

# LANGUAGE OF VIDEO GAMES

## HOW PEOPLE PERCEIVE IT AND WHAT IT IS

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### What is the language of video games?

Over the past few years, the video game industry has grown and this field has become the focus of academic study[1]. The reason for this change is that the gaming industry is one of the most important creative industries in the US, Europe and some Asian countries. Therefore, the most popular languages used in video games reflect the top clearing markets, i.e., simplified and traditional Chinese, Japanese and English. The desire of game brands to expand their reach in the market is dictated by the languages operating in a given market. The most popular markets are covered by EFIGS which stands for English, French, Italian, German, and Spanish, and by CJK, which is their Asian counterpart representing Chinese, Japanese and Korean. It is vital to notice that gaming as an activity appears across generations and social groups and it is no longer reserved for the subculture of gamers.

Perhaps, you noticed that while you are talking with teenagers they use strange words. Sounds and pronunciation are familiar, but the very meaning of words you do not understand. Everything is straightforward. You have encountered slang. Each social group has specific words that only they use. Computer slang is jargon, a set of phrases and expressions with a narrow computer-related application that is not grammatically correct in the language[2].

*One of the reasons for the emergence of such "language" is its exceptional conciseness, where a few specific words can convey a significant paragraph of a literally processed technical text. Ultimately, computer jargon even expresses certain emotions almost impossible to convey in the dry and concise real world.*

Iryna Shchur

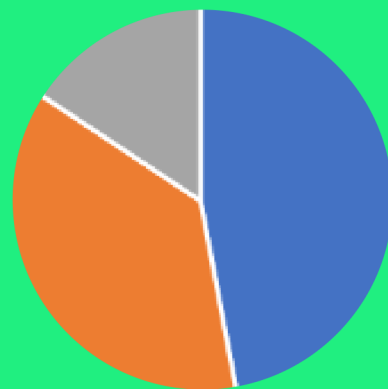
To do this, various abbreviations or shortcuts are often used: GD – good game; ez – easy; omg – oh my god; bb – bye-bye; NPC – non-player character; pts – points; f2p – free to play.



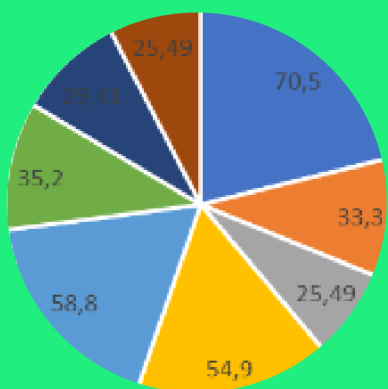
To gain a deeper understanding of computer slang, it is beneficial to delve into it from its core. The focus group is 51 individuals from Ukraine, Poland, France, the UK and Albania. The average age of respondents is 21, and the age range of respondents is from 15 to 40 years.



Does learning the language of areas of the internet accelerate and facilitate the language learning process?



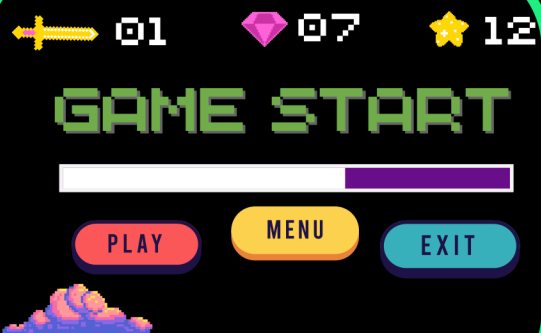
Do you consider yourself a member of the gamer subculture?



Decipher the following acronyms related to game building, game elements and the video game industry.

The survey also aimed to gauge respondents' attachment to the gamer subculture.

Part of the survey was to decipher acronyms created with game buildits and the video game industry.



Decrypted words related to the world of video games can be divided into two categories.

In the first category(tablet 1) are words which were decrypted by more than 80% of respondents.

