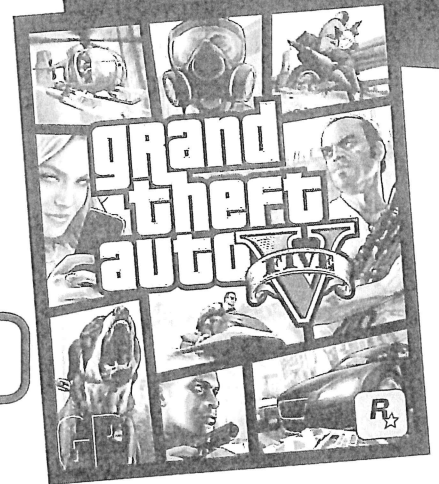


## BEFORE YOU READ

- Do you play video games? What games do you play?

# DOES THIS GAME MAKE YOU VIOLENT?



It's the most hotly-anticipated game of the year – *Grand Theft Auto V*. This series of video games has sold over 125 million copies. But is it just a fun way to relax, or can it change your behaviour and make you violent? CLUB investigates ...

Ciaran is eighteen years old, and his favourite hobby is gaming. "I come home from college, and the first thing I do is turn on my PlayStation," he says. "I often play *Fifa* and *Call of Duty*. But my favourite game is *Grand Theft Auto*." Why is this game so popular? *Grand Theft Auto IV* is a best-selling game, with 25 million copies sold worldwide. It received excellent reviews, such as the one from game reviewer Hilary Goldstein (see box).

"The graphics in *Grand Theft Auto IV* are really good," says Ciaran. "And the storyline changes from game to game so it keeps you interested. I like it because it allows you to take on a role which you wouldn't do in normal day-to-day life."

## HILARY'S GRAND THEFT AUTO REVIEW

Storyline: "the story is Oscar-quality" 10/10

Graphics: "the level of detail is astounding\*" 10/10

Sound: "excellent voice acting makes the story succeed" 10/10

Gameplay: "the most fun I've had in years" 10/10

Lasting appeal\*: "there's plenty to do once you finish, such as excellent multiplayer" 10/10

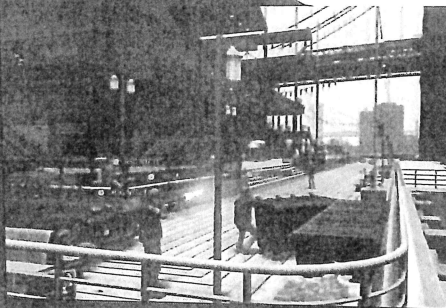
### Violent gameplay

*Grand Theft Auto* is clearly a hit\* with gamers. But it's also controversial.

More than four thousand articles have been written about the series. Many argue that it glamorises\* violence and influences teens in a negative way. "It is an extremely violent game from start to finish," says games blogger\* Jack Tyson. "From killing policemen to stealing cars, dealing drugs and drink-driving, the *Grand Theft Auto* series offers many different ways to break the law."

### Negative influence?

It may be violent – but does *Grand Theft Auto* actually cause violence? In 2003, two teens from Tennessee, United States shot at vehicles with a gun. A man was killed and a woman was wounded\*. The teens said that they were copying *Grand Theft Auto III*. Then, in 2005, seventeen year-old



**CUT OUT AND KEEP:  
VIDEO GAME  
VOCABULARY**



**controller** – a piece of equipment you use to play games

**gameplay** – the experience of playing a game

**multiplayer** – playing with more than one person, often online

**newbie** – somebody who hasn't played a game before

**walkthrough** – a guide to how to complete a game

Devin Moore shot and killed three police officers in Alabama. After he was captured, Moore said that 'life is a video game'. "He played *Grand Theft Auto* for hundreds of hours," said his lawyer, Jack Thompson. "If it wasn't for the video game 'training' he would not have done what he did."

**The studies**

What do the studies on video game violence say? Dr Mark Coulson of Middlesex University argues that some games will make people more aggressive. "Whether that leads to violence or not is a different topic," he says. "The evidence is insufficient\* for us to say that video games cause violence." Another study has even shown that playing games can help people to cope\* better with stress. "The results suggest that violent games reduce depression and hostile feelings in players," explains Dr Ferguson of Texas University. Ciaran agrees. "I don't think that video games affect my behaviour," he says. "They don't make me any more aggressive – I just see it as pure fantasy entertainment."

**GRAND THEFT AUTO:  
THE FACTS**

- The *Grand Theft Auto* series was created by David Jones and Mike Dailly of Rockstar Games, based in Scotland.
- *Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas* sold over 27.5 million copies worldwide.
- *Grand Theft Auto* is the sixth best-selling video game series of all time.
- You can only buy *Grand Theft Auto V* if you are at least eighteen years old.

What are the good and bad effects of video games? Do you think they make you more violent? Why / why not? Do your parents control what video games you play?

**COMPOUND ADJECTIVES**

1. *Grand Theft Auto V* is this year's most *hotly-anticipated* video game. *Hotly-anticipated* is a compound adjective. Can you find one more compound adjective in the article that describes a *Grand Theft Auto* game?

2. Match these adjectives and verb stems to form compound adjectives.

- world well famous  
made breaking record

Now, use each one in a sentence about a video game.

**ANSWERS ARE ON PAGE 15 →**

**CLUB VOTE!**

Do you think video games make you violent? Vote now!  
Visit [www.mg-plus.net/club2](http://www.mg-plus.net/club2)



**WORDWISE** \* **astounding (adj)**: amazing \* **appeal (n)**: a quality that makes people like something \* **a hit (n)**: something that is popular \* **to glamorise something (v)**: to make something seem more attractive than it really is \* **blogger (n)**: somebody who writes on the internet \* **to be wounded (v)**: to suffer an injury \* **insufficient (adj)**: not enough \* **to cope (v)**: to succeed in dealing with a difficult problem or situation