

PROFESSIONAL VIDEO GAMER

This week's Teacher's Corner practices using gerunds and infinitives through a reading activity on professional video gaming. Video gaming has become a big business, with many professional gaming teams, university teams, and national teams competing in global video game tournaments. Other video gamers have become Internet celebrities through recording themselves playing video games and broadcasting the videos. While the idea of professional gamers and online video game streaming may be new to us as teachers, there is a good chance that students are already familiar with these job opportunities. This week, while students learn to use gerunds and infinitives, take some time to learn about the wide world of video games from them!

LEVEL

Intermediate to Advanced

LANGUAGE FOCUS

Reading, speaking (primary focus); writing (secondary focus)

GOALS

During this activity students will

- Practice using gerunds and infinitives within the context of a reading activity
- Practice speaking skills by discussing the world of video games

MATERIALS

- Teacher: whiteboard or chalkboard, markers or chalk, a timing device
- Students: pencils or pens, notebooks or writing paper, recording devices (optional)

PREPARATION

1. Read through all the materials carefully.
2. Print out enough copies of the “Professional Gamer” reading in Appendix 1 for each student in the class.
3. Read over the “Professional Gamer” Answer Key in Appendix 2 before class. Check the reading for vocabulary that may be unfamiliar to students.

ACTIVITY PART ONE: PROFESSIONAL GAMER READING

1. Begin this activity by asking the students if they play video games.
 - a. Ask them what kinds of video games they play and what they enjoy about video games.
2. Next, on the board write the word *E-Sports*. Ask the students if anyone knows what this word means. If any of the students knows the term, have them explain what e-sports means to the class.
 - a. **Note:** E-Sports is defined as a multiplayer video game played competitively by professional gamers and watched by fans.
3. Inform the students that today the class will learn about video games and e-sports through a reading activity.
4. Distribute a copy of the reading activity in Appendix 1 to each student in class.

5. Have the students skim the reading for any unfamiliar vocabulary terms, and provide them time to ask about any new vocabulary words.
6. Next, have the students read the paragraphs. For each paragraph, students should decide if a gerund or an infinitive is the correct form of the verb.
7. Give the students time to complete the reading and to fill in the gerund and infinitive blanks.
8. Once the students are finished, have them form pairs or small groups and review their answers together. If a pair has different answers for a blank, encourage them to discuss and decide which answer is the correct one.
 - a. **Note:** For additional reading and speaking practice, have the students read the paragraphs aloud, taking turns at each new paragraph, while they review their answers.
9. After the pairs have checked their answers, review the answers as an entire class to double-check the answers.

Appendix 1: Professional Gamer

Directions: Read the story below on the life of a professional video game player. Then fill in the blanks with either a gerund or an infinitive form of the verb.

Many young people enjoy _____ (play) video games. For most players, video games are a fun hobby _____ (enjoy) with friends. However, some video gamers have made their hobby into a career! Two ways video games are becoming a profession are through competitive sports or by live-streaming video games over the Internet.

Video gaming as a professional sport, or *e-sport*, is the fastest growing sporting event in the world. Millions of people around the world like _____ (watch) teams compete in tournaments, with first place prizes in these tournaments as high as \$10 million. Due to this popularity, organizers of the Olympics are considering including e-sports in future Olympic games. In the United States, universities have begun _____ (offer) scholarships to students _____ (play) video games on a university team, the same as baseball, soccer, or basketball athletes. Competing as a professional video gamer is difficult. The best players in the world need _____ (practice) up to 50 hours a week, and many players retire, or stop playing, around the age of 25, when they are considered too old to stay competitive.

Other video gamers have turned their hobby into a career as “streamers,” and many former professional gamers switch from competition to streaming video games. A streamer’s job is _____ (play) video games online and broadcast the gameplay on his or her channel for others _____ (watch). _____ (watch) a streamer can be a great way



_____ (learn) about a new game or meet others who enjoy _____ (play) the same game.

It may seem easy to broadcast yourself _____ (play) games on the internet, but the life of a streamer can be difficult. Many streamers need _____ (broadcast) up to eight hours a day _____ (keep) people _____ (watch) their channel. To keep people watching, the streamer must play a video game while _____ (entertain) the audience watching. A streamer earns money through advertisements, so the more people who watch, the more money a streamer can earn from his or her channel.

With hard work and lots of practice, players can turn their love of video games into an exciting career as a professional athlete or as an entertaining streamer.

Appendix 2: Professional Gamer Reading Answer Key

Directions: Read the story below on the life of a professional video game player. Then fill in the blanks with either a gerund or an infinitive form of the verb.

Many young people enjoy **playing** video games. For most players, video games are a fun hobby **to enjoy** with friends. However, some video gamers have made their hobby into a career! Two ways video games are becoming a profession are through competitive sport or by live-streaming video games over the Internet.

Video gaming as a professional sport, or e-sports, is the fastest growing sporting event in the world. Millions of people around the world like **to watch** teams compete in tournaments, with first place prizes in these tournaments as high as \$10 million. Due to this popularity, organizers of the Olympics are considering including e-sports in future Olympic games. In the United States, universities have begun **to offer** scholarships to students **to play** video games on a university team, the same as baseball, soccer, or basketball athletes. Competing as a professional video gamer is difficult. The best players in the world need **to practice** up to 50 hours a week, and many players retire, or stop playing, around the age of 25, when they are considered too old to stay competitive.

Other video gamers have turned their hobby into a career as a “streamer,” and many former professional gamers switch from competition to streaming video games. A streamer’s job is **to play** video games online and broadcast the gameplay on his or her channel for others **to watch**. **Watching** a streamer can be a great way **to learn** about a new game or meet others who enjoy **playing** the same game.

It may seem easy to broadcast yourself **playing** games on the internet, but the life of a streamer can be difficult. Many streamers need **to broadcast** up to eight hours a day **to keep** people **watching** their channel. To keep people watching, the streamer must play a video game while **entertaining** the audience watching. A streamer earns money through advertisements, so the more people who watch, the more money a streamer can earn from his or her channel.



With hard work and lots of practice, players can turn their love of video games into an exciting career as a professional athlete or as an entertaining streamer.