

(Bloque 3 Comprensión escrita: 1. Identificar instrucciones; 5. Captar las ideas principales de textos periodísticos; Bloque 4 Producción escrita: 3. Escribir notas, anuncios y mensajes relacionados con actividades y la vida cotidiana)

**Video games – a positive influence?**



Many teenagers are ‘gamers’ – they have video consoles and are mad about playing games, often for many hours. What effect do these games have? For some people, video games have a bad reputation. They believe that they are difficult to stop playing or that violent games can encourage violence, but other people say that playing video games can teach useful skills to help in life and in school.

Let’s start with strategy games – players collect information, solve problems, plan, make decisions and negotiate. These are very useful skills outside of video games.

What about sports games? Some people say gamers who play sports games could become more interested in playing ‘real’ sports and it helps to teach sports techniques. Playing video games can also help improve hand to eye coordination which is useful in sports!

What about the negatives? Some parents worry that video games could make teenagers angry and violent. Games, like films, have an age rating that parents can check so that teens don’t have games with violence or bad language.

Gamers sit down for a long time when they play, get less exercise and have more screen time. It’s important to take regular breaks, and experts recommend that gamers don’t have more than two hours of screen time in a day. This includes time watching TV or on tablets!

So, video games can help us learn lots of skills, but it’s important that you play games for your age and don’t play for too long!

**1 Read the article. Are the sentences T (true) or F (false)?**

**T      F**

- 1 Some people think that video games encourage violence.
- 2 Strategy games could help people learn other abilities.
- 3 Sports games help motivate people to play sports.
- 4 Playing video games can make your hand to eye coordination worse.
- 5 There is evidence of a connection between video games and violence.
- 6 Experts say gamers can have over two hours a day of screen time.

**2 Read the article again and choose the correct answers.**

- 1 What is a ‘gamer’?
  - a someone that has a video console
  - b someone that loves video games and plays a lot
- 2 Why do some people think that video games can be negative?
  - a Teens spend too much time playing them.
  - b Teens spend too much money on them.
- 3 Which video games can help with learning to solve problems?

**a** sports games   **b** strategy games

**4** What other entertainment uses age ratings?

**a** movies                **b** magazines

**5** Why should people take regular breaks from playing video games?

**a** so they don't sit for a long time

**b** to have some food