

Online research experiment

Tell about your experience with playing any kind of games!

<http://experiment.fifix.net>

Summary of people stories about games

Why people play games?

- **To compete / prove something**
 - For me the charm of the games is in the competition between people and the drama associated with it
 - I like competition very much and be together with people I like
 - I like to win in computer games, gokart, poker, money bets:) I like to be the best and I don't like when people cheat.
 - I love to be in the nature, love sport, I am competitive and games mean fun for me in every meaning.
 - I am quite competitive when playing boardgames.
 - Brightest moment is a win in a poker game on real money. That's the thing I can remember easily.
 - Brightest moments - of course, when you win, and funny moments during games.
 - A new game is interesting until until you first reach the top. Afterwards - it is just a time killer.
 - I think there is no much sense of the game without a certain reward or acknowledgment.
- **To be together**
 - Togetherness
 - I still enjoy playing games with kids
 - mostly games I liked was outdoor fresh air exciting and physically challenging events or handmades by building new creative small-scale world for me and my best friends/ brothers!
 - Card games. I enjoy the company of people that have a conversation topic
 - I like to communicate with other players
- **To experience different social interactions**
 - When I am with my friends we like to play Saboteur game that is always very fun because you have to trust people and play together as a team even if you don't know if the other person is not willing to destroy what you are building.
 - I also love Alias because it is very fun to explain something in a way others won't expect and to hear how other explain everyday things and Wonders of the World because it is a good intellectual test and teaches you something about other countries.
- **To break out from routine / free up the mind**
 - They are not an everyday thing, otherwise they would lose their charm and would become a standard routine thing.
 - ... it helps me cool my brain . It helps me feel relaxed and dreamy of going to a place like this someday.
 - I love playing games in general, it makes me feel like I don't care about anything else
 - When I am alone I often play Minesweeper or Solitaire when my brain is overloaded with info and I need to let it rest for a second
 - i enjoy simple addictive games on my iPhone
 - Fun! That is the most important about playing, I think.
 - In my opinion, these people want to run away from stressful everyday life. By playing games they relax, because in those moments they don't think about their problems. You are in a virtual environment and don't think about anything.
 - But now only board games and quizzes, when I need some time off. Makes me stop thinking of the problems.
 - (i play games) when i'm bored or tired from work and thinking.. then i play some silly game, where i don't need to think.
 - I don't like complicated games with many rules, and too long games requiring more than 3 hrs are not my choice either.
- **To test him/her self**
 - I like to test my multitasking abilities and I also like games that exercise the brain
 - ... I like games that test your agility.
 - i'm used to play sudoku puzzle right before bed. Just to sharp the brain.
- **To break the ice**
 - Boredom or no conversation topic. Games of choice: card games mostly.
 - But now - (games are) a smart of way of spending time within parties. It's fun, bursts conversations and sometimes even contributes to intellect :)
- **To create their own story line**
 - Later i was more into freestyle games (Skate etc.) and freeworld games (i.e. GTA), games which gives you a full world with a lot of freedom and different tasks and the feeling of writing your own storyline

What's the criteria for a successful game?

- **A clear goal and challenge**
 - Every game is fun for me, if there is a challenge and a clear goal to play for.
 - My favorite genre is RPG where you have to develop your character and complete many mini goals.
 - I like games who require you to make strategies or decisions which can influence further gameplay.
 - ... availability of multiple choices (like loads of quests in rpg games).
 - you never know what's hiding in a tree (or behind it) and good games also give me this feeling (like Saboteur board game)
 - game should keep you interested and going with sudden twists and turns.
 - I like games that have some form of cheating embedded in the rules, or you can trick your opponents
 - With the videogames, I'm too concentrated to think about what I'm feeling.. Some platform games make me feel frustrated, but it's a good frustration, I like difficult (platform) games
 - I like smart games, where you have to think and come up with some sort of creative solution
 - ... I sometimes play economic strategy games like Simcity or City Life which does not have defined goal, which is why these games get boring rather fast
 - Some games seem endless and gets me bored
 - Process is interesting if you don't know who's gonna win.
- **Easy to learn and understand**
 - easy enough and therefore involve more fun
 - the game should feel comfy if I would choose to play it - nice graphics, easy to understand and no stress (by stress I mean physical stress like clicking your mouse for 10 minutes like crazy or having to hold one button until your finger falls off)
 - And the best thing is probably the eureka-moment when you spot a really good move or strategy that can make your opponents squirm
 - In some cases I get really angry, especially when someone's cheating or when I play videogames and I cannot beat a particular monster, or solve an enigma
 - I like less the frustration in a First person shooter.
 - I am also to impatient to learn the rules, therefore police is necessary ;-)
- **Visual appearance & style**
 - ... nice sound effects give a game that little extra 'awww'-effect like the purring goos in the world of goo
 - One of the most (in my opinion) exiting aspect was the visual concept and drawings on the board
- **Provides social interaction with others**
 - has interaction with other people
 - "... you shouldn't rush anything too much, but rather enjoy it ..."
 - ... games you can play with others tend to be more interesting and have higher replay value.
 - Games that can be played multiple times are more enjoyable than those you play once and then forget
 - It's nice to have a drink while palying
 - most important in the games, it is players, result is not so important
- **Teaches something**
 - Every game should have something you can learn from it. Even first person shooters liek Call of Duty can show you the enviroment in which battles were fought.
 - It is also cool if one has to explore the game and can discover new elements while playing ... to break the rules and modify them on the run
 - Mostly I have tried to find games that could be helpful for kids to learn something new, e.g. learn English vocabulary.
- **Connection to real world**
 - Mostly I liked the way that everything worked as in the real world (civil people, salaries, money to work for, even some social aspects)
- **Continuous development**
 - There is a need for something that holds the attention of a player. All the time there should be additions, developments.

