

NATIONAL VIDEO GAMES DAY

http://www.eslHolidayLessons.com/09/national_video_games_day.html

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ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

Playing video games is one of the world's biggest hobbies. It only seems right, therefore, that there is a special day to celebrate it. National Video Games Day is the one day of the year you can go crazy playing your favourite games. It's OK to tell people you can't see them on this day, unless you want to play with them. In fact, what better way to spend National Video Games Day than in a marathon session with fellow gamers. Video Games Day celebrates all the popular video games from yesteryear, like Pac Man and Space Invaders, to today's graphics-packed games on PlayStations, Nintendo consoles and Microsoft's X-Box. Be careful though, playing too many video games can be bad for your health.

For those that don't know, a video game is an electronic game that involves interaction with a console or buttons, and a screen. Video games used to be played only on televisions or arcade game screens, but now they are played on all kinds of devices, including computers. The earliest known video game was the "Cathode Ray Tube Amusement Device" in 1947. It was very simple. The player controlled a dot on a screen that simulated a missile fired at targets. The first coin-operated video game arrived in 1971. It was called Computer Space and was in black and white. Technology soon leapt ahead to produce the classics we know and love today. The future of video games is sure to be as exciting as the games themselves.

PHRASE MATCH

Match the following phrases from the article.

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. one of the world's | a. on this day |
| 2. you can go crazy playing | b. for your health |
| 3. tell people you can't see them | c. from yesteryear |
| 4. a marathon session | d. biggest hobbies |
| 5. all the popular video games | e. with fellow gamers |
| 6. video games can be bad | f. your favourite games |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. For those that | a. of devices |
| 2. interaction with | b. and love today |
| 3. played on all kinds | c. a console |
| 4. The player controlled a | d. operated video game |
| 5. The first coin- | e. don't know |
| 6. the classics we know | f. dot on a screen |

LISTENING GAP FILL

Playing video games _____ biggest hobbies. It only seems right, therefore, that there is a special day to celebrate it. National Video Games Day _____ year you can go crazy playing your favourite games. It's OK to tell people you can't see them on this day, _____ play with them. In fact, what better way to spend National Video Games Day _____ session with fellow gamers. Video Games Day celebrates all the popular video _____, like Pac Man and Space Invaders, to today's graphics-packed games on PlayStations, Nintendo consoles and Microsoft's X-Box. Be careful though, playing too many video games _____ health.

_____ know, a video game is an electronic game that involves interaction with a console or buttons, and a screen. Video games _____ only on televisions or arcade game screens, but now they are played on _____, including computers. The earliest known video game was the "Cathode Ray Tube Amusement Device" in 1947. It was very simple. The player controlled _____ that simulated a missile fired at targets. The first coin-operated video game arrived in 1971. It was called Computer Space _____ white. Technology soon leapt ahead to produce the classics we know and love today. The future of video games _____ exciting as the games themselves.

WHILE READING / LISTENING GAP FILL

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Playing video games is _____ of the world's biggest hobbies. It only seems right, therefore, that there is a special day to _____ it. National Video Games Day is the one day of the year you can go _____ playing your favourite games. It's OK to tell people you can't see them on this day, _____ you want to play with them. In fact, what better way to spend National Video Games Day than in a marathon _____ with fellow gamers. Video Games Day celebrates all the popular video games from _____, like Pac Man and Space Invaders, to today's graphics-_____ games on PlayStations, Nintendo consoles and Microsoft's X-Box. Be careful though, playing too many video games can be bad for your _____.

crazy
session
one
packed
unless
health
celebrate
yesteryear

For those that don't _____, a video game is an electronic game that involves interaction with a console or _____, and a screen. Video games used to be played only on televisions or arcade game screens, but now they are played on all kinds of _____, including computers. The earliest _____ video game was the "Cathode Ray Tube Amusement Device" in 1947. It was very simple. The player controlled a _____ on a screen that simulated a missile fired at targets. The first _____-operated video game arrived in 1971. It was called Computer Space and was in black and white. Technology soon _____ ahead to produce the classics we know and love today. The _____ of video games is sure to be as exciting as the games themselves.

dot
leapt
know
devices
future
buttons
known
coin

CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD

Delete the wrong word in each of the pairs of *italics*.

Playing video games is *one / some* of the world's biggest hobbies. It only seems right, *because / therefore*, that there is a special day to celebrate it. National Video Games Day is the one day of the year you can go *crazily / crazy* playing your favourite games. It's OK to tell people you can't see them on this day, *unless / useless* you want to play with them. In fact, what *better / good* way to spend National Video Games Day than in a marathon session with fellow gamers. Video Games Day celebrates all the popular video games from *yesteryear / years*, like Pac Man and Space Invaders, to today's graphics-packed games on PlayStations, Nintendo consoles and Microsoft's X-Box. Be *careful / carefully* though, playing too many video games can be bad for your *healthy / health*.

