
















## Computer Games & What you need to Know

From the summer of 2012 the PEGI system has been effectively incorporated into UK law and the VSC has been designated as the body responsible for the age rating of video games under the PEGI system. Video games will be age rated at one or other of the following age levels.

	The content of games given this rating is considered suitable for all age groups. Some violence in a comical context (typically Bugs Bunny or Tom & Jerry cartoon-like forms of violence) is acceptable. The child should not be able to associate the character on the screen with real life characters, they should be totally fantasy. The game should not contain any sounds or pictures that are likely to scare or frighten young children. No bad language should be heard and there should be no scenes containing nudity or any scenes referring to sexual activity.
	Any game that would normally be rated at 3 but contains some possibly frightening scenes or sounds may be considered suitable in this category. Some scenes of partial nudity may be permitted but never in a sexual context
	Video games that show violence of a slightly more graphic nature towards fantasy characters and/or non graphic violence towards human-looking characters or recognisable animals, as well as video games that show nudity of a slightly more graphic nature will fall into this category. Any bad language in the category must be mild and fall short of sexual expletives.
	This rating is applied once the depiction of violence (or sexual activity) reaches a stage that looks the same as would be expected in real life. More extreme language, the encouragement of the use of tobacco and drugs and the depiction of criminal activities can be included in this category.
	This adult rating is applied when the level of violence reaches a stage where it becomes gross violence and/or includes elements of specific types of violence. In general terms it is where the level of violence is so visually strong that it would make the reasonable viewer react with a sense of revulsion. This rating is also applied where the level of sexual activity is explicit which may mean that genitals are visible. Any game that glamorises the use of real life drugs will also probably fall into this category.

The descriptors are fairly self-explanatory but should be read in conjunction with the age rating given for a video game. A violence descriptor with an 18 rated game will indicate a more extreme level of violence than a violence descriptor with a 12 rated game. Similarly a sex/nudity descriptor with a 12 rated game will probably indicate sexual innuendo but a sex/nudity descriptor with an 18 rated game will indicate sexual content of a more explicit nature.

	The video game may refer to or depict the use of drugs
	The video game may be frightening or scary for young children.
	The video game may contain depictions of or material which may encourage discrimination.
	The video game will contain bad language. At a 12 rating this will be mild swearing but at a 16 rating and above it will include sexual expletives.
	The video game may encourage or teach gambling.
	The video game will contain depictions of violence
	The video game may show nudity in a sexual setting.
	The video game may show sexual behaviour or sexual references
	The video game may contain horrific sounds or horror effects which may be shocking or cause revulsion to the viewer
	The video game can be played online possibly with or against other people.