

Computer games

Key words

idle, incredibly, mundane, out of shape

- a This game is different because it builds the muscles of the players, who should move their whole body in order to use the joystick.
- b The writer generalises an opinion by using such structures as "Many people... do not want..."; "The majority of people... use their thumbs..."; "People get tired of them very quickly..."
- c The writer reports an opinion by using the structure X say(s): "they say..."; "The game's designers say..."; "People who have played the game say..."

Reading

1 Read the text about a new way of playing computer or video games.

- a How is this different from the way people usually play these games?
 b How does the writer generalise an opinion?
 c How does the writer report an opinion?



Many people, especially the parents of teenagers, do not want their children to spend too much time playing computer or video games, because, they say, it makes them idle and they get out of shape. Now, a company is making a new kind of game

which builds up players' muscles as they play. The majority of people who play normal computer and video games now use their thumbs and fingers to press little buttons. But to use the new system players have to move their whole bodies. They actually control the game by moving a shoulder-high joystick.

The game's designers say that traditional exercise machines, like the ones in gyms and fitness centres, are incredibly mundane to use. People get tired of them very quickly and so they don't exercise for very long. If they use one of the new joysticks, they can improve their level of fitness by playing their favourite game. Players build up their muscles by pulling or pushing the giant joystick. In racing games like *Formula 1*, the harder the player pushes the joystick the faster the car goes. If you want the car to go slower, you pull the joystick backwards. People who have played the game say that you can feel the effect of pulling and pushing the joystick after only two or three minutes. It particularly affects the upper arms and shoulders.

The company which makes the new equipment says people can use it in their homes or at the gym.

2 Choose the most appropriate title for the text.

- a Have fun!
 b Have fun and keep fit
 c Exercise to keep fit
 d Fun stops exercise
 e Muscle-wasting games

3 Match the sentence beginnings and endings. There are more endings than you need.

- a Playing traditional computer games can **6**
- b Players have to move their whole bodies to **4**
- c Instead of using their thumbs and fingers, players **1**
- d People don't spend much time on traditional exercise machines **7**
- e It takes only a few minutes to **2**
- f In racing games, you can make cars go slower if you **5**

- 1 have to use their shoulders and arms.
- 2 feel the effect of using the shoulder-high joystick.
- 3 use them in the gym.
- 4 play games with the new joystick.
- 5 pull the joystick backwards.
- 6 make people idle and out of shape.
- 7 because they find them uninteresting.
- 8 play cutting-edge racing games.

4 Find the adjectives and adverbs from the text which are antonyms (a word or phrase which means the opposite).

- a interesting **mundane**
- b slower **faster**
- c lower **upper**
- d forwards **Backwards**
- e energetic **idle**
- f healthy **Out of shape**
- g slowly **quickly**
- h tiny **giant**
- i modern **traditional**

5 Choose the most appropriate statements to complete the sentences.

- a The new game exercises...
 - 1 the shoulders and upper arms only.
 - 2** the entire body.
 - 3 the legs and back.
 - 4 thumbs and fingers.
- b The technology will be used...
 - 1 by health professionals.
 - 2 by doctors and nurses.
 - 3** by anyone hoping to keep fit.
 - 4 by the parents of teenagers.
- c Some games make teenagers lazy, according to...
 - 1 teenagers.
 - 2 health professionals.
 - 3** the parents of teenagers.
 - 4 teachers.
- d The designers think their system will sell well because...
 - 1** it's more fun to use than traditional gym equipment.
 - 2 normal controllers aren't fun to use.
 - 3 it looks very attractive.
 - 4 players have to move their whole bodies.

6 Read the text again. Summarise each paragraph in one or two sentences.

.....

.....

Students' own answers

.....

.....

.....

Over to you

7 Computer games are detrimental to children's social development. Do you agree or disagree? Why or why not?

Students' own answers

.....

Language practice

1 Change the words into the correct future tense. Put the words in the correct order to make sentences.

Remember to use:

- present continuous for an arrangement
- *going to* + base form for a plan or intention
- *will* + base form for a prediction

an interview/at the University of Kuwait/ have/next week

I'm having an interview at the University of Kuwait next week.

- a by bus/I travel there/on Monday
I'm travelling there by bus on Monday.
- b at the interview/I/probably be/very nervous
I will probably be very nervous at the interview.
- c at university/I/work really hard/when I'm
I'm going to work really hard when I'm at university.
- d I expect/quite hard/the work/be
I expect the work will be quite hard.
- e a doctor/I'm definitely/to be/leave university/when I
I'm definitely going to be a doctor when I leave university.

Grammar assistant

Using will

- Use **will** to predict the future.
The weather **will** get hotter – it **won't** get colder.
- Use **will** for actions that we decide now, at the moment of speaking.
I'll wash up the dishes.
- Use **going to** for actions that we have decided before we speak.
I'm not going to watch the news tonight.
I'm going to read the newspaper.
- For suggestions and offers, use **Shall I / we ...?** or **I'll ...**
Shall I meet you at the entrance?

