

Ghosts (Pac-Man)

The **Ghosts** are the recurring antagonists in the *Pac-Man* franchise.

History

The enemies in *Pac-Man* are known variously as "ghosts," "goblins," and "monsters". Despite the seemingly random nature of the enemies, their movements are strictly deterministic, which players have used to their advantage. In an interview, creator Toru Iwatani stated that he had designed each enemy with its own distinct personality in order to keep the game from becoming impossibly difficult or boring to play. More recently, Iwatani described the enemy behaviors in more detail at the 2011 Game Developers Conference. He stated that the red enemy chases Pac-Man, and the pink and blue enemies try to position themselves in front of Pac-Man's mouth. Although he claimed that the orange enemy's behavior is random, a careful analysis of the game's code reveals that it actually chases Pac-Man most of the time, but also moves toward the lower-left corner of the maze when it gets too close to Pac-Man.

Cartoons

In the *Pac-Man* cartoon, with the male Ghost Monsters wearing various styles of hats and partnered with Sue (who wore earrings), the Ghost Monsters work for Mezmaron who assigns them the job of finding the Power Pellet Forest. Just as Pac-Man could "chomp" the Ghost Monsters to devour their "suits" after gulping down a power pellet and thusly turning the Ghost Monsters blue — with their disembodied "eyes" floating back to Mezmaron's lair — the Ghost Monsters themselves, whenever Pac-Man hadn't been able to consume a power pellet for a time, could likewise "chomp" Pac-Man to defeat him. The episodes "Chomp-Out at the O.K. Corral" and "The Greatest Show in Pacland" featured the Ghost Monsters' 3-year-old cousin named Dinky who was bratty, which greatly annoyed all the male ghost monsters.

In the 2013 TV series *Pac-Man and the Ghostly Adventures*, the four Ghosts come from the Netherworld. Though they are ruled by Lord Betrayus, they are actually good-natured spirits and often supply Pac-Man with information about Lord Betrayus' plots. There were also some Ghosts that were exclusive to the TV series like Cyclops Ghosts (a race of heavysset, horned Ghosts with one eye), Fire Ghosts (a race of orange Ghosts who can emit fire from their body), Tentacle Ghosts (a race of 4-eyed purple-black Ghosts who look similar to jellyfish), Guardian Ghosts (a race of large Ghosts who guard the Netherworld), and Aqua Ghosts (a race of light blue Ghosts with fins on their head).

Known Ghosts

Below is the description of each Ghost.

Enemy Color	Original <i>Puck Man</i>						American <i>Pac-Man</i>	
	Character (Personality)	Translation	Nickname	Translation	Alternate Character	Alternate Nickname	Character (Personality)	Nickname
Red	Oikake (追いか け)	Chaser	Akabei (赤べ い)	Red guy	Urchin	Macky	Shadow	Blinky
Pink	Machibuse (待ち伏 せ)	Ambusher	Pinky (ピンキ ー)	Pink guy	Romp	Micky	Bashful	Pinky
Cyan	Kimagure (気まぐ れ)	Fickle	Aosuke (青助)	Blue guy	Stylist	Mucky	Speedy	Inky
Orange	Otoboke (お惚け)	Stupid	Guzuta (愚図 た)	Slow guy	Crybaby	Mocky	Pokey	Clyde

Blinky

Blinky is a red Ghost that is bad-tempered, bossy, crude, bratty, grouchy, dangerous, sarcastic, wimpy, and greedy. In the Pac-Man world games this ghost is Clyde.

In the *Pac-Man* cartoon, Blinky (voiced by Chuck McCann) is slow-witted and cowardly with grammar problems.

In *Pac-Man and the Ghostly Adventures*, Blinky (voiced by Ian James Corlett in the TV series and by Lucien Dodge in the video game) is the default leader of the Ghost Gang Family and tends to help the winning side.

Blinky receives a speed boost after a number of pac-pellets have been cleared. This mode has been informally referred to as "Cruise Elroy".

Inky

Inky is a cyan Ghost that is goofy, shy, and unpredictable.

In the *Pac-Man* cartoon, Inky (voiced by Barry Gordon) is depicted as dim and loony.

In *Pac-Man and the Ghostly Adventures*, Inky (voiced by Lee Tockar in the TV series and by Bryce Papenbrook in the video game) is the youngest member. Though the smartest, he lacks focus most of the time.

In **Pac-Man**, Inky Likes to appear in front of Pac-Man's face.

Pinky

Pinky is a pink Ghost that is mischievous, persistent, and tricky.

In the *Pac-Man* cartoon, Pinky (voiced by Chuck McCann) is depicted as male dimwitted shape shifter.

In recent games, and *Pac-Man and the Ghostly Adventures*, Pinky (voiced by Ashleigh Ball in the TV series and by Julie Kliever in the video game) is depicted as a female with a crush on Pac-Man, which often puts her at odds with Cyndria.

Clyde

Clyde is an orange Ghost that is ignorant, and goofy. In Ms. Pac-Man, this ghost is named Sue, and in Jr. Pac-Man, this ghost is named Tim.

In the animated series, Clyde (voiced by Neil Ross) is the leader of the group.

In recent games and *Pac-Man and the Ghostly Adventures*, Clyde (voiced by Brian Drummond in the TV series and by Orion Acaba in the video game) is depicted as a large ghost who is simple and has an appetite equal to Pac-Man's.

