

It's Hard to Stop!



1. Read the story

Look at the pictures on these pages.
What is the story about? Now read it.

TAIPEI, TAIWAN ¹A lot of people have hobbies, but who spends eight hours a day on a hobby? Meet Shi-tung Chuang. He plays online* computer games eight hours a day! ²Shi-tung, 19, is a college student at De Lin Institute. ³He does well in school, so his parents do not mind that he spends so much time on the computer. ⁴Does he have time for friends? "Sure, I do," he says. "All my friends have the same hobby, so we play together online. Sometimes we even see each other in real life!"

⁵Many online players spend too much time on their games, says Stephen Kline of Simon Fraser University in Canada, and this can lead to family fights. Some players are addicted**, he adds.

⁶"I'm not addicted," says Shi-tung, "although it is a bit hard to stop. It's crazy and so much fun to play. I want to succeed! I want to win!"

* online: on the Internet

** addicted: not able to stop doing something bad

NEW WORDS

hobby *n*
game *n*
college *n*

mind *v*
each other *pron*
university *n*

lead to *v*
add *v*
although *conj*

a bit *mod*
crazy *adj*
fun *n*

succeed *v*

>> See Glossary on page 89. >>

2. Rate the story

How much did you like it? Mark an X.



3. Check your comprehension

Check (✓) the endings that are true. The first one is done for you.

a. Shi-tung plays games

✓ for many hours each day.

___ on his computer.

___ with his parents.

___ with Stephen Kline.

___ because they are fun.

b. Some online players

___ have fights with their families.

___ are addicted to games.

___ think that it is hard to stop.

___ spend too much time on games.

4. Check your vocabulary

Complete the sentences with the New Words.

a. Shi-tung's parents don't m___ that he spends so much time on his ho___ because he does well in col_____.

b. Shi-tung says that he is not addicted, alth_____ it is a ___ hard to stop playing.

c. When Shi-tung plays an online game, he wants to su_____.

d. "It's cr___ and so much f_!" he says.

5. Listen to the story track 8

Now listen to the story two or three times. Look at the pictures below as you listen.



6. Retell the story

Cover the story and look at the pictures above. Retell the story using the New Words.

7. Answer the questions

About the story...

- How does Shi-tung spend his day?
- How do his parents feel about his hobby?
- Why is it hard for Shi-tung to stop playing?
- Do you think he spends too much time playing? Why or why not?

About you...

- What computer games have you played? Which is your favorite?
- What are your hobbies?
- How much time do you spend each week on your hobbies?
- How often do you and your friends see each other?

8. Learn word partnerships

Study the partnerships below. Complete the sentences so they are true for you.

FUN	
It is (so much) fun to do (something)	<i>It's so much fun to play.</i> <i>It's fun to spend time with my friends.</i> <i>It's so much fun to ride a horse!</i>
have (a lot of) fun	<i>I will have fun this weekend.</i> <i>We had a lot of fun at the party.</i> <i>I had fun when I went to Australia.</i>

- It is so much fun _____!
- I will _____ fun _____.
- I had a lot of fun when _____.

9. Learn word groups

Complete the sentences so they are true for you. Use words from the pictures.

GAMES



chess



basketball



volleyball



baseball



online
computer
games



cards

- I think that playing _____ is so much fun.
- I never play _____.
- I want to learn to play _____.

10. Take a dictation track 9

Use your own paper to write the dictation. Check your answers on page 86.

11. Complete the story

Use the words from the box to complete the story.

lead university adds games each other fun to talk

Addicted!

RAGUSA, ITALY Simona Barone, a (1) _____ student in Italy, is addicted to her cell phone. Like many people, she carries it with her almost everywhere. "My friends and I like to talk to (2) _____ all the time," she says. Simona even sleeps with her phone at night. "I always think that my friends from around the world will call me," she says. She plays (3) _____ on her phone before she falls asleep. Her friend Davide Fiorito feels the same way about his phone. "It's like a part of me!" he says.

Although it is (4) _____ on cell phones, they can (5) _____ to trouble. "I talk a bit too much," Simona says. "It's expensive and my father gets angry." Simona (6) _____ that she is obsessive* about checking her messages**. When she is out with friends, she cannot stop checking her phone—which does not please her friends!

*obsessive: thinking about something all the time

**messages: words that people send to one another



Talk about the stories

Shi-tung Chuang and Simona Barone spend most of their day with technology. How about you? Do you spend too much time with technology? Why or why not?