

## Computer Gaming

### Task 1 Computer functions

What can you do with a computer? Try to separate the functions from this long line of letters.

sendemailwritealetterdocalculationssurftheinternetprintlistentomusicwatchDVDsrecordCDsplaygame

### Task 2 Computer games survey

Write the names of five class-mates in the columns 1-5 and then ask them the questions about computer games. Write their answers in the chart. Write your own question in the last space.

	1	2	3	4	5
1. Do you like playing computer games?					
2. How often do you play computer games?					
3. What's your favourite computer game?					
4. Do you think computer games are addictive?					
5. Do you usually play computer games alone or with friends?					
6.					

### Task 3 Test your computer games knowledge

**Are you a computer gamer? Test your knowledge by doing this quiz.**

**1) What's the name of the star of Tomb Raider?**

- a) Sara Loft
- b) Lara Croft
- c) Tara Proft

**2) What's the name of the highly addictive Russian puzzle game where you have to fit lots of coloured bricks together to make a wall?**

- a) Tetris
- b) The Russian Front
- c) Puzzled

**3) When was the Playstation first released?**

- a) 1999
- b) 1994
- c) 2004

**4) Who says "@!#?@!" when he is hit by something?**

- a) Donkey Kong
- b) Q\*bert
- c) Pacman

**5) What must you destroy in the Star Wars game to get to the next level?**

- a) The Death Star
- b) Darth Vader
- c) Fireballs

**6) Who makes the X-Box?**

- a) Sony
- b) Nintendo
- c) Microsoft

**7) The pictures in computer games are made of lots of small spots. What are the spots called?**

- a) Pixels
- b) Dixels
- c) Spotets

**8) What's the name of the online virtual world created by Linden Lab?**

- a) Another World
- b) Second Life
- c) Crazy Life

**9) Where were the Nintendo DS brain training games were first launched?**

- a) The USA
- b) The UK
- c) Japan

### Task 4 Make your own computer games quiz

Now you are going to write your own computer games quiz. Think about the games you and your friends play. Write 5 questions below. You must know the answers to the questions. Make some quite easy and some difficult ones.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

### Task 5 Computer gaming

Before reading the text about Computer gaming write the definition of the following words. Use a dictionary or ask your teacher to help you.

Words	Definitions
1. Rewarding	a)
2. To pull the trigger	b)
3. Colloquial	c)
4. to warn	d)
5. A link	e)
6. To arise	f)
7. Regardless	g)
8. To blur	h)

## **Computer Gaming: What's real and what's not?**

Today's video game worlds are so detailed they give the player a realistic and rewarding experience. It is not just children that play these games; it is as common for men from 18 to 30 to have some sort of games console at home.

People think this may affect real-life behaviour and ask whether life-like computer games are a good thing; especially games where the player takes on active roles like pulling a trigger in first person shooter games to simulate armed battle. Modern characters have become more like people than cartoons, the language has become more colloquial and the sound effects are now more realistic. For these reasons concerns have been raised about links to aggressive behaviour.

Worried parents have welcomed computer game classification whereby games are given similar ratings as films. These warn people of violent and sexual content and make it easier for parents to monitor what their children are playing with.

### **Are computer games making us more aggressive?**

There is no existing evidence that proves a link between an increase in computer game violence and aggressive or violent behaviour in children, but the question still arises: should it be acceptable for computer games to depict graphic scenes of violence?

What lessons do players take from games like Grand Theft Auto where players speed through city streets trying to reach their destination in the quickest time regardless of pedestrians in their way or Hooligans: Storm over Europe where men storm football pitches, fight rival gangs and attack police. Do you think these computer games blur right from wrong and fact from fiction?

#### **Games**

- Championship Manager - Manage a Premiership football team for a season
- Wii sport - Play tennis, baseball, golf, bowling and boxing in the comfort of your living room.
- Call of duty - A first person shooter war game
- Grand Theft Auto - Driving action game
- Hooligans: Storm over Europe – a fighting game
- Lemmings - guide as many Lemmings to safety as you can through hazardous environments.
- Lego Star Wars - Action adventure
- Mario Kart – A driving race game

This text was adapted from the British Council UKinfocus website

- Do you think that playing violent computer games can affect your behaviour?
- Do you think it is necessary to give ratings to computer games?
- Would you let your own children play violent computer games?

**Task 6 Quotes for discussion**

Read the following quotes from a selection of people involved in the gaming industry. Discuss them with your class.

"When you don't know what the colour of eyes of your ten best friends are because you've never met them in real life you may have a problem."  
Jay Parker - therapist and co-founder of the Internet Computer Addiction Services.

"Blowing somebody's head off becomes rapidly boring."  
Seamus Blackley - Xbox co-creator

"You may kill a thousand people on the screen in 4 hours of play."  
Pamela Eakes - founder of Mothers Against Violence in America

"My only contact with the outside world was this little Tamagochi."  
Peter Molyneux - Creative Director of Lionhead Studios

"You'll meet people that you never would have met."  
Tim Moss - Sony

"If I were designing a game, it would have stuff that girls like, like shopping."  
No name -a player at Seattle's Gameworks Arcade.

**Task 7 Design a new computer game**

For most people the computer game experience starts in the shop and ends on the sofa! But have you ever thought about how a new game is made? Work in groups and design a new computer game. Follow these steps:

- Think of the story. (You may decide to base the game on a film or TV series).
- Create the characters.
- Think of the levels and environments of different levels.
- Draw a storyboard of the game's first level.

Show the storyboard to the rest of the class and explain your game to them.