Mario

● Warm-up Questions

1. What do you spend lots of time doing?

_____

2. What games have you played the most?

_____

3. Did you ever need or call a plumber?

_____

4. What kind of games don't you like?

_____

Vocabulary

◆ Write the correct word in the sentences below

rent, warehouse, a strong impression, created, rural, surrounded, desire, villain, treats badly, sewers, facial expressions, released, convince ourselves

1. I have a _____ to go outside without a mask on.

2. When people wear masks, I can't see their _____.

3. Baikinman is an interesting _____.

4. Some people think rats and crocodiles live in _____.

5. The Sony Walkman was _____ in 1979.

Mario

"I want my money now," Mario Segale shouted at Minoru Arakawa, president of Nintendo America. Arakawa was late paying rent for the warehouse Nintendo was using in Seattle. Segale was the owner of the warehouse, and he wanted his rent money.

Segale was a short, Italian man who always worked hard. He made a strong impression on the Nintendo staff, so Nintendo decided to name their new character after Segale.

Mario was created by Shigeru Miyamoto, who joined Nintendo after graduating from the Kanazawa College of Art. Miyamoto was born in the town of Sonobe, Kyoto.

Sonobe was a rural town surrounded by forests. As a child, Miyamoto liked to explore forests and caves, and this desire to explore is a key reason for his success at Nintendo.

Mario first appeared in a video game in 1981. The game was Donkey Kong, and in the game, Mario is called Jumpman. He is the villain in the game, and treats Donkey Kong badly.

After the success of Donkey Kong, Miyamoto decided to develop a new game focusing on Jumpman. In the game, Jumpman would be called Mario, and he would have a brother.

The 1983 arcade game Mario Bros. was the first game to use Mario as the main character.

In the game, Mario and Luigi fight strange creatures in the sewers of New York.

In 1983, graphics in games were not very good. So, Miyamoto gave Mario a red cap to hide his hair. Hair moves when people jump, and Miyamoto wanted Mario to look real.

Mario also has a large nose and mustache. Miyamoto didn't want to draw a mouth or facial expressions. Everything is hidden behind the mustache, so Mario looks more real.

In the 1980s, Nintendo released 12 different games with Mario. Since his 1st appearance in 1983, Nintendo has sold over 600,000,000 Mario games. In 1990, one survey found that Mario was more popular than Mickey Mouse.

Mario has 7 Guinness World Records, and in 2011, he was voted the top video character of all time. But for many people, they don't care about Mario or his games. "Video games are for children," they might say.

Miyamoto would probably agree with this. He once said, "I think that inside every adult is the heart of a child. Gradually, we convince ourselves that we have to act like adults."

Mario will appear at USJ in Super Nintendo World in 2020. One of the rides will be based on Mario Kart. There is a good chance that people old and young will enjoy these rides.

Talking Ideas

1. How are video games good or bad for people?

2. What are some benefits to living in a rural town?

3. Do you agree that "inside every adult is the heart of a child"?

4. Is it okay for parents to let their kids have smartphones?

5. Why do you think Mario is so popular?

6. Did you ever meet someone who made a strong impression on you?

7. Mario games have 7 Guinness records. If you could have 1 world record, what would it be?

8. What is your favorite game, and why do you like it?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

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_____

_____

_____

Grammar Practice

Fix the sentences below. All of them have around 3 mistakes.

1. To play game is fun more than reading books.

_____

2. Mario get very furious when his girlfriend, the Princess Peach, has a trouble.

_____

3. I surprised when I was read that Mario is so popular character in the world.

_____

Verb Practice

Finish the sentences below with the correct verb. Also, some verbs need to be changed to the right form (past tense, present continuous...).

> attack, beat, begin, buy, control, design, destroy, die, figure out, find, finish,
> hunt, jump, play, push, quit, rescue, resume, return, run, save, shoot, solve,
> start, stop, take turns, throw, watch, win

1. I don't like this game, so I will _____ playing it right now.

2. This game is very difficult. I can't _____ it _____. (1 verb)

3. I am the winner. I _____ you...hahahahaha.

4. Oh no. Mario is falling. I think he is going to _____.

5. Yesterday, I _____ a new game. I _____ it tomorrow.

6. Let's _____ playing this game. You go first, and then me.

7. Princess Peach got kidnapped, so Mario must _____ her. Good luck Mario.

8. Mario can _____ very high, but he never _____ a gun at bad guys.

9. Miyamoto _____ many games in his life, for example, Zelda.

10. I _____ to play games when I was young.

Writing Sentences

1. warehouse: _____

2. graduate: _____

3. arcade: _____

4. graphics: _____

5. voted: _____

6. rides: _____