

## **Computer games as a way to improve one's English vocabulary skills**

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## Introduction

When our parents or our teachers think about computer games, they become angry faces and often get square eyes!

At the moment it's really hard to find any children who don't play computer games at all. The most popular wish to Santa Claus in winter or to the parents before birthday is to get a new modern computer with the play-station or at least a good phone. The adults take up the negatives when it comes to children playing computer games. But these games have a lot of positive benefits. We will remind the benefits that children receive from computer games.

Playing computer games improves coordination, attention and concentration. Playing computer games improves the brain speed functions and social skills, educate financial capability. You can play online computer games, so you interact with people all over the world. You can find new friends, but also strengthen current friendships.

But the most important benefit from nearly all computer games is getting good English skills. As computer or phone games are a normal part of modern childhood. We must think not only about the potential dangers but about advantages they give us.

English learning games and video games can help you learn English faster and can help improve your language skills.

Computer games enhance traditional learning methods and make English fun and exciting.

## **1. Benefits of Computer and Phone Games for English learners**

We tried to explore three biggest benefits of using computer games to learn English:

### **1.1. Computer Games Help Improve Linguistic Skills**

Together with a good foundation in vocabulary and grammar, computer games help pupils improve reading, listening and speaking skills. Thanks such games all pupils have an opportunity to practice their English every day with other English learners as well as with native speakers. Every day practice gives its results!

Learning games and computer games require the integration of several linguistic skills including reading, listening, speaking, and even writing. Playing games help remove the fear of making mistakes in conversation and writing.

### **1.2. English Learning Games Make Studying Fun without Stress**

Homework and endless tests can cause a great deal of stress in pupils. This stress can actually derail a pupil's progress: they can feel isolated from their more successful friends. But computer games and learning games help alleviate stress and help pupils have fun while learning English.

Nowadays games are often voiced by talented actors with a variety of accents, so playing games exposes you to a lot of natural English. The best way to practice listening is to listen to something you find interesting, so find a game that you like and your listening skills will improve at a remarkable rate.

### **1.3. Computer games help get rich vocabulary**

Children who spend lots of time on interactive computer games, develop a better English vocabulary than non-gamers. While playing different computer games children need to understand more and more new English words they don't learn at school. They need these words to understand the meaning of the game or to communicate with other players.

### **1.4. Opinion survey**

We surveyed over 60 pupils of the primary school. We asked simple questions about computer games in their life and about learning English in games they play.

**See: Annex 1**

We found out that only 20 % of respondents do not play computer games at all. They have other interesting hobbies.

**See: Annex 2**

Our pie-diagram shows how the pupils of our school use computer games for learning English. 50 % of respondents play only Russian games, so they do not learn or find any English words in games. 30% of respondents think they have learnt many English words thanks computer games. Only 20 % really find new information, learn new words and word combinations and improve their English skills.

**See: Annex 3**

## 2. Computer gamers' vocabulary

In our work we have presented a list of words which are often used by all computer gamers.

### 2.1. The names of main buttons

No	English words	Translation
1	Start game	Начало игры или Начать новую игру
2	Music	Музыка
3	Settings	Настройки
4	Pictures – leads to a page with special pictures from the game	Картинка – При нажатии этой кнопки осуществляется переход к специальным картинкам этой игры
5	Gallery	Галерея
6	Album	Альбом
7	Read file	Чтение папки
8	Menu	Меню
9	Save game	Сохранить игру
10	Exit	Выход или Выйти
11	Fullscreen	Игра во весь экран
12	In window	Оконный режим
13	Back	Возврат (например, к меню, или к началу игры)
14	Recap	отображение краткого содержания последних событий игры
15	Automatically progress	Автопромотка

16	Properties	Свойства или характеристики, отображающие прогресс героя игры
17	Character	персонаж игры
18	Skills	навыки
19	Load	Загрузить игру
20	History	История
21	Earlier	Раньше
22	Notes	Записки
23	Notepad	Блокнот
24	Journal	Журнал
25	Diary	Дневник
26	reset	Сброс
27	pause	пауза
28	on	вкл
29	off	выкл

