

PEGI ratings explained



Much like films, all games must have an age rating. These are called PEGI ratings. Understanding them means you can make informed choices about the games you let your children play. All modern consoles, computers, tablets, and smartphones allow you to block games by their PEGI age rating.



Ages 3 and older

Suitable for all age groups. No sounds or pictures likely to frighten young children. Very mild violence (comical or childlike) is acceptable. No bad language.



Ages 7 and older

Scenes or sounds that could possibly frighten younger children. Very mild forms of violence (implied, non-detailed, or non-realistic violence) are acceptable.



Ages 12 and older

Slightly more graphic violence towards fantasy characters or non-realistic violence towards human-like characters. Sexual innuendo, sexual posturing, or mild bad language possible.



Ages 16 and older

Depiction of violence or sexual activity similar to real life. Bad language can be more extreme. Tobacco, alcohol, or illegal drug use can be present.



Ages 18 and older

Extreme violence, apparently motiveless killing, or violence towards defenceless characters. Glamourisation of illegal drugs, simulation of gambling, and explicit sexual activity possible.

Games also have PEGI content descriptors:



Violence

Game contains depictions of violence appropriate for the age rating.



Bad Language

Games with a PEGI 12 (mild swearing), PEGI 16 (e.g. sexual expletives or blasphemy) or PEGI 18 rating (e.g. sexual expletives or blasphemy).



Fear

PEGI 7 may contain pictures or sounds frightening to young children. Moderate horror (PEGI 12) or intense and sustained (PEGI 16) horror sequences or disturbing images.



Gambling

Elements that encourage or teach gambling. Simulations of games of chance normally played in casinos. Some older titles can be found with PEGI 12 or PEGI 16, but new games are now always PEGI 18.



Sex

A PEGI 12 game may include sexual posturing or innuendo. PEGI 16 rating may have erotic nudity or sexual intercourse without visible genitals. PEGI 18 can have explicit sexual activity.



Drugs

Refers to or depicts use of illegal drugs, alcohol, or tobacco. Always PEGI 16 or PEGI 18.



Discrimination

Contains depictions of ethnic, religious, nationalistic, or other stereotypes likely to encourage hatred. Always restricted to PEGI 18 rating (and could infringe criminal law).



In-Game Purchases

Offers players option to buy digital goods or services with real-world currency. This includes additional content (bonus levels, outfits, surprise items, music), and upgrades (e.g. to disable ads), subscriptions to updates, virtual coins and other forms of in-game currency.