

# GAMING TIME LIMIT FOR CHINESE KIDS

Sep 13, 2021

**WARM-UP QUESTIONS** • *Discuss the following questions with your partner(s).*

1. What do you do for fun?
2. How much of your time do you spend doing fun activities, and how much time do you spend studying or working?
3. Read the headline above. Have you heard this news story? If so, say what you know. If not, can you guess what it's about?

**VOCABULARY** • *Match the following vocabulary words with a description. Use a dictionary if you need to.*

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|-----------------|---|
| 1. Require      | a) collecting names for an official list                          |
| 2. Enforce      | b) happening often  |
| 3. Registration | c) the condition of being unable to stop using or doing something |
| 4. Frequent     | d) to make it necessary to do something                           |
| 5. Inspection   | e) a powerful drug made from poppy flowers                        |
| 6. Authorities  | f) related to the human spirit, not the body                      |
| 7. Addiction    | g) an official visit to see if rules are being followed           |
| 8. Spiritual    | h) people in positions of power                                   |
| 9. Opium        | i) to make people follow a rule or law                            |
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**LISTEN** • *Listen to the audio track or a reader of the text. Try to fill in the missing words.*

Chinese children under the age of 18 will be able to play only three hours of \_\_\_\_\_ games in an average week under newly announced rules. Under 18-year-olds will have to do their playing between 8pm and 9pm on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, as well as on public holidays. Gaming \_\_\_\_\_ will also be required to enforce real-name registration and be subject to more frequent \_\_\_\_\_ by the authorities.

The rules are meant to help protect the mental and \_\_\_\_\_ health of Chinese children. Video game \_\_\_\_\_ has been identified as a serious problem among young Chinese. A recent article in a government-connected newspaper criticized video games as 'spiritual opium'.

Stock \_\_\_\_\_ for big Chinese gaming companies such as Tencent and NetEase fell on the news. At the same time, those companies said they support the new rules.

However, the gaming companies might not be able to \_\_\_\_\_ their young customers. There have been reports of children using their older family members' identities and, in some cases, paying to use the identities of \_\_\_\_\_ strangers to play games longer.

Chinese children under the age of 18 will be able to play only three hours of online games in an average week under newly announced rules. Under 18-year-olds will have to do their playing between 8pm and 9pm on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, as well as on public holidays. Gaming companies will also be required to enforce real-name registration and be subject to more frequent inspections by the authorities.

The rules are meant to help protect the mental and physical health of Chinese children. Video game addiction has been identified as a serious problem among young Chinese. A recent article in a government-connected newspaper criticized video games as 'spiritual opium'.

Stock prices for big Chinese gaming companies such as Tencent and NetEase fell on the news. At the same time, those companies said they support the new rules.



A boy playing games and wearing a headset

However, the gaming companies might not be able to control their young customers. There have been reports of children using their older family members' identities and, in some cases, paying to use the identities of adult strangers to play games longer.

Sources: apnews.com, reuters.com, cnbc.com, npr.org, straitstimes.com  
For source links, see the article on ESLNewsStories.com

**COMPREHENSION** • *Decide if the following are true (T) or false (F) and then discuss the answers with your partner(s).*

1. Chinese kids will only be able to play between 8am and 9pm. ( T / F )
2. Gaming companies are opposed to the new rules. ( T / F )
3. The value of Chinese gaming companies went down. ( T / F )
4. Chinese kids have been taking drugs while playing video games. ( T / F )
5. Chinese children are supposed to use their real names while playing video games. ( T / F )

**WORD FORMS** • *Fill in the different forms for the vocabulary from the article. Use a dictionary if you need to. Where there is an x, the word is uncommon, has a different meaning, or doesn't exist.*

VERB	ADJECTIVE	ADVERB	NOUN
require		x	
enforce		x	

		x	registration
x	frequent		
		x	inspection
		x	addiction
x	spiritual		

**DISCUSSION** • *Discuss the following questions with your partner(s). Try to speak in sentences and ask follow-up questions.*

1. Do you play video games, or have you played video games in the past?
2. How much time is reasonable to spend on gaming?
3. How do you feel about the new online gaming time limits for under 18-year-olds?
4. Is it the job of the government to control how long children spend playing games?
5. What kinds of benefits do people get from playing video games?
6. If you had a child, and they wanted to play video games, how long would you let them play for?
7. What are the most dangerous addictions? Which ones are the unhealthiest?
8. Are you addicted to anything? Have you been addicted to anything? When is it difficult to control yourself?
9. What do you think 'spiritual opium' means?
10. Do you think the Chinese gaming companies will be able to limit the amount that children play their games? Why or why not?
11. If someone you know is under 18 and asks to borrow your identity to play games, will you let them? Why or why not?
12. Why do you think the gaming companies support the new rules?

Vocabulary Answers: 1-d, 2-i, 3-a, 4-b, 5-g, 6-h, 7-c, 8-f, 9-e

Comprehension Answers: 1-F, 2-F, 3-T, 4-F, 5-T

Word Forms: required, requirement, enforced, enforcement, register, registered, frequently, frequency, inspect, inspected, addict, addicted, spiritually, spirit