**Table 1**

A number of correct answers	Word	Definition
48	game over	A phrase meaning that the game has come to an end. In most situations, it signifies failure involving the death of a character or failure to complete a given task. Less frequently, it occurs after a game has been completed as an end caption.
48	screenshot	Screen capture taken with dedicated software.
47	ban	This is a temporary or permanent ban on a particular server, forum, or community group. Sometimes it is possible to apply for a so-called unban.
47	stream, streaming	A form of broadcasting live content (usually from a game) laced with commentary. The stream can be watched on so-called streaming services without having to install dedicated software or buy a subscription.
45	skill	Player's skill level or specific attributes of a given hero.
45	upgrade	An upgrade to a weapon, piece of equipment, units or buildings. Typically, an upgrade leads to an improvement in damage, stamina or performance.
43	lag	Delays caused by low internet speeds, making gameplay difficult or virtually impossible
42	newbie, noob	Newbie - term for a new player just learning about a particular title, which does not have negative overtones. Noob - means the same thing as newbie, but has a mocking, even insulting character.
41	respawn	Rebirth on the so-called spawn, this usually happens after the death of the player or a change of checkpoint.
39	quest	A goal, a task set most often by a particular NPC, once completed we can expect a reward and move the story forward.
39	speedrun (noun)	A style of game that involves passing a level or an entire production as quickly as possible. Often speedruns can be seen on YouTube, with players competing to achieve the best time possible.
37	bug	A bug occurring in the game that the developers overlooked. It can be ridiculous, not hindering gameplay. But there are also those, preventing you from moving on to the next stage.
37	exp	Experience that is gained in order to reach the next level of a character.
35	ragequit	(rage + quit) - leaving a game in progress due to escalating aggression
35	bot	A player controlled by an artificial intelligence. He sometimes replaces a person on the team who leaves the match before its conclusion.
34	easter egg	A mystery, a riddle hidden by the developers in the game world. It can be a reference to an element of pop culture. Most often there is no clue to it.
30	hype	Something very popular, sometimes in a pejorative tone is a game/person/object artificially inflated with popularity, although there is really no specific reason for it.
27	craft (noun)	equipment or inventory manufacturing system
27	ping	This expression has two meanings, the first, expressed in milliseconds means the speed between the player's computer and the server. It is known - the smaller the ping, the better. The second, on the other hand, defines the call or designation of a player on the server or forum. A person most often receives an appropriate notification that it was mentioned.
26	rendering	A broad term that, among other things, denotes the process of converting written code into three-dimensional graphics. The processor is responsible for generating shadows, light rays or fog, while programmer intervention is not necessary.
25	to drop	The equipment (loot) that falls off the opponent after defeating him.
25	remake	This is a game produced from scratch, which has already premiered in the past. The developers do not change the storyline, but only use the latest technology to improve mechanics, playability and create graphics that meet modern standards. This nomenclature also appears in the movies.
24	aimbot	cheat (support program considered cheating), which allows automatic targeting of the enemy and guarantees a sure hit
24	mod	A modification created by players that adds new gameplay elements, missions, weapons or cosmetic items. These can be unofficial or even supported by the developers themselves.

24	spin-off (noun)	A game, film or TV series that was created to develop the side plot or story of a particular character from the original production. It has happened more than once that spin-offs have surpassed the original releases in popularity.
24	tank (noun)	A character class that, through powerful armour or a large amount of life, can take a lot of damage on itself, while allowing the rest of its team to eliminate enemies.
22	loot	Items falling out of the opponent after defeating him.
22	patch	A fix, an update introduced by manufacturers to correct bugs found or make improvements.
22	perk	A skill that a player can select on a given character. The combination of properly selected perks provides a lot of bonuses during a particular style of play.
22	raid	Expedition to powerful opponents so-called bosses or enemy territory. Most often, before the raid, you need to gather many members of a particular clan or alliance.

The second category (table 2) is words that were decoded by 39 percent or less (at least 0 percent) of the survey participants.

**Table 2**

A number of correct answers	Word	Definition
20	boost (noun)	A temporary or permanent increase in a character's skill, e.g., using potions (potions).
20	cooldown	The time it takes to use a skill again or to get out of a trap.
20	main	The main character on which a particular player feels most comfortable and can realize their potential.
18	aggro	A request usually uttered by a leader in order to trigger more dynamic, aggressive play.
18	tilting	A term used to describe a player's emotional or mental state when they are becoming angry or frustrated. This can lead to poor decision-making, and ultimately, a loss in the game.
17	endgame	The final phase of gameplay that leads to the completion of all side plots and additional quests/challenges.
17	random	Casual players who do not belong to a particular group of friends or are not members of an alliance. A term also often used in games where other people are selected for the match.
14	fanboy	A person obsessively dedicated to one game or hobby, he or she has a great deal of knowledge about it and is eager to share it with others.
13	bind	A manually created shortcut by a player on the keyboard or mouse that is responsible for, for example, pulling a particular item or using a skill.
12	crash (noun)	A game bug causing the game to spontaneously shut down and go to the desktop.
5	trick	Tricks that characters can perform.
2	uber	Something extremely powerful, far surpassing the capabilities of basic equipment or ordinary character class.
2	walk	This term is often used in shooters, which is also a request to move silently. The walk is nothing more than quietly creeping toward the enemy.
0	wipe	The death of an entire team or a reset of all progress players have made in the game, such as after beta testing.

Overall, computer games remain an important element of modern society, influencing the development of the younger generation and introducing new linguistic and social trends. The use of computer slang and specific expressions can cause a communication gap between gamers and other people. Understanding this phenomenon can help improve communication between different social groups.

References:

[1]

<https://www.wik.uk-ua.nina.az/%D0%9A>

[2]

Link: Wielki słownik gracza – gamingowy slang, który musisz znać – Geex (x-kom.pl) [accessed 16 May 2023]

[3] Link: Language of video games - Formularze Google [created 16 May 2023]

