

Nintendo launches Switch 2 console worldwide

9th June 2025



The Japanese video game company Nintendo has launched its first major piece of hardware in eight years. To much fanfare, the much-anticipated Switch 2 console was released last Thursday. It is the follow-up to its hugely popular predecessor, the

Switch, which sold 152 million units worldwide. The new console can be used as a portable handheld device or as a tablet. It can be connected to an external display. It comes with two controllers, a power adaptor, a USB-C charging cable, a dock, and two wrist straps. It comes bundled with 25 games, including an enhanced version of the smash success Mario Kart World. Nintendo expects to sell 15 million Switch 2 consoles for the fiscal year to March 2026.

Gaming enthusiasts queued for hours outside stores worldwide, clamouring to get their hands on Nintendo's new system. In Japan, the consoles were sold via a national lottery that got around 2.2 million applications. In Tokyo, winners of the draw lined up at dawn outside an electronics store. Switch fan Koji Takahashi, 39, said: "It's fantastic that players can see each other while playing. I can't wait to go home and play." Satoshi Ayame was unsuccessful in the lottery, but undeterred, he went to the store's release event to savour the experience. He said: "I took a half-day off work because I desperately wanted to try the Switch 2." The console has a hefty \$449.99 price tag, but fans say it is worth the money.

Sources: [theguardian.com](https://www.theguardian.com) / [apnews.com](https://www.apnews.com) / [mainichi.jp](https://www.mainichi.jp)

Writing

Nintendo makes the best video games. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

video game / Nintendo / hardware / fanfare / console / USB / Mario / fiscal year / enthusiasts / queued / lottery / winners / dawn / electronics store / work / price tag

True / False

- 1) The article says Nintendo releases major hardware every eight years. T / F
- 2) The original Switch console sold more than 150 million units. T / F
- 3) The Switch 2 comes with a USB-A charging cable. T / F
- 4) Nintendo thinks it will sell 15 million Switch 2 consoles by March. T / F
- 5) People in Japan had to win a lottery to get the Switch 2. T / F
- 6) People started queuing at daybreak to buy the console. T / F
- 7) A man took a whole day off work to play the Switch 2 in a store. T / F
- 8) Switch fans say the console is overpriced. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1. launched | a. transportable |
| 2. hardware | b. not put off |
| 3. portable | c. improved |
| 4. bundled | d. enjoy |
| 5. enhanced | e. equipment |
| 6. enthusiasts | f. daybreak |
| 7. dawn | g. huge |
| 8. undeterred | h. released |
| 9. savour | i. fans |
| 10. hefty | j. packaged |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you know about Nintendo?
- b) What do you think of gaming?
- c) In what ways are video games better than board games?
- d) How interested are you in the new Switch 2?
- e) What's your favourite video game?
- f) What are some problems caused by video games?
- g) Are there too many game consoles on the market?
- h) Have you ever queued outside a shop waiting for it to open?

Phrase Match

1. launched its first major
 2. It can be connected
 3. two wrist
 4. It comes bundled
 5. for the fiscal
 6. Gaming enthusiasts queued
 7. winners of the draw lined up
 8. savour
 9. The console has a hefty
 10. it is worth
- a. straps
 - b. \$449.99 price tag
 - c. with 25 games
 - d. for hours outside stores
 - e. the money
 - f. piece of hardware
 - g. the experience
 - h. to an external display
 - i. year to March 2026
 - j. at dawn

Discussion – Student B

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What do you think of Nintendo?
- c) In what ways are video games good for us?
- d) What do you think of electronics stores?
- e) What's the best game console?
- f) What do you think of the price of the Switch 2?
- g) How can companies make game consoles better?
- h) What questions would you like to ask Nintendo?

Spelling

1. the much-ijactdnpaet Switch 2 console
2. its hugely popular eordeesprcs
3. used as a aoerpbtI handheld device
4. It comes ebunldd with 25 games
5. an nahcneed version of the smash success
6. the lcafsi year to March 2026
7. Gaming enthusiasts gedueu for hours
8. nqlramcoiu to get their hands on it
9. lined up at ndaw
10. but ureeddttern, he went to the release event
11. I eteprydleas wanted to try the Switch 2
12. The console has a thfy \$449.99 price tag

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Comprehension Questions

Listen to / read the news article. Answer these questions.
(Answers are on p. 27 of the 27-page PDF.)

1.	How long ago was Nintendo's previous major hardware release?
2.	How many Switch consoles did Nintendo sell?
3.	What can the Switch 2 be connected to?
4.	How many games are preloaded on the Switch 2?
5.	How many Switch 2 consoles does Nintendo hope to sell this fiscal year?
6.	Who queued for hours?
7.	How were Switch 2 consoles sold in Japan?
8.	From when did fans start waiting outside stores in Tokyo?
9.	What did a man do to be able to savour the experience of the Switch 2?
10.	What do fans think of the price of the Switch 2?

Speaking – Games

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

- Minecraft
- Halo
- Assassin's Creed
- Pokémon GO
- Super Mario
- Final Fantasy
- Grand Theft Auto
- Legend of Zelda

Answers – True False

1	F	2	T	3	F	4	T	5	T	6	T	7	F	8	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.