

# THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2102/210217-gaming-furniture.html>

The Swedish furniture maker IKEA has released its new range of products - gaming furniture. Now gamers can buy special desks, chairs, sofas and other items to make them more comfortable when they play computer games or online games. There are more than 30 products in IKEA's gaming line. One of the more unusual things is an accessory that is like a big wooden hand, to hold your headset. There is also a special pillow with pockets where you can put your hands to keep them warm. IKEA said it spent many years on designing the furniture. It got expert help in making sure it created the right products. To do this, it teamed up with the gaming laptop maker Republic of Gamers.

IKEA said making furniture for gamers was a "natural step" for the company. It wanted to attract millions of gamers around the world to its stores and website. The company said it has created, "relevant, functional, beautiful, and affordable products and complete gaming solutions". It added that it wanted to make products that also appealed to female gamers, saying: "The needs of billions of gamers around the globe are very diverse...46% of gamers are women." It said: "Now we take the first step on our gaming journey, and we do it by presenting affordable, high-performing gaming products and complete solutions that we hope reflect people's personalities and taste."

Sources: <https://www.gamespot.com/articles/ikea-announces-huge-lineup-of-gaming-furniture-including-a-big-wooden-hand/1100-6487519/>  
<https://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/gaming/2021/02/12/ikea-bringing-gaming-furniture-line-to-us-in-october/6739155002/>  
<https://www.theverge.com/2021/2/10/22276020/ikea-gaming-lineup-asus-rog-mouse-mat-gaming-hand-accessories-holder-chair-desk>

# WARM-UPS

**1. FURNITURE:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about furniture. Change partners often and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

furniture / products / gaming / desks / comfortable / wooden hand / pillow / laptop / natural / website / beautiful / affordable / female / globe / diverse / journey / solution

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

**3. GAMING:** Students A **strongly** believe gaming is good for us; Students B **strongly** believe it isn't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. GAMING FURNITURE:** What kind of furniture is best for gaming? Why? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	What Is Best?	Why?
Sofas		
Desks		
Chairs		
Tables		
TV stands		
Accessories		

**5. PILLOW:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "pillow". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

**6. GAMES:** Rank these with your partner. Put the best games at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Action games
- Role-playing games
- Strategy games
- Driving games
- Puzzle games
- Art games
- Shooting Games
- Sports games

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

## Paragraph 1

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 1. range     | a. A rectangular cloth bag stuffed with feathers, foam rubber, or other soft materials, you put your head on when sleeping or lying down. |
| 2. product   | b. Got together with others to work together.   |
| 3. line      | c. A set of different things of the same general type.  |
| 4. accessory | d. Something that is made for sale.   |
| 5. pillow    | e. A thing which can be added to something else in order to make it more useful or attractive.  |
| 6. expert    | f. A person who has a lot of knowledge of or skill in a particular area.  |
| 7. teamed up | g. Different things of the same type sold by a shop or company.   |

## Paragraph 2

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 8. step        | h. Very different.   |
| 9. attract     | i. A way of answering a problem or dealing with a difficult situation.     |
| 10. relevant   | j. Reasonably priced.  |
| 11. affordable | k. A stage in a gradual process.   |
| 12. solution   | l. A person's likelihood to like and dislike certain things.               |
| 13. diverse    | m. Cause someone to have a liking for or interest in something or someone. |
| 14. taste      | n. Appropriate to or good for the current time, period, or situation.      |



# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2102/210217-gaming-furniture.html>

## 1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. IKEA will release new gaming furniture next year. **T / F**
- b. The furniture will stop gamers from getting too comfortable in sofas. **T / F**
- c. IKEA made a wooden hand that will hold headsets. **T / F**
- d. IKEA worked with a gaming laptop maker to develop its new furniture. **T / F**
- e. The article says IKEA wants to attract a billion gamers to its stores. **T / F**
- f. IKEA wants to appeal to female gamers. **T / F**
- g. IKEA said 46 per cent of gamers are women. **T / F**
- h. IKEA wants to make furniture to reflect people's taste. **T / F**

## 2. SYNONYM MATCH: (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                       |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. <b>maker</b>       | a. inexpensive  |
| 2. <b>items</b>       | b. exact        |
| 3. <b>unusual</b>     | c. act          |
| 4. <b>right</b>       | d. things       |
| 5. <b>teamed up</b>   | e. show         |
| 6. <b>step</b>        | f. manufacturer |
| 7. <b>affordable</b>  | g. total        |
| 8. <b>appealed to</b> | h. uncommon     |
| 9. <b>complete</b>    | i. attracted    |
| 10. <b>reflect</b>    | j. collaborated |

## 3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- |                                    |                       |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. IKEA has released its new range | a. to female gamers   |
| 2. chairs, sofas and               | b. and taste          |
| 3. One of the more                 | c. help               |
| 4. It got expert                   | d. products           |
| 5. it teamed up with the gaming    | e. of products        |
| 6. It wanted to attract millions   | f. unusual things     |
| 7. products that also appealed     | g. our gaming journey |
| 8. Now we take the first step on   | h. laptop maker       |
| 9. high-performing gaming          | i. of gamers          |
| 10. reflect people's personalities | j. other items        |

# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2102/210217-gaming-furniture.html>

1. What does IKEA want gamers to feel when they use the gaming sofas?
2. How many products are in IKEA's gaming line?
3. What accessory did IKEA make that can hold a headset?
4. What does a special pillow allow you to do to your hands?
5. What is the Republic of Gamers?
6. How many gamers does IKEA want to attract to its stores?
7. What kind of gamers does IKEA want to appeal to?
8. What percentage of gamers are women?
9. What is IKEA taking a first step on?
10. What does IKEA hope its products will reflect?

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2102/210217-gaming-furniture.html>

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'gaming' and 'furniture'.

gaming	furniture

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS:** Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**3. GAP FILL:** In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

**4. VOCABULARY:** Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

**5. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• range</li><li>• comfortable</li><li>• 30</li><li>• wooden</li><li>• warm</li><li>• teamed</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• natural</li><li>• attract</li><li>• added</li><li>• needs</li><li>• journey</li><li>• taste</li></ul>
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# FURNITURE DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'furniture'?
3. What do you think of furniture?
4. What do you think of gaming furniture?
5. What is your favourite item of furniture?
6. How important is it to have special furniture for gaming?
7. What item of furniture would you really like to buy?
8. What do you think of the hand-warming pillow?
9. What do you know about IKEA?
10. What kind of desk do you use?

*IKEA starts selling furniture for gamers – 17th February, 2021*  
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# FURNITURE DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'gaming'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What do you think of gaming?
15. What are your favourite games?
16. Why might female gamers need different furniture?
17. What furniture reflects your personality?
18. How would you describe your taste in furniture?
19. How might IKEA's furniture affect gaming ability?
20. What questions would you like to ask the IKEA designers?