## 2.2. Main game words meaning

No	English words	Translation
1	play	играть
	player	игрок
2	stage	сцена
3	level	уровень
4	goal	цель
5	adventure	приключение
6	alias	Псевдонима игрока
7	help	помощь
8	ban	запрет
9	resume	резюме
10	online	Онлайн
11	offline	Офлайн
12	points	пункты
13	sound	Звук
14	pause	Пауза
15	score	Счет
16	keys	Ключи
17	connect	Соединиться
18	language	Язык
19	map	Карта
20	single player	одиночный игрок
21	multi player	Мультиплеер

22	congratulations	поздравления
23	display	показ
24	sign in	войти
25	log out	выход из игры
26	graphics	Графика
27	default	Дефолт
28	leave	Отпуск
29	voice	Голос
30	custom	Обычай
31	advanced	Расширенный
32	network	Сеть
33	show	Показать
34	quality	Качество
35	apply	Обратиться
36	more	Еще
37	edit	Править
38	rate	Уровень
39	game mode	режим игры
40	client	Клиент
41	game console	игровая консоль
42	demo	Образец
43	server	Сервер
44	software	программное обеспечение
45	texture	Структура



46	patch	участок
47	achievement	достижение
48	eSports	киберспорт
49	RPG (role player game)	Ролевая игра
50	Checkpoint	Контрольная точка
51	NPC (non-player characters)	Неигровой персонаж
52	Turn-based strategy	Пошаговая стратегия
53	Cheater	Читер
54	Well played	Молодец! Хорошая игра!
56	autosave	Автосохранение
57	boss	босс
58	Score	Счет
59	Exp	Опыт, достижение
60	Lampscrare	Скример

### 2.3. Common English words in pupils' books

It has to mention that some common words we learn in our pupils' books at school have different meanings in computer games. While playing games we often see a word and we know its meanings but cannot understand what the author of the game wants to say. If we speak about the insects in our English lessons, we all know what the bug is. But if you play computer game, "bug" will point a mistake in your play.

In the table below we have concluded some words the pupils certainly know from school.

No	Word	Translation from the pupils's book	Word meaning in computer slang
1	kite	Воздушный змей	Процесс атаки, при котором соперник не может дать сдачи
2	luck	удача	Лакер, неопытный игрок, которому очень везет в игре
3	bug	жук	Ошибка в игре
4	item	пункт	Предмет
5	to smoke	Курить, коптить	Дымовая граната
6	grief	горе	«террорист», который вредит игрокам
7	to build	строить	Настройка характеристик персонажа игры
8	to mount	взбираться	Средство передвижения
9	to add	добавлять	Враг, присоединившийся в вашу игру
10	camp	лагерь	Camper – один из игроков, «снимающий» пробегающих мимо противников из засады
11	to delete	Стирать, удалять	Сносить

## **Conclusion**

For some children computer games are the keys motivation for learning at least some English words necessary for understanding the game and the other gamers they play with. Even if the children play computer games in Russian they need a lot of English words to understand for starting the game. They have to understand all the keyboard buttons to choose the right way for playing. So, a lot of children play computer games not only for fun but for learning something interesting.