For those that don't know, a video game is an electronic game that *involves / involve* interaction with a console or buttons, and a screen. Video games used to be played only *in / on* televisions or arcade game screens, but now they are played on all *kind / kinds* of devices, including computers. The earliest *knowing / known* video game was the "Cathode Ray Tube Amusement Device" in 1947. It was very simple. The player *controlled / controlling* a dot on a screen that simulated a missile *fires / fired* at targets. The first coin-operated video game arrived in 1971. It was called Computer Space and was in black and white. Technology soon *leapt / leap* ahead to produce the classics we know and love today. The future of video games is *sure / surely* to be as exciting as the games themselves.

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Playing video games is (1) _____ of the world's biggest hobbies. It only seems right, therefore, that there is a special day to celebrate it. National Video Games Day is the one day of the year you can (2) _____ crazy playing your favourite games. It's OK to tell people you can't see them on this day, (3) _____ you want to play with them. In fact, what (4) _____ way to spend National Video Games Day than in a marathon session with fellow gamers. Video Games Day celebrates all the popular video games (5) _____ yesteryear, like Pac Man and Space Invaders, to today's graphics-packed games on PlayStations, Nintendo consoles and Microsoft's X-Box. Be careful (6) _____, playing too many video games can be bad for your health.

For (7) _____ that don't know, a video game is an electronic game that involves interaction with a console or buttons, and a screen. Video games used to be played only on televisions or arcade game screens, but now they are played on all (8) _____ of devices, including computers. The earliest (9) _____ video game was the "Cathode Ray Tube Amusement Device" in 1947. It was very simple. The player controlled a dot on a screen that simulated a missile (10) _____ at targets. The first coin-operated video game arrived in 1971. It was called Computer Space and was in black and white. Technology soon (11) _____ ahead to produce the classics we know and love today. The future of video games is sure to be (12) _____ exciting as the games themselves.

Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|-------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| 1. | (a) some | (b) among | (c) one | (d) belong |
| 2. | (a) go | (b) come | (c) have | (d) do |
| 3. | (a) useless | (b) until | (c) unless | (d) unreal |
| 4. | (a) good | (b) best | (c) bettering | (d) better |
| 5. | (a) by | (b) from | (c) at | (d) in |
| 6. | (a) though | (b) through | (c) throughout | (d) thought |
| 7. | (a) them | (b) they | (c) those | (d) these |
| 8. | (a) kindly | (b) kinds | (c) kindness | (d) kind |
| 9. | (a) known | (b) knowing | (c) knows | (d) knew |
| 10. | (a) fires | (b) fired | (c) fire | (d) fiery |
| 11. | (a) leaping | (b) leaps | (c) leap | (d) leapt |
| 12. | (a) much | (b) some | (c) by | (d) as |

SPELLING

Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.

Paragraph 1

1. the world's biggest boshbei
2. a ealpcsi day
3. go czrya
4. eussnl you want to play
5. lpuraop video games
6. graphics-kapedc games

Paragraph 2

7. an coiteelncr game
8. a console or tbnutso
9. The iateerls known video game
10. sduileatm a missile
11. eptal ahead
12. The feurut of video games

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () packed games on PlayStations, Nintendo consoles and Microsoft's X-Box. Be careful
- (**1**) Playing video games is one of the world's biggest hobbies. It only seems right, therefore, that there is a special
- () to tell people you can't see them on this day, unless you want to play with them. In fact, what better way to spend
- () fired at targets. The first coin-operated video game arrived in 1971. It was called Computer Space and was in black and
- () though, playing too many video games can be bad for your health.
- () are played on all kinds of devices, including computers. The earliest known video game was the "Cathode Ray
- () Tube Amusement Device" in 1947. It was very simple. The player controlled a dot on a screen that simulated a missile
- () National Video Games Day than in a marathon session with fellow gamers. Video Games Day celebrates all
- () love today. The future of video games is sure to be as exciting as the games themselves
- () day to celebrate it. National Video Games Day is the one day of the year you can go crazy playing your favourite games. It's OK
- () For those that don't know, a video game is an electronic game that involves interaction with a console
- () or buttons, and a screen. Video games used to be played only on televisions or arcade game screens, but now they
- () the popular video games from yesteryear, like Pac Man and Space Invaders, to today's graphics-
- () white. Technology soon leapt ahead to produce the classics we know and

SCRAMBLED SENTENCES

With a partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. hobbies One the biggest of world's.

2. special is day celebrate . a There it to

3. playing You your can favourite go games crazy.

4. popular the All yesteryear from games video.

5. bad Video for games your can health be.

6. televisions games be on Video to only used played.

7. devices they on of Now played kinds are all.

8. player a controlled screen a dot The on.

9. and the love classics today we know Produce.

10. be to sure is games video of future The exciting as.

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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THE NATIONAL VIDEO GAMES DAY SURVEY

Write five questions about National Video Games Day in the table. Do this in pairs/groups. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

Without your partner, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

Return to your original partner(s) and share and talk about what you found out. Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find more information about National Video Games Day. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about National Video Games Day. Write about what happens around the world. Include two imaginary interviews with people who did something on this day.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

4. POSTER: Make your own poster about National Video Games Day. Write about what will happen on this day around the world.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.