When people play games?

- **In social occasions**
 - usually play together with my family and friends
 - Christmas time - "... no rush, no exhaustion, my mind is blank ..."
 - Good atmosphere - "... my favourite time is evenings with lights on and music playing - not the dull TV rush but music that I like.", "... something homely and pleasant ..."
 - we sometimes try those alcoholic drinks then it is always fun to play board games
 - mostly in holidays with friends
 - but I also think about playing with the family (we are quite a big family): this happens during Christmas vacations, or holidays in general, that's why I think about the cake!
 - but I always play with friends, or with my sisters, even when I play with the playstation (and that's why I have chosen the people, and then the TV)
 - board and card games: in social occasions
 - The Trivial Pursuit game in Christmas / New Year's Eve
 - card games with my granma when I was a kid
 - card games with friends at the beach house after being at the beach and before going out to party
 - usually games are played not because of games playing as such but in a party or any similar event
 - I play games together with friends.
 - Occasionally I play board and other 'real' games with friends. Usually we will drink and eat something tasty and have fun talking and joking. This is the best part.
 - As well as I really like to play the game with someone, as more people as better.
- **When being outdoors**
 - outdoor activities in Summer
 - i prefer games that is outside if possible (soccer, tennis, gokart, cycling etc.)
 - soccer every sunday (when the weather allows it)
 - mountainbike back in Chile
- **Indoors / bad weather / boredom**
 - ... we played a lot of videogames together during the evenings or while it was raining.
 - if indoors - often we made (drawings) hundreds of little medieval paper-soldiers and paper strongholds all over the room
 - When you are bored, it is quite enjoyable to spend more time on games ... or when you are playing with friends.
 - ... games in general are a good way to spend your time when you have nothing else to do
 - all kinds of videogames, from simulations to shooters to strategy to whatever. Usually when feeling antisocial and there's nothing good on TV (quite often lately)
 - When I hear about them (card games), i don't want to play in the beginning. But from the other side, if we are at the country side and it is raining outside & there is nothing else to do, I can play.
 - both of this games i remember from my childhood, when i was sick, i didn't go to school, and then i could play those games. It was whery exciting.
 - Rarely I play computer games - usually when i really have nothing to do on my PC or when i am staying home alone.
 - I used to play time-killing games on my mobile until recently, but now I don't have any time to kill...
- **In free time**
 - "mostly at night"
 - when I had more time on my hands I used to play computer games quite often
 - I play from time to time (not really any pattern)
 - ... during vacations usually, otherwise I feel guilty because I'm playing and I'm not .."working"
 - Usually I play games when I have more time.
 - In childhood games would be an important part of your leisure time, so then maybe it was not about feeling but simply way of life.
 - Games for me are spare evening activities with friends and family.

How do people feel when playing games?