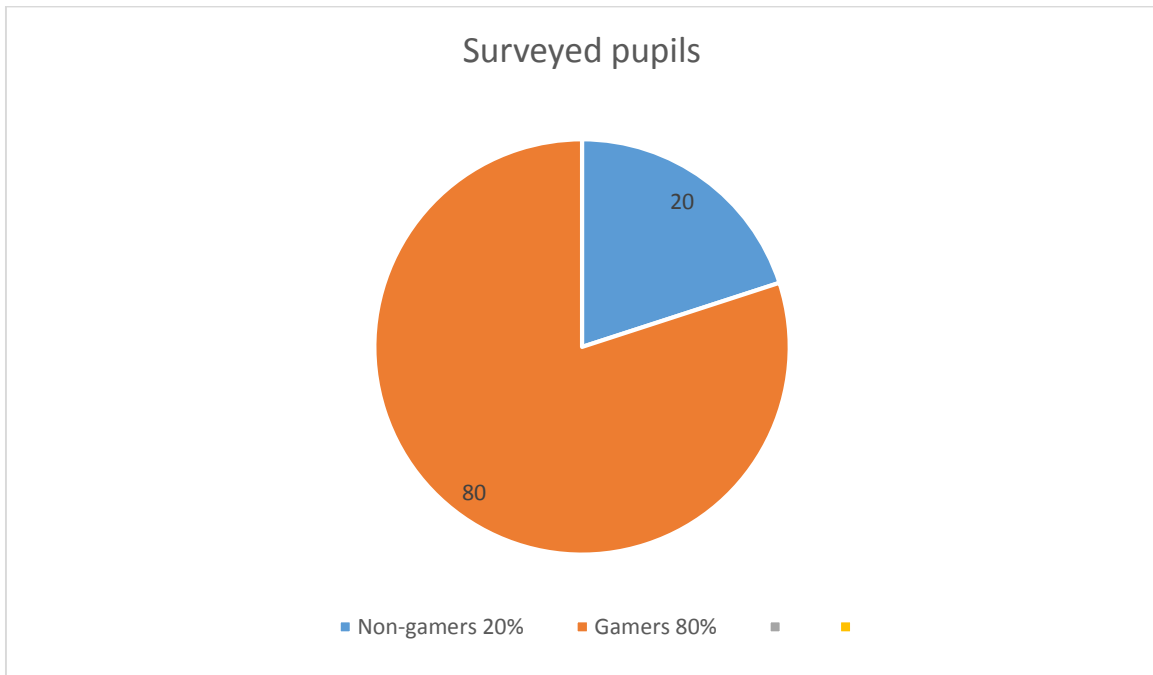
## Annex 1

### List of questions

1. Do you play computer games?
  - Yes
  - No
2. How often do you play computer games?
  - every day
  - at the weekends
3. Do you think computer games help you to improve you English skills?
  - Yes
  - No

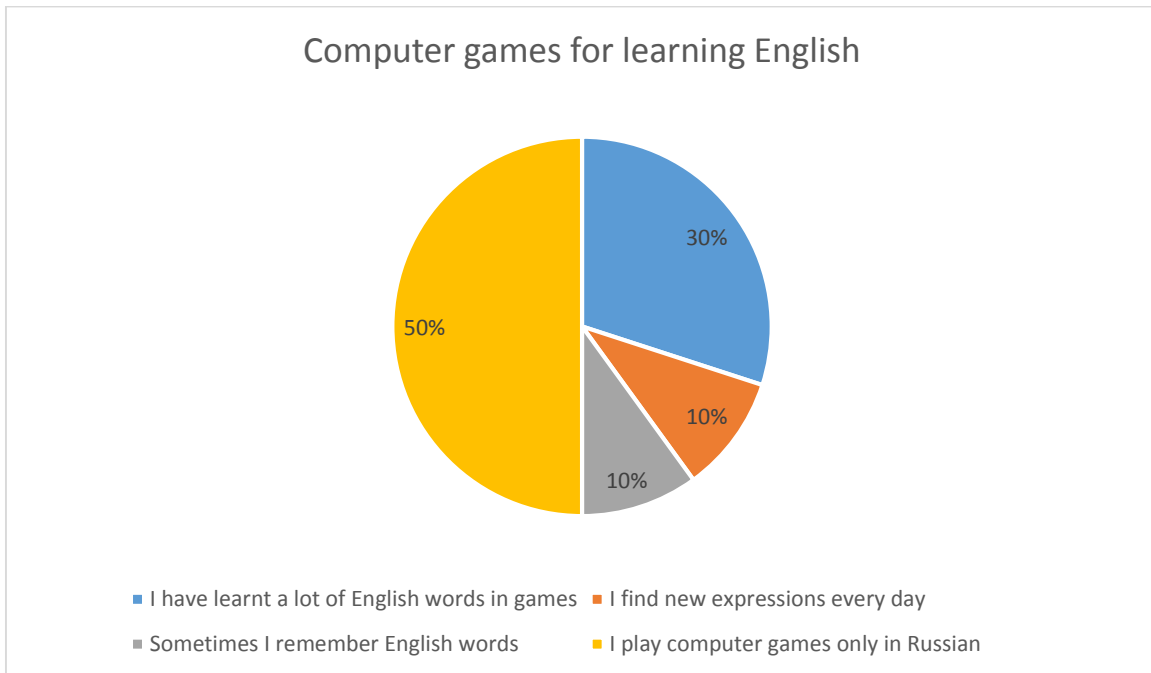
## Annex 2

### Total number of surveyed pupils



## Annex 3

### Computer games as a tool for learning English



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