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## **IS IT POSSIBLE TO LEARN ENGLISH WITH THE HELP OF MODERN VIDEOGAMES?**

Nowadays there are many ways of learning English. One of them is while playing videogames. We all have played videogames at least once in our life, maybe, with a friend, a cousin or even alone. And in many cases that videogame was in English, it also gave instructions in English to complete the game. So, to end the level of the game, first of all, we need to understand what the game is saying [3]. Many scientists say that it is possible to learn English with the help of computer games. There are many different and controversial articles and works about this issue, but we will try to prove how one can learn English with the help of modern videogames. We will show all advantages and disadvantages of this way of learning.

For our research we created a survey for the students of Zhytomyr universities to see if they have ever learned English while playing videogames. And, these are the questions with forty answers from the students.

### **Survey:**

- Have you ever played videogames?
  - Yes — 40 answers;
  - No — 0 answers;
- Was the videogame in English?
  - Yes — 28 answers;
  - No — 12 answers;
- What kind of videogame have you played most often?
  - Multi Massive Online Role Playing Game — 8 answers;
  - Racing game — 8 answers;
  - Shooters — 20 answers;
  - Action — 16 answers;
  - Strategy — 8 answers;
  - MOBA(ARTS) — 20 answers;
  - RPG — 14 answers;
- Does the videogame have a multiplayer?
  - Yes — 26 answers;
  - No — 14 answers;
- Do you talk or type to other English-speaking players?
  - Yes — 30 answers;
  - No — 10 answers;
- Does the game require your understanding of English to finish a level or a game?
  - Yes — 30 answers;
  - No — 10 answers;
- Have you learned new words and meanings while playing?

- Yes — 32 answers;
- No — 8 answers.

With this information we can see that a lot of students have played videogames in English. Also they have answered that they need to know some English to finish the game, and that they have talked with other English-speaking gamers [3].

Nevertheless, most of people think that modern videogames are very violent and can't teach us anything new. So, it is true to some extent, but gaming is not just about having fun or spending our free time. Modern games are challenging, they have well-written stories and they make us think – all great things for learning [1]. They also help us develop our logic, find solutions in different situations, which are proposed in the game. Moreover, videogames help us train our memory, when we try to find some information.

So, what about real videogames? Counter Strike, Grand Theft Auto, The Sims, DOTA 2, Battlefield? When playing these kinds of adventure games, it is like we are watching a movie, but we are controlling the main character. This is excellent for our English because our character is going to interact with other characters in the game, and we have to understand everything in order to be able to pass all the missions.

If that's not a good enough way to practice your English, technology has made the game playing experience even better with online games. Some online games like Counter Strike, DOTA 2 or Warcraft can be played in teams with people from all around the world.

With this technology, people are communicating with other team-mates from different countries, strategizing their attacks, working together to complete the game, and practicing a lot of English at the same time [5].

Gamers can be impatient people, always ready to start the next quest, level or chapter. This fact results in hitting ESC or clicking on the mouse button to skip a cut-scene of a dialogue between two characters to get back to the action or just clicking on 'accept' without reading the mission/quest objectives. However, when we do this, we are missing something – we miss the information that may help us understand the story of the game, we miss the information that may help us complete the next task, we miss the chance to put our language comprehension skills to test. But if we find the dialogue in cut scenes difficult to follow, many games offer a subtitle feature these days. We can switch it on [1].

Besides, you can make notes during playing. Games can have great storylines and there might be a lot of information you need to complete a quest or move on to the next part of the game. A good way to keep track of in-game objectives is to make notes as we play. Notes can help you remember where our character should go and what he/she should do.

Moreover, keep a dictionary ready. Of course, you will not understand everything in a game, so keep a dictionary near when you are playing (this could be a traditional dictionary or an online one – whichever you prefer). Make a note of unfamiliar or difficult to understand words and try to find their meanings. This will help us with our English and help us in the game as well. Nevertheless, the more we use a dictionary the more we know. Eventually you will use a dictionary less and less [1].

And the most important part of learning English is the interaction with other gamers online. Nowadays almost all the games have online options or they are completely online (Assassin's Creed, Call of Duty, Need For Speed, World of Warcraft and many, many more). This offers a great chance to interact with people from all around the world using English as a common language. Several games offer the chance to chat with other gamers

while you are playing, either by typing messages or using a microphone for voice chat. These interactions can help us complete multi-player missions in the game and they are also a great way to be social.

Other games (RPG for example) don't have any in-game chat features but they do have websites and forums where we can post messages about our game, ask for advice, offer help and interact with other players. There are hundreds of websites like this for specific game titles and for games in general. Some of them are official sites from the creators of the game and some are fan sites from the players of the game. Do a quick internet search for one of your favourite games and you will easily find these forums. Then, you can start interacting with other players. It will give you more ways to master your English skills[1].

So, modern video games is a great foundation for understanding, training and learning English. Nowadays games give us the opportunity to take English visually and aurally. It is an invisible push for our self-development.

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