

NEWS LESSON

A Game That Made Billions in One Day

BEFORE YOU READ

1 Warm up

Talk about these questions with a partner.

1. Do you play video games, or does someone you know?
2. What is the most expensive thing you have ever bought?
3. Why do you think people buy a game on the very first day?

2 Key words

These words are in the article. Write the letter of the meaning (A to H) in each box.

1	**retail**	☐	A	given an age level, for example for adults
2	**takings**	☐	B	looking at how two things are the same or different
3	**pre-orders**	☐	C	orders you make before something is on sale
4	**record**	☐	D	to say something in a clear, public way
5	**rated**	☐	E	the first days when a film is shown in cinemas
6	**declare**	☐	F	to do with selling things to customers in shops
7	**opening**	☐	G	the money a business gets from selling things
8	**comparing**	☐	H	the best or biggest ever

3 Read

Read the article and underline the key words from task 2. The paragraphs are numbered.

A video game called GTA VI came out on 19 November 2026. Its company says it made about US$3.79 billion on the first day, but that number needs care.

1 A video game called Grand Theft Auto VI, or GTA VI, came out on 19 November 2026. It is made by Rockstar Games, which belongs to a company called Take-Two Interactive. The game is rated Mature, which means it is meant for adults, not for children. But it has made news around the world for another reason: money.

2 The day after the launch, Take-Two said that people spent about US$3.79 billion on the game in its first day. The company calls this the biggest launch in the history of entertainment. That is a huge number, but take it with a pinch of salt: it is the company's own estimate, not a figure checked by someone independent. The company also said that 32.5 million copies were sold before the game came out. Pre-orders opened in June, so the game was selling like hot cakes long before launch day.

3 How does that compare with other things? In 2013, GTA V made about US$800 million on its first day, so the new game made about five times as much. In 2019, the film Avengers: Endgame earned about US$1.2 billion at cinemas around the world in its opening, which was a record at that time.

4 But you should watch out. The company's number is retail sales, which usually means the money customers spent. It is not the money the company keeps, because shops and online stores take a share. A game also costs much more than a cinema ticket, and a film's takings are usually counted over a weekend or longer. So comparing a game with a film is a bit like comparing apples with oranges.

5 Big sales need big spending. Reuters says Take-Two has spent an estimated US$1 billion or more on making the game. That is only an estimate, because the company has not published its budget. If it is right, this is one of the most expensive entertainment projects ever.

6 The first day is only the start. Take-Two's boss said earlier this month that the company was not ready to declare victory. What matters next is whether people keep buying and playing, and whether the game earns back what it cost. Would you pay a lot for a game on the first day?

Sources: Reuters, Take-Two set to shatter sales records as 'GTA VI' launches to massive fanfare; Take-Two Interactive and Rockstar Games, Grand Theft Auto VI Shatters Entertainment Box Office Records with $3.79 Billion in Day One Retail Sales. Picture: Composite image, cover art © Rockstar Games.

4 True, false or not given

Circle **T** (true), **F** (false) or **NG** (the article does not say).

1. The game is meant for adults. T F NG
2. An independent company checked the US$3.79 billion figure. T F NG
3. The text gives the price of the game in shops. T F NG
4. Take-Two has not published a budget for the game. T F NG
5. GTA V made more than GTA VI on its first day. T F NG

5 Vocabulary

Complete the sentences with words from the box. Two words are not needed.

copies **expensive** **profit** **published** **share** **shelf** **victory**

1. The author sold two million _____ of her new book.
2. When four friends buy a pizza, each one pays a _____ of the cost.
3. The team celebrated their _____ with a big party.
4. The company has not _____ how much the game cost to make.
5. A cinema ticket is cheap, but a new game is much more _____ .

6 Verb forms

Write the correct form of the verb in brackets.

1. GTA VI _____ out on 19 November 2026. (COME)
2. In 2013, GTA V _____ about US$800 million on its first day. (MAKE)
3. Pre-orders _____ in June. (OPEN)
4. The company _____ that 32.5 million copies were sold before the game came out. (SAY)
5. Reuters says Take-Two _____ an estimated US$1 billion or more on making the game. (SPEND)

7 Language focus: prepositions

Complete the sentences with words from the box. Two words are not needed. Some small words go with one verb or one noun, such as 'spend money on'. Learn the whole phrase, not just the small word.

at by for in of on with

1. People spent about US$3.79 billion _____ the game.
2. The game came out _____ November 2026.
3. The game is made _____ Rockstar Games.
4. Many fans have waited _____ years for a new GTA.
5. Take-Two is one _____ the biggest companies in games.

SPEAK

8 Talk about it

Discuss in pairs or small groups. Give reasons for your answers.

1. Why must we be careful when a company gives its own sales figure?
2. Would you wait to buy a new game, or buy it on the first day? Why?
3. Is a game worth as much as a film to you?

9 Role-play: buy it now or wait?

Work in pairs. Read your card, then have the conversation. Swap roles and do it again.

Student A · the fan

A big new game comes out today. You want to buy it now, on the first day. Explain why you can't wait and try to persuade your friend to buy it too.

Student B · the careful friend

You think it's better to wait. Ask about the price, the reviews and the other things you could spend the money on. Decide if you will buy it.

Useful phrases

I can't wait any longer, it's out today!

Why don't we read some reviews first?

It's a lot of money for one game.

That's a fair point, but I'd hate to miss out.

What would you do with the money instead?

Let's wait a week and then decide.

Afterwards, tell the class: who was more convincing, and did your friend buy the game on the first day?

ANSWER KEY

2 Key words

1 F · 2 G · 3 C · 4 H · 5 A · 6 D · 7 E · 8 B

4 True, false or not given

1 T · 2 F · 3 NG · 4 T · 5 F

5 Vocabulary

1 copies · 2 share · 3 victory · 4 published · 5 expensive

6 Verb forms

1 came · 2 made · 3 opened · 4 said · 5 has spent

7 Language focus

1 on · 2 in · 3 by · 4 for · 5 of

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