

Reading Unit 6-7 (20%)

Video games – a



positive influence?

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Many teenagers are 'gamers' – they have video consoles at home and are mad about playing different games, often for many hours. What effect do these games have on teenagers? For some people, video games have a bad reputation – some believe that they are difficult to stop playing or that playing violent games can encourage violence, but these days many people say that playing video games can also teach teens useful skills that could help them in their life and even in the classroom.

10 Let's start with strategy and role-playing games. In these games, players have to collect information,
11 solve problems, plan, make decisions and negotiate. All of these are very useful skills outside of
12 video games and can help with our schoolwork.

13 What about sports games? Some people say when gamers play sports games, they are more likely to
14 become interested in playing 'real' sports and the games help to teach sports techniques. Playing video
15 games can also help improve hand to eye coordination which is useful in sports!

16 Now, what about the negatives? Some parents worry that video games could make teenagers angry
17 and violent. Video games, like films in the cinema, have a recommended age rating that parents can
18 use so that teens don't play games that have strong violence or bad language.

19 Gamers sit down for a long time when they play, get less exercise and have more screen time. It's
20 important to take regular breaks, and experts recommend that gamers don't have more than two
21 hours of screen time in a day. Remember, this includes TV and tablet screen time, as well as video
22 games!

23 So, video games can be a good thing and help us learn lots of skills, but it's important that you play
24 games for your age and don't play for too long!

Read the article. Are the sentences T (true), F (false) or is there NI (no information)?

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

Read the article again, answer the questions with your own words and give the line with the evidence from the text.

1 What is a 'gamer'? LINE

2 Why do some people think video games can help teens in the classroom? LINE

3 Which video games can help with learning to solve problems? LINE

4 What other entertainment uses age ratings? LINE

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