- **Boredom**
 - bored (if I'm not particularly interested in game)
 - it (monopoly) was an indoor game and a bit boring. And slow
 - Tired, yet addicted and unable to get away from it (after 2+ hours of continuous playing)
- **Pleasure / self esteem**
 - playing with feeling of fun and no feeling of competition
 - As doing something with friends
 - Most enjoyable moments are when you can accomplish or win something together with friends
 - When After trying and trying you can win, and you're happy about your tactics. When your player levels up
 - My team somehow always wins, and it feels great that all that useless data stored in my brain is finally put to good use.
 - ... my sister was always winning. So, I sometimes kind of wanted to to punch her - don't worry I didn't
 - well, it feels great when you beat the machine, you complete a challenge, or even better, when you beat yourself!
 - winning and feeling that I get better and better with every round!
 - Excited (usually when beginning to play a new game)
 - Interested, feeling self-fulfillment (when playing games that challenges your memory/intelligence/knowledge/IQ)
 - I feel a sense of achievement when playing games, even if I loose. I feel excited and happy, when the game is engaging.
 - we, athletic boys (not only girls), had an opportunity to show our agility when jumping over gum strings (game Gumijas), or playing Quadrants or Tautas Bumba with ball.
 - I feel good when i'm playing, i feel perfect if i win and i feel bad when i see i have spend too much time doing nothing.
 - However, it is great to show myself to others, look at others. To express my self.
- **Togetherness**
 - it colored my childhood so much and still brings me lots of memories:) Also it brought me and my brothers more closer!
 - When someone draws something really stupid in pictionary, and you compare your drawings with the one of someone else, so everybody starts laughing. I have really a lot of fun.
 - last Friday when we were playing Jenga and instead of trying to distract the other players we were cheering for them and helping them so we can make as high tower as possible
 - We laughed a lot and became emotionally engaged in the game play. Suddenly it was not important to win, at least not for me, but to come up with new (and better) turns and stories that triggered the other players to add on to them
 - I guess the brightest moments are not so bright because of the game itself but about the atmosphere it created, so my memories would be something really warm and making the get-together feeling.
- **Regret, feeling guilt**
 - ... you always pay for your entertainment :)
 - I feel guilty because I'm playing and I'm not .."working"
 - Wasted a lot of my teen years playing online shooters, unreal tournament and CS
 - I have "brightest" moment almost every day when I see how my boyfriend is playing these games instead of spending time with me :)
 - in my opinion, games are waste of time, some of them create addiction
 - When we firrst played The Settlers, we were gathering at my place for studying, but in the end we played the game till 6am and we already had to go to school unprepared.
 - I play rarely as I have no time even for things I want to do. The games are certainly not my priority anyway.
 - I think I have wrong perception or stereotype that playing games creates dependency and wastes your time. I might be wrong.
 - i feel bad when i see i have spend too much time doing nothing.

What do people play?

- **Puzzles**
 - Puzzles are not so much fun but you get that satisfaction in the end that you've created something beautiful, or travelled to another place or stepped into a cartoon world (depending on the picture), etc.
 - I play puzzle in draugiem.lv every day!! I'm a bit addicted. and I have to win there, if I won't I'm very sad, but it does not happen a lot. :D so I'm glad! :)
- **Card games**
 - My brightest moments are from playing card games with family or friends, when everybody joins in and laugh, and compete, and just have loads of fun.
 - With the family we play cards, or something like Pictionary, Taboo and so on.
 - I get tired of card games quite easily.
- **Board games**
 - Mainly thinking about Monopoly.
 - Also from playing board game Scotland Yard. I really enjoyed team work and analytical/detective thinking required in the game.
 - If I play with friends we usually have Space Hulk or Hero Quest's gaming sessions.
 - Lately I have been playing board games more often. Why? Because there are people I can play them with.
- **Video / PC games**
 - Then just feel like an idiot about wasted time and get good laugh
 - I've realised couple of years ago (around the time I finished school and was entering uni) what a waste of time they are ...
 - Later I experienced a short fallback with online games on Facebook, but it passed quickly (no more than 2-3 months)
 - I play games all the time. Mostly computer games, but I don't turn down board games :)
 - I also play online games every now and then. I love FarmFrenzy games, MindTree and other games on shockwave.
 - When I'm only with my sister or boyfriend we like to play videogames, with playstation, pc or nintendo Ds.
 - When I was little I was playing video games, or was watching my older brother play.
 - When I am alone I often play Minesweeper or Solitaire when my brain is overloaded with info and I need to let it rest for a second.
 - Tekken is a fighting game I like, I play a lot on my iPhone, I don't use my tv much for gaming though I have an xbox, I consider the simple version of baseball (roundball???) a fun and cooperative game
 - Or computer games - that too. when I was choosing the pictures, I completely forgot about that.
 - That was a sickness for us, we could play it for nights. That was the beginning for children addiction to computer games, that were not giving such a development as outdoor games do.
 - Once upon a time I liked to play Mario - still my favorite game. We also have played it on a computer with friends.
- **Outdoor games**
 - It is sad that such games are being forgotten, and computers are coming instead of them.
 - Of course in childhood as all other kids :) Search&hide, dolls, guessing, mēmais šovs, sports (tautasbumba, mainly), etc. - yes, maybe here really playing was just because of playing. let's go out meant going out to play with my friends.
 - I will tell one, people shouldn't forget these great feelings from games of our childhood, and should give them further to next generations.