

## Minecraft video "more popular than Bieber"

10th March



The online game Minecraft can be cause for concern for parents, who see their children spend endless hours immersed in a cyber-world. However, for a 23-year-old English

man, the game has made him millions of fans and a good deal of money too. Joseph Garrett makes a full-time living by making YouTube videos about his exploits in Minecraft. He gets up to 30 million hits a week, which is more than the official Justin Bieber and One Direction channels. His uploads might also make him a small fortune, without having to leave his bedroom. He has become a celebrity in the Minecraft gaming community. He told the BBC: "I'm really happy, I'm not going to lie, I think I've got the best job in the world."

Minecraft has over 100 million registered users around the world. Education professionals are saying it could be a very useful tool in the classroom. The website [gamepedia.com](http://gamepedia.com) says: "Minecraft can have huge educational benefits for children; it can help teach numerous subjects both with and without adult involvement." It added that: "Learning in Minecraft can be faster than traditional methods of education, as children are often far more motivated, get more practice, and feel that what they are learning is useful." The site says children naturally pick up skills in reading, writing, maths, geometry, music and science while playing the game. They can also learn social skills and computer coding.

Sources: [BBC](http://BBC) / [Gamepedia.com](http://Gamepedia.com) / [NPR.org](http://NPR.org)

## Writing

*Online games like Minecraft can be very useful for teachers to use in class. Discuss.*

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

*online / concern / millions / exploits / official / celebrity / gaming / community / lie / registered / educational / professionals / benefits / involvement / motivated / coding*

## True / False

- The article says Minecraft is concerned about parents. T / F
- The article says some children spend 23 hours a day playing Minecraft. T / F
- A man's Minecraft videos get 30 million hits a week on YouTube. T / F
- The man said he has the best job in the world. T / F
- There are fewer than 10 million registered Minecraft users worldwide. T / F
- [Gamepedia.com](http://Gamepedia.com) says it's best for kids to play Minecraft with adults. T / F
- [Gamepedia](http://Gamepedia.com) said kids can learn quicker when they use Minecraft. T / F
- Kids can learn to interact with others socially when playing Minecraft. T / F

## Synonym Match

- |                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1. cause           | a. conventional |
| 2. immersed        | b. big money    |
| 3. a good deal of  | c. signed up    |
| 4. a small fortune | d. absorbed     |
| 5. community       | e. driven       |
| 6. registered      | f. learn        |
| 7. benefits        | g. reason       |
| 8. traditional     | h. circle       |
| 9. motivated       | i. merits       |
| 10. pick up        | j. lots of      |

## Discussion – Student A

- What do you know about Minecraft?
- What's your favourite online game?
- Are online games good or bad for you? Why?
- Is it OK to spend endless hours playing online games?
- How can parents get kids to study more and play online games less?
- What's your favourite YouTube channel and why?
- What do you think it's like to be a gaming celebrity?
- What is the best job in the world?

## Phrase Match

- |                                    |                          |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. cause for                       | a. gaming community      |
| 2. spend endless hours immersed    | b. users                 |
| 3. a good deal                     | c. exploits in Minecraft |
| 4. making YouTube videos about his | d. more motivated        |
| 5. a celebrity in the Minecraft    | e. numerous subjects     |
| 6. 100 million registered          | f. concern for parents   |
| 7. a very useful                   | g. up skills in reading  |
| 8. it can help teach               | h. in a cyber-world      |
| 9. children are often far          | i. tool in the classroom |
| 10. children naturally pick        | j. of money              |

## Discussion – Student B

- How useful are games in the classroom?
- How can online games be better than textbooks?
- Should schools use online games more in the classroom?
- How could online games make children learn more?
- Will computers put an end to many traditional methods of learning?
- Is it better for students to pick up skills or to learn them in class?
- How important is it for children to learn computer coding?
- What questions would you like to ask the creator of Minecraft?

## Spelling

- cause for ncoren
- endless hours mmsderei in a cyber-world
- making YouTube videos about his elixtpos
- make him a small ornufet
- He has become a rciltybee
- the Minecraft gaming umnoymtci
- 100 million eegreidtrs users
- Education ifsapnrsoeols
- huge educational bneetfsi
- it can help teach emusonur subjects
- children are often far more tmtiaovde
- maths, gtmeryoe, music and science

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. d	3. j	4. b	5. h
6. c	7. i	8. a	9. e	10. f

## Role Play

### Role A – Combat games

You think combat games are the most exciting. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their games. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): sports games, driving games or fantasy games.

### Role B – Sports games

You think sports games are the most exciting. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their games. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): combat games, driving games or fantasy games.

### Role C – Driving games

You think driving games are the most exciting. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their games. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): sports games, combat games or fantasy games.

### Role D – Fantasy games

You think fantasy games are the most exciting. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their games. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): sports games, driving games or combat games.

## Speaking – Online games

Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| • combat games  | • driving games  |
| • sports games  | • fantasy games  |
| • fashion games | • business games |
| • sandpit games | • English games  |

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	F	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.