



eSports Go Global

In the past, people played computer games in their living rooms and bedrooms against their family and friends. But nowadays, gamers play online against hundreds of different people around the world. There are also millions of fans who love watching these eSports as well as playing. They pay money to watch the very best gamers compete in large stadiums. It's just like watching a real sport!

Like other sports

"eSports" is short for *electronic sports* and, as with normal sports such as soccer and tennis, **professional** eSports players are very competitive. Like real athletes, the best eSports players can train for up to 14 hours a day. In some countries, like China and South Korea, there are competitions in stadiums with up to 80,000 fans. At these events, some of the eSports are individual, but most of them are team games. There are five players on each team and the winning team shares the **prize** money.

Big business

As eSports are growing in popularity, they are also becoming profitable. Globally, the eSports industry is worth about a billion dollars. Large companies sponsor the competitions, and some soccer teams also have their own eSports teams.

But is it a sport?

Of course, some people don't believe it's a real sport because eSports players sit in chairs and they are not physically active. But eSports fans disagree. The players need a lot of skill to win the competitions and, in the future, some people even think eSports will be part of the Olympic Games.

B Read the article. Are the statements *true* or *false*?

1. Online gamers can play against people they don't know. _____
2. Professional eSports is usually an individual sport. _____
3. eSports make a lot of money. _____
4. eSports players get a lot of exercise. _____

C Are eSports popular in your country? Do you think they are a real sport? Tell the class.



D Match these words from the text to a definition.

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 1. compete _____ | a. a large place where people watch sports |
| 2. fan _____ | b. type of business |
| 3. industry _____ | c. person who likes a sport |
| 4. sponsor _____ | d. play a sport or game against another person or team |
| 5. stadium _____ | e. give money to sports teams to advertise your product |

E MY WORLD In pairs, discuss the questions.

1. What is your country's most famous sports team?
Are you a fan of the team?
2. Where does the team normally play?



F Read the sentences. Decide if they describe:

- a. eSports b. normal sports c. both
1. Played in a large stadium _____
 2. The winners receive a prize. _____
 3. Players are physically active. _____
 4. Players sit in chairs. _____
 5. Players need a lot of skill. _____