

5.2 Mosquito smasher!

GOALS ■ Describe a video game ■ Use present perfect simple and past simple

Vocabulary & Reading adjectives to describe a video game

- 1 Work with a partner or in small groups and discuss the questions.
 - Do you play any games on your phone, computer or tablet?
 - Which adjectives could you use to describe any of the games?

amusing disappointing dull enjoyable entertaining
intelligent ordinary original predictable silly
surprising unexciting violent

PRONUNCIATION word stress in longer words

In longer words with more than two syllables, it is important to put the stress on the correct syllable to be understood.

- 2a Put the adjectives in exercise 1 with more than two syllables into the columns according to the stress pattern.

●●●	●●●	●●●●	●●●●
amusing			

- b 5.3))) Listen, check and repeat.

- 3 Read the article and answer the questions.
 - 1 Why is the video games industry growing so fast in Nigeria?
 - 2 What is special about the games produced by Maliyo Games?
 - 3 Which adjectives does the writer use to describe video games?



NEWS > TECHNOLOGY > GAMES

Nigerian video games score highly

Meet Sharp Sule! He works hard to make a living by dashing through the streets of Lagos, Nigeria on his bike, avoiding cars, trucks and potholes, while collecting the coins he needs to realize his dream of owning a bigger transport business.

There are plenty of people just like Sharp Sule in Lagos, but he's actually a character in an original new video game, designed, as Hugo Obi, founder of Maliyo Games, says, 'to showcase African culture to the world, through games'.

Over the past few years, a growing middle class that is looking for entertainment has resulted in Nigerian movies and music sweeping across the continent, as sub-Saharan Africa becomes increasingly connected online. Now game publishers hope to achieve the same success.

Last year Nigerians bought an astonishing 21.5 million mobile phones, so more and more people are looking for entertaining apps and games.

The global video game industry is now worth \$66 billion – more than Hollywood – but so far many of the games produced have been rather unexciting and predictable. In contrast, Maliyo aims to produce something clever, amusing, and definitely African.

As well as Sharp Sule, Maliyo has also recently produced another highly enjoyable game, *Mosquito Smasher*. Like many video games, it's quite violent – but the only things that get hurt are the mosquitos, a constant irritation in Lagos and in many other countries around the world.

In fact, the games do seem to have a worldwide appeal. European companies have already copied *Mosquito Smasher* and Nigerian company *Gamsole*, which a few months ago became the first in the region to gain more than 1 million app downloads, said most of its fans log in from Brazil, India and the US.

Grammar & Speaking present perfect simple and past simple

- 4 Look at these extracts from the article. Which of the verbs in bold are about a specific, finished time in the past and which are about unfinished time?
- Over the past few years, a growing middle class that is looking for entertainment **has resulted** in Nigerian movies and music sweeping across the continent, as sub-Saharan Africa is becoming increasingly connected online.
 - Last year Nigerians **bought** an astonishing 21.5 million mobile phones, so more and more people are looking for entertaining apps and games.
- 5 Read the Grammar focus box and choose the correct options to complete the rules.

GRAMMAR FOCUS time expressions with present perfect and past simple

We use the **present perfect** to talk about

- ¹ finished / unfinished** time periods
So far many of the games produced have been rather unexciting ...
- a past action with a **² past / present** result
European companies have copied Mosquito Smasher ...

Other time expressions often used with the present perfect:
ever, for, just, never, since, yet

We use the **past simple** for **³ finished / unfinished** time periods.

Last year Nigerians bought an astonishing 2.5 million mobile phones ...

Other time expressions often used with the past simple:
last, in January, on Wednesday, recently, when, yesterday

→ **Grammar Reference** page 145

- 6a The article on page 48 is about daily life in Lagos, Nigeria. Read a blog about living in New York and choose the correct form of the verbs.

ABOUT EVENTS BLOG

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BLOG ENTRY / 26 JULY

¹ *I've lived / I lived* in New York for about three years now. It's an exciting place to live, but there are quite a few annoying things about it, too. For a start, it's incredibly expensive.

When ² *I've moved / I moved* into my flat three years ago, the rent was already quite high, but it ³ *has gone up / went up* three times since then.

It can also be quite a violent place. ⁴ *I haven't been / I wasn't* mugged yet, but my best friend has. Luckily, she wasn't actually hurt; ⁵ *they've just taken / they just took* her bag.

And the traffic – it's dreadful. It ⁶ *has taken / took* me more than an hour to get to work today, and nearly as long to get home.

However, ⁷ *I've never lived / I never lived* anywhere where there is so much to do. Over the past month ⁸ *I've been / I went* to the theatre three times, as well as to a number of great art exhibitions. ⁹ *I've also just / I also just* started salsa classes. You can find everything from everywhere here.

So, although living in New York has some bad points, on balance I don't think I want to live anywhere else in the world.

- b 5.4))) Listen and check your answers.

- 7a **TASK** Work in small groups. Describe the positive or negative features of a video game you know that you would include in a video game like *Sharp Sule*. If you don't know a video game, make one up.
- b Use the questions below to plan a video game and present your idea to other students.
- Who is/are the main character(s)? Give them some background.
 - What do they have to do in the video game?
 - What adjectives could you use to describe your video game and make it attractive to people?
- c Describe the video game.