2 Complete the text with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

Hi Reem,

How are you? I'm fine. I've been working hard at school but my holiday starts tomorrow. I don't have (1) won't have (rd h ve) time to write to you this week, so I'm writing now. Tomorrow my wife and I (2) are flying (...y) to London to spend a few days with our uncle and aunt. We (3) are staying (vtay) in



... in the city centre near the River Thames. We (4) are going to spend (vpenb) in our three days hoping. I (5) am going to buy (buy) some new clothes. On Wednesday my uncle (6) is going to take (t ke) us to the British Museum where I hope we

(7) will see (see) lots of interesting ancient things. On Friday we (8) are travelling (tr vel) to Scotland. We (9) are going to see (see) our cousin, who is a student at Edinburgh University. We haven't seen him for nearly a year, so I'm sure we (10) will have (h ve) a great time together. So, you can see we (11) are going to have (h ve) a really busy time. I (12) will send (senb) you a message from Edinburgh, and I (13) will phone (phone) you when I get home.

Love,

3 Match the sentences to their responses in a telephone conversation between Reem and Sara. There are more answers than you need.

- a Hi Sara, thanks for your letter. **4**
 - b Your holiday sounds fantastic. **6**
 - c Send my regards to your family. **1**
 - d Could you bring me some information about Edinburgh University? **7**
 - e I hope you have a great trip. **3**
- 1 I will do and the same to yours.
 2 I can't wait to see you too.
 3 Thanks. I'll send you a postcard from Scotland.
 You're welcome.
 5 That sounds nice.
 6 I know, I can't wait!
 7 Sure, no problem.

4 Rewrite the sentences using *the more... , the more ...* .

When I spend time with my family I am more cheerful.

The more time I spend with my family, the more cheerful I am.

- a Reading books makes me want to learn.
The more books I read, the more I want to learn.
- b When consoles are improved we spend more to stay up-to-date.
The more consoles are improved, the more we spend to
- c We should take precautions when it is dangerous.
The more dangerous it is, the more precautions we should take.

5 Choose the correct verbs.

My brother (1) (went / go) to the shops last week and (2) (brought / bought) himself a new computer game. The game (3) (saw / looked) really exciting, but when he tried to play it, it didn't

(4) (work / operate). He was really disappointed, and (5) (returned / reverted) it to the shop for a refund. Now, he is (6) (drawing / writing) a letter to the company to complain.

6 Correct the language mistakes in each sentence.

a I brought two new pairs of jean's and neither of them fit.

I bought two new pairs of jeans and neither of them fit.

b Everybody says the PSP is fun, stylish and advanced and it is expensive.

Everybody says the PSP is fun, stylish and advanced,

c He's having an accident one of these days.

He's going to have an accident one of these days.

d In my new computer game, they're many different levels.

In my new computer game, there are many different levels.

e The graphics in the game I am playing were very advanced.

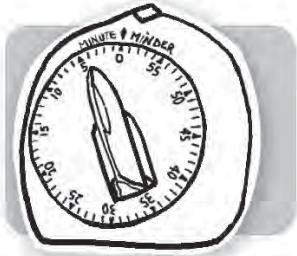
The graphics in the game I am playing are very advanced

Writing

1 Read the instructions.

- Match each set of instructions with a picture.
- Write the correct heading for each one.

1



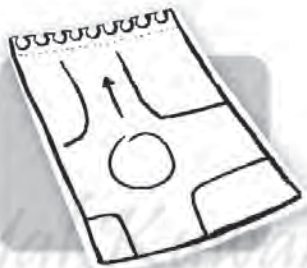
2



3



4



5



A 4 : street direction

Leave the motorway at Junction 17 and follow the signs to the town centre. Go straight on at the first roundabout and then turn right at the second. Our car park is the third turning on your left.

B 1 : food recipe

To start with, prepare all the ingredients. Break the eggs into a bowl, grate some cheese and chop an onion. Next, heat the oil in a frying pan. Mix all the ingredients together and when the oil is hot, pour the mixture into the pan. Turn the heat down and cook for 3-4 minutes.

C 5 : driving instructions

First of all, make sure the handbrake is on and the gearstick is in neutral or park. Then turn the ignition key to start the engine. Put the car into gear and indicate. Finally, check in your rear-view mirror that there are no cars behind you, release the handbrake and move off.

D 2 : game instructions

Take turns to move one of your pieces along the lines on the board. You can make either a 'taking' move or an ordinary move. To take one of your opponent's pieces jump over it into the empty space on the other side of it.

E 3 : ordering something on the internet

First, find the item you want to buy and add it to your Shopping Basket. Next, fill in an order form giving us your personal details and address for delivery. After that, add your credit card details and lastly, press the Order Now button.

