Computer Games

Reading

For a long time, computer games have been criticized for being bad for the brain. However, a new brain training game created by Dr. Ryuta Kawashima is changing that view. Activities in the game include solving simple mathematics problems, counting people going in and out of a house, drawing pictures on the screen, and reading classic literature into a microphone. Players are then given a brain age by the game. Over time, if a player achieves better scores, his or her brain age gets younger. Dr. Kawashima is a leading brain expert and best-selling author on brain training.

Source: ESL Worksheets Junior

Comprehension Check

Instruction: Choose the best answer.

1) It is understood from the passage that Dr. Kawashima ....
   a) is not good at solving complex mathematics problems himself
   b) prefers classic literature to modern literature
   c) has made a computer game that may be good for the brain
   d) also works as a brain surgeon
   e) has one of the highest brain ages in the world

2) We learn from the passage that Dr. Kawashima ....
   a) tries to show that computer games are necessary for brain development
   b) works particularly with children
   c) has publications on brain training
   d) is also an author who writes interesting novels
   e) is the creator of other computer games as well

3) It is understood from the passage that a low brain age is ....
   a) easily achieved by computer games
   b) a sign of low intelligence
   c) bad for the brain
   d) a good thing to have
   e) very difficult to achieve

Let's Talk!

1. Do you like computer games?
2. What's your favorite computer game?
3. Can you remember the first computer game you played?
4. Do you prefer watching movies or playing computer games?
5. Do you prefer playing games alone, against friends or against the world?
6. What do you think are the good effects of computer games? Are computer games good for hand-eye coordination? Are computer games good for relieving stress?
7. Do you learn anything from playing computer games?
8. What about the bad effects? Are computer games bad for your health? Do you think computer games make people violent?
9. Does your personality change when you're gaming?

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