In the *Pac-Man World* games, Clyde and Blinky's roles are reversed.

Other Ghosts

With the release of further Pac-Man games, more ghosts have been added.

Kinky

Kinky is a yellow Ghost that only appeared in *Pac-Man Arrangement*. He is also called Kinzo. Kinky is the scientist of the Ghosts who has the ability to combine with other Ghosts. When he combines with Clyde (note: in Pac-Man Arrangement, Clyde was the red ghost and Blinky was orange), Kinky becomes a bull-like ghost named Urchin that can charge after Pac-Man. When he combines with Inky, Kinky's glasses appear on Inky's body and grant this new combined ghost (named Stylist) the ability to split in two. Stylist's reflection will mirror Stylist's movements on the other half of the map (about the vertical axis). When Kinky combines with Pinky, the resulting ghost is rabbit-like and named Romp. Romp can hop to any part of the map, usually very close to Pac-Man's position. The combination of Kinky and Blinky (who is orange in Pac-Man Arrangement) results in Crybaby, a chubbier version of Blinky who adds 20-point Pac-Dots to the maze.

Orson

Orson is a greenish-gray intellectual Ghost who has reformed and is now an ally of Pac-Man.

Spooky

Spooky is a dark gray Ghost in gray armor that is the King of the Ghosts in ancient times until he was sealed under Pac-Ville's largest tree by Sir Pac-A-Lot.

Funky

Funky is a jumping green Ghost that debuted in *Pac-Mania*. He has an interest in Sue.

Spunky

A jumping iron gray Ghost that debuted in *Pac-Mania*. She is a counterpart of Funky.

Sue

Sue is a female Ghost who assumes Clyde's role as the orange ghost in *Ms. Pac-Man*. In later Pac-Man games, Sue is a violet Ghost.

In the Pac-Man series, Sue (voiced by Susan Silo) is featured as Clyde's second-in-command.

Tim

Tim is an orange Ghost that appeared exclusively as Clyde's replacement in *Jr. Pac-Man*.

Yum-Yum

Yum-Yum is a female red Ghost that debuted in *Jr. Pac-Man*. She is a relative of Blinky and has a romantic relationship with Jr. Pac-Man. Yum-Yum appears exclusively in Jr. Pac-Man's cutscenes.

In other media

- In the *Tiny Toon Adventures* episode "Gang Busters," Buster Bunny & Plucky Duck play Pac-Man using their eyeballs as the characters & Buster plays as the ghosts.
- The ghosts appear in *The Simpsons* episode "Homer and Ned's Hail Mary Pass," where they are seen at Pac-Man's wedding. They also appear in the episode "I Married Marge," where Mr. Burns was playing Ms. Pac-Man and laughs when he eats the ghosts.
- The Ghosts appear in the *Futurama* episode "Anthology of Interest II."
- The Ghosts appear in the *Family Guy* episode "Stuck Together, Torn Apart" where they try to cheer up Pac-Man after Ms. Pac-Man left him. When they are unable to cheer Pac-Man up, they leave to visit Q*bert. They are seen again in "Stewie Griffin: The Untold Story" where Stewie Griffin and Brian Griffin were playing Pac-Man. Brian tells Stewie to get the fruit, but Stewie says that there is a ghost in the way. In "Meet the Quagmires" the ghosts appear in the game *Menstrual Ms. Pac-Man* that Peter Griffin was playing. Ms. Pac-Man yells at the ghost for chasing her & the Ghosts start complaining and swearing at her.
- The Ghosts appear in the *South Park* trilogy "Imaginationland."
- The ghosts appear in the *Annoying Orange* episodes "Pac-Mania" and "TV OF TERROR".
- The Ghosts appear in the *Robot Chicken* episode "Tubba Bubba's Now Hubba-Hubba." In a segment that parodies Pac-Man with *The Matrix*, Pac-Man is seen fighting Inky and Pinky while in the Matrix and is shot. In "The Core, The Thief, His Wife, and His Lover," a segment parodying *Ghost* has Sam Wheat about to kiss Molly Jensen until he is eaten by Pac-Man. In "Fool's Goldfinger," the Ghosts appear with Pac-Man in a segment that details gay video game characters (though Pac-Man is not canonically gay). In "Butchered in Burbank," the Ghosts appear

with Ms. Pac-Man and Pac-Man gets mad at them when they flirt with her.

- Blinky, Inky, Pinky, and Clyde appear in *Wreck-It Ralph*. While Blinky, Inky, and Pinky appear in Game Central Station, Clyde (voiced by Kevin Deters) is shown to be the head of Bad-Anon (a support group for video game villains) where the members have been meeting in the Pac-Man game once a week. When Wreck-It Ralph comments on how he doesn't want to be a villain anymore, Clyde is among the villains that react to this as he turns blue. After Wreck-It Ralph states how no villain gets any respect from the characters in the game that they are from, Clyde gets how he feels, but says that he'll have to accept who he is.
- The Ghosts appear in the *MAD* segments "Diary of a Wimpy Kid Icarus" (where they were shown chasing Pac-Man) and "ParaMorgan" (where they were shown with other popular fictional ghosts).
- The Ghosts appear in secret levels in *Wolfenstein 3D*.

References

Article Sources and Contributors

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