

Gaming terms worth knowing

A parent's guide

Be aware of gaming terminology to better understand your child's gaming behaviours.

Avatar – a graphical representation of the player, or the player's alter ego or character.

DLC (Downloadable Content) – additional content that can be purchased online and downloaded onto your system.

Easter Eggs – hidden elements in the game.

Esports – a form of competition using video games. Esports takes the form of organised, multiplayer video game competitions, particularly between professional players, individually or as teams.

FTW (For The Win) – used as a general expression of enthusiasm.

Frag – to kill an enemy in a first person shooter game.

Grinding – repetitive actions completed in order to gain further experience in the game.

Guild/Clan – term for a group of players who play online games together.

Kill ratio – most online shooters rank players according to their kill ratio. You'd be ranked higher for ending a game with 6 kills and 0 deaths than you would for 10 kills and 6 deaths.

Lag – if your internet ping (or latency) is too high then you may experience lag. This is when your real-life actions take too long to translate to the actions on screen, making a game virtually unplayable.

Loot boxes – 'treasure-chests' that contain virtual rewards of varying value, such as clothing, weapons, or game advantages. Players purchase them in micro transactions using in-game currency (credit that's earned as you play) or real money (via PayPal or credit cards). Loot boxes are chance-based – players do not know what's inside them before purchasing.

Micro transactions – a business model where users can purchase virtual goods with micropayments. Micro transactions are often used in free-to-play games to provide a revenue source for the developers.

NPC – (Non-Player Character) refers to all characters in a game not controlled by the player or a human opponent. The behaviour of NPCs is controlled by AI (artificial intelligence).

Noob or Newb – A term used to describe an inexperienced gamer/person/etc. Unlike Noob, a Newb is often someone who wants to get better.

PWN – When a player gets a kill with great style.

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Sandbox – A game in which the player ignores the game's objectives so as to explore the game's environment. Sandbox games are also referred to as nonlinear or open-ended.

Skins – vanity items that serve no other purpose in gaming than to change the look of a character or weapon, but can be used as currency on special gambling websites. Skins can be earned while playing, bought using in-game currency or real money.

Social casino games – free-to-play games online that have casino games like slots, poker, keno, bingo and blackjack. You can play online or install the game on your device. Social casino games can look very similar to pokies – they simulate the experience of playing the pokies even if no money is involved.

Troll – a person who harasses others in a multiplayer game or online.

Virtual goods – non-physical objects and money purchased for use in online communities or online games. Virtual goods are intangible by definition.

XP (Experience Points) – are racked up as you progress through a game. Hitting certain levels of XP usually sees your character level up and gain new abilities or weapons.