end games.

B) Are the words in bold adjectives or adverbs? Write adj or adv.

1. Atari's platform was the most popular early video game console, and many developers emulated Atari games to attract customers. **Adj**
2. The chess game ended early, at the 24th move. **Adv**
3. On the TPS Report gaming blog, you will find reviews, a forum and a monthly podcast. **Adj**
4. The podcast is broadcast monthly. **Adv**
5. You have to work hard to succeed in the gaming industry. **Adv**
6. Some experts say that hard work makes people happy. **Adj**

4 Present and future trends in gaming

A) Listen to an interview with Matt Robinson, the administrator of the TPS Report gaming blog. How many game platforms does he mention?

→ He mentions Xbox 360, Playstation 3, Nintendo DS, Wii, Mobile phone, Sony PSP.

B) These statements about video games are all false. Listen to the interview again and correct them.

1. Video games are popular because they are fun and addictive.

→ Video games are popular because they are interactive.

2. Well-known Hollywood actors appear in video games.

→ Well-known Hollywood actors provide their voice to video games.

3. The Nintendo Wii is aimed at hardcore gamers.

→ The Nintendo Wii is aimed at families that like to play.

4. It's free to play World of Warcraft.

→ World of Warcraft is a game that you play with a paid subscription.

5. Holography is an advanced form of photography that uses lasers to produce two-dimensional images.

→ Holography is an advanced form of photography that uses lasers to produce three-dimensional images.

6. In the future, gesture recognition systems will produce photo-realistic images.

→ Today, gesture recognition systems that translate your movements to the game.

C) Listen again and complete these extracts from the interview with adverbs.

1. With a game you are **completely** in control of the action.

2. Games are now even more life-like and **visually** attractive.

3. A lot of modern games **suddenly** draw inspiration from films and even TV.

4. Their **recently** released Wii console has an inexpensive, simplistic, pick up 'n' play feel to it.

5. Wii is **currently** the most popular of the three machines.

6. Logging onto an **entirely** separate universe to meet and play alongside your Friends has enormous attraction.

7. Mobile gaming has **traditionally** been about easy, simplistic 2-D games.

D) In pairs, discuss if you agree with everything that Matt says in this interview about the future of gaming. What are your own predictions?

➔ Today it has gone much further and there is more and more advances in the gaming world. And also with these advantages rise the costs of PCs and consoles, which are increasingly expensive. For example, Matt says the Wii is very cheap, but the new Nintendo Switch, in my opinión, is extremely expensive.

5 The pros and cons of gaming

A) In pairs, look at the statements about gaming (1-4) and say if you agree or disagree with them. Give reasons for your answers.

1. TV and video games are amusing and can be educational. But too much of this kind of entertainment can be addictive and make children become accustomed to violence.

➔ It's true that can be educational and good for children, but with a responsible use like all in life.

2. Massively multiplayer online games are interactive and fun.

➔ It's true but they are also extremely complicated and take up a lot of space from your free time, so it's best to play them sparingly.

3. Video games have negative effects on children and distract them from school and homework.

→ You don't have to, kids can spend their time on whatever they like, whether it's video games or for example football.

4. Modern games and simulations offer a great deal of adventure and challenge. In addition, they can teach skills such as strategic thinking, interpretative analysis and problem solving.

→ It's true. Video games can become very educational about children and adults as well.

B) Write an essay called The pros and cons of gaming (80-120 words). Use these steps and the Useful language box to help you.

→ Video games are really very useful tools to educate our children if they know how to use them well. There are video games that teach values of companionship, loyalty or friendship, even if there are also video games that are more violent. Obviously these games are for adults, most of them. That's why psychologists recommend following the age indications in video games so that they aren't harmful to younger ones. Games can be good for everyone because they are fun, but in moderation as they can cause situations of need to play out of control and forget the real priorities of your life. Otherwise, it's all great and can be a perfect complement to

the daily lives of people looking to control
the action that any video game provides.