

Video games



Let's Think

1. Do you like playing video games?
2. Can you name any popular video game consoles from the past?

You are Lincoln. You are reading an article about video game consoles.

The evolution of video game consoles

1 Video games have come a long way over the past decades. In 1972, Magnavox, an American electronics company, developed the first video game console named the Magnavox Odyssey. Despite lacking sound capability and being able to only display monochromatic dots and lines, it managed to maintain steady demand for the console.

1972

2 Magnavox was later surpassed by Atari, a computer manufacturer which introduced the table tennis-themed arcade video game *Pong*. Although the game achieved no breakthrough in its graphic capability, it could produce sounds and display smoother images. Compared to Magnavox's console, *Pong* was a much greater commercial success.

1975

3 In 1981, the Japanese video game company Nintendo released one of its most popular arcade games—*Donkey Kong*. Two years later, Nintendo announced the release of the world-renowned arcade game *Mario Bros* and its first home video game console Famicom. With Famicom, Nintendo beat Atari as the top video game company. In the 1990s, more companies started to become active in the video game industry.

1980s-1990s

4 Following the advent of video game consoles developed by big names in the computer industry in the 1990s, Sony's PlayStation consoles and Xbox consoles dominated the video game market for their games, which come in an impressive variety, such as shooter games, adventure games and strategy games. One distinguishing feature of these games is that 3D computer graphic techniques were widely used to present video game content. Thanks to them, characters and landscapes in games looked much more lifelike. In 2006, Nintendo introduced the Wii, a video game console that comes with a handheld controller.

2000s

2010s-present

5 Nowadays, Nintendo, Microsoft and Sony remain the leading video game console manufacturers in the world. In 2017, Nintendo unveiled the Nintendo Switch, which can be used as a home console or a handheld device. In spite of the worldwide popularity of mobile games, the Nintendo Switch is still enjoying its huge success today.



Part A

Answer the following questions using information from the article.
Choose the **BEST** answer and blacken **ONE** circle only.

- The phrase 'have come a long way' in box 1 means '_____'.
 - A. have decreased in popularity
 - B. have been people's favourite
 - C. have an interesting history
 - D. have made much progress and improved
- Which of the following is **NOT TRUE** about the Magnavox Odyssey?
 - A. It could produce simple sounds like beeps.
 - B. It was not advanced enough to display complex images.
 - C. It was released in 1972.
 - D. It was in continued demand after its release.
- In 1975, Magnavox _____.
 - A. introduced an arcade game based on table tennis
 - B. was not as popular as Atari due to the coming of *Pong*
 - C. had difficulty improving the graphic technology
 - D. earned a great amount of money
- Read line 45. The word 'them' refers to _____.
 - A. the 3D computer graphic techniques
 - B. the features of the video games
 - C. the different kinds of video games on the market
 - D. PlayStation consoles and Xbox consoles
- Which of the following is **TRUE**?
 - A. *Mario Bros* was released in 1981.
 - B. The console Famicom came before the arcade game *Donkey Kong*.
 - C. Nintendo and Atari were not the only companies in the video game industry in 1995.
 - D. Nintendo is considered the most successful video game console manufacturer.

Grammar Corner

We use the **passive voice (be + past participle)** when we want to emphasise the person or thing affected by an action.

e.g. Magnavox was later surpassed by Atari, a computer manufacturer which introduced the table tennis-themed arcade video game *Pong*.
(Lines 11-14)

Part B

Answer the following questions using the information from the article. Write your answers in the spaces provided.

1. Find an adjective in box 1 that means 'using only black, white, and grey'.

2. In what ways was *Pong* better than the Magnavox Odyssey?

3. Find words in the article that are opposite in meaning to the following. Fill in each blank with one word.

little-known	(a)	passive	(b)
unrealistic	(c)	concealed	(d)

4. In the writer's eyes, what makes the games available for PlayStation and Xbox sharply different from those released before the 1990s?

-  5. Match each of the following subheadings to its corresponding box. Write the letters in the spaces provided.

Sub-headings

- A. The first-ever rival
- B. Technological advancements
- C. Today's leaders and challenge
- D. The ancestor of video game consoles
- E. The expanding industry

Box	Subheading
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	

Vocabulary Bank

The following are some kinds of video games. Match them with the correct pictures. One of the words is not used.

adventure racing rhythm sports simulation
 role-playing shooter educational board game



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.



8.



Let's Discuss

1. Do you have a favourite video game in mind? If so, what is it?
2. Some say that playing video games is a waste of time. Do you agree?