

Answer Key

LISTENING COMPREHENSION TEST

Общее количество баллов – 40.

Каждый пункт теста оценивается в 2 балла. За каждую орфографическую ошибку / пропущенное слово снимается 0,5 балла.

TEXT 1

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. narratives and drama | 6. False |
| 2. you could dance | 7. True |
| 3. take a less active part | 8. True |
| 4. the determination to succeed | 9. False |
| 5. never to be finished | 10. False |

Script

Welcome to this week's radio show on what we can learn from digital technology. Today we're going to look at a commonly discussed issue. It's hard to think of another human activity that divides us as much as the playing of video games. Those that play the games often do so for hours and with a passionate enjoyment. The question that interests many opponents of video games is how distinct they are from more traditional forms of entertainment such as narratives and drama. Perhaps we should appreciate that video games are a completely distinct genre. Let's explore some of the differences.

Unlike other art forms, the video gamers enter into a challenge. They have to prove themselves at each stage of the game before continuing. Just imagine if you couldn't continue to the next chapter of a novel, or the next act of a play, until you had successfully answered questions about the themes! Or, if you couldn't listen to the next track on an album, unless you showed how well you could dance! And yet this is the world of video gamers.

Another essential difference between video games and the other art forms is the element of competition. When reading a novel or watching a play there is no need for anybody to win or lose. Finally, readers of novels and viewers of plays take a less active part than gamers. They simply turn the pages or sit still till the end. In short, gamers are much more active participants than in other art forms.

So, what can we actually learn from gaming? I wonder whether we could use it to our benefit, instead of protesting against the addictive nature of video games. What we label as obsession in one field is valued as dedication when applied in more academic areas. Perhaps we could learn something from the determination to succeed of video gamers. And there's another aspect that we might learn from. Video game techniques have proved irresistible in commercial entertainment. And they could be used in fields that are vital for society, such as business, politics and education. Of course, providing incentives is not a new technique in teaching and

training programmes, but now we have clearly seen the power of regular small rewards to keep players searching for a solution, so why not learners or employees?

And lastly – we should note – the motivation is strong, even with games that are designed never to be finished. If only teachers could get their students to keep looking for answers in the same way! So, for those of you that have had your doubts, perhaps this will convince you that there is, in fact, a lot to be learned from playing video games.

TEXT 2

11. Speaker A – 5

12. Speaker B – 1

13. Speaker C – 3

14. Speaker D – 4

15. b)

18. c)

16. d)

19. d)

17. a)

20. b)

Script

A. We saw the ad in the summer, in about July, I think, but we weren't really serious about moving then so we didn't even go and see it. It wasn't until November when they advertised it that we got in touch with the agency and had a look. They'd put the price down since the summer too, I suppose because it had been empty so long, so that made it more affordable for us which helped us make up our minds. It was perfect – a bigger garden for the kids and enough space for an office. In winter it was lovely, very cosy, in fact, which is important to me as I really feel the cold, whereas my husband will open a window when it's minus temperatures outside! Anyway, in July when summer really started and we had that heatwave, we understood why no one had wanted to rent it over summer. It was boiling! All those lovely big windows that made the flat so light and open were like a greenhouse as soon as it got warmer. From about 8 in the morning until 7 in the evening, it was like living in a sauna! We couldn't stand being at home, and weekends were especially bad. No air conditioning, of course. If only we'd gone to see it when it was first advertised in July, we'd never have moved in!

B. I always rent apartments when I go on holiday, rather than staying in hotels. Hotels are so impersonal, aren't they? This way you get to feel like you really live in the place you're visiting. It's the first time I've done it the other way round, though, and rented out my place, but it seemed like a good way of making some extra money. The website is really easy to use and they only charge five percent commission, which is lower than a lot of the other holiday rental sites. It's all about the photos and the reviews. Get the photos right and the place can look really upmarket and spacious, but you don't want to make it look too much better than it

really is or you end up with a bad review. It's better to undersell and overdeliver so guests are pleasantly surprised and leave an extra positive review. So far, I'm averaging three stars because of one bad review that brought my average down from four and a half stars, but hopefully I'll get it back up during the busy season.

C. Buying a house seems so far out of my reach it's almost impossible, as it is for loads of people my age these days. My parents always told me renting was throwing money away, but it was different in their day. Then people could afford to buy a house on a normal salary, but nowadays house prices are so high and no bank will look at you unless you've got a huge deposit. The problem with my dream of buying is that it's never going to come true. Not unless my parents help me out, but I've got two sisters and we're all in the same position. At least they've both got good jobs. Not good enough to buy a house, but at least they can afford to rent places of their own in nice areas. I just don't earn enough to rent around here. Even if I get promoted to manager, it'll be tough to find somewhere unless I share, and call me fussy, but there aren't that many people I want to share a bathroom and kitchen with. Some days I think I'll be stuck living with my parents forever – even renting is like a dream to me.

D. At first our landlord was really helpful, couldn't do enough for us. You hear stories of nightmare landlords and we felt like we were really lucky, or so we thought anyway. He redecorated the whole place, from top to bottom, and let us keep all the bills in his name so we didn't have the bother of contacting all the companies ourselves. He even offered to come round and do the gardening as he knew we both worked long hours and might not have time. That's where the problems started, now I look back. Then he'd pop round 'just to check everything's OK for you'. Once a month, then twice a month. Soon he was coming every week with some excuse or other. In the beginning we'd invite him in for tea, but it was only encouraging him, so when we realised, we'd try to have the conversation on the doorstep instead. It got so bad we pretended to be on our way out if we saw him coming up the path. We'd grab our coats and walk round the block until he'd gone. I don't know if he was just lonely or just didn't trust us not to ruin his precious house. In the end we gave our notice and found somewhere else. It's a shame because we really loved that house, but at least it's more peaceful in the new place.