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## How Video Game Ratings Work

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Video game ratings are based on guidelines created by the Entertainment Software Rating Board (ESRB). The ESRB is a non-profit organization, meaning they are a self-regulating organization, and their guidelines aren't mandatory on game packaging. Their guidelines are meant to assist consumers (especially parents) in their purchasing choices by categorizing games by content and age suitability.

### **The ESRB uses 7 different ratings. They are:**

#### Early Childhood

EC-rated games are suitable for children aged 3 and over.

#### Everyone

Games with an E rating are suitable for children older than 6 and may contain a minimal amount of cartoon violence and/or mild language.

#### Everyone 10+

Titles rated E10+ are suitable for children older than 10 and will contain more fantasy violence than games rated for younger children and may also contain more mild language and some suggestive themes.

#### Teen

T-rated games are meant for teenagers. They may contain some blood and violence, crude humour, stronger language and simulated gambling.

#### Mature

M games are not meant for children and should only be played by people older than 17. They may contain greater amounts of violence, blood and gore, sexual content and stronger language.

#### Adults Only

AO games are for adults only. They contain prolonged scenes of violence and/or sexual imagery.

#### Rating Pending

RP is a symbol that only appears on a video game for advertisement purposes prior to a game's release.

Before you purchase a game, check both the rating symbol on the front of the box and the content descriptors found on the back. Content descriptors explain exactly what type of content is in the game, like if it references alcohol, has animated blood or what type of language and lyrics are involved.

For more information visit the official ESRB website at [www.ESRB.org](http://www.ESRB.org).