

# C1+: A Video Game Review

## Overcooked: Cooperative Cooking Chaos

A bead of sweat rolls down your forehead as you frantically rush from chopping board to frying pan. "Two cheeseburgers with everything, then a pepperoni pizza, then two sushi rolls." You hear your colleague, a raccoon in a wheelchair, shout. "Ok, we've got this" you shout back. Then, out of the blue, the kitchen splits in two, and a giant rat steals your tomato! Don't worry, you're not having a nightmare. It's the new, chaos-filled cooking extravaganza that is Overcooked! If you're a fan of fast-paced teamwork, hilarious mishaps, and delicious meals, this is the game for you.



In Overcooked, you and your pals take on the role of chefs working frantically to prepare and serve up tasty dishes. But it's not as simple as just tossing some ingredients together and throwing them on a plate. Oh no, no, no. You'll be tasked with all kinds of crazy challenges, from cooking on a pirate ship to dodging traffic on a busy street.

Now, here's the real kicker: you have to work together to get it done. That's right, it's a co-op game, which means you'll need to communicate, delegate tasks, and keep an eye on the clock if you want to succeed. But never fear, even if you burn the soup or accidentally set the kitchen on fire, it's all in good fun.

The mechanics of the game are simple enough for anyone to pick up, but the challenges quickly become more and more demanding. You'll need to chop, fry, boil, and plate dishes as fast as you can while avoiding obstacles. It's easier said than done, but trust me, when you finally manage to serve up that perfectly cooked sushi roll, the sense of satisfaction is unbeatable.

Overall, I'd say Overcooked is an absolute blast to play with friends. It's the kind of game that will have you shouting and laughing and high-fiving each other (or apologising profusely for dropping the pizza on the floor). I'd recommend it to anyone who loves a good party game or just wants to bond with their buddies over some virtual cooking chaos. So fire up the grill and get ready to serve up some culinary mayhem!

*Read the text and answer the questions:*

1. What type of game is it?
2. What cooperative elements does it have?
3. Why is it fun?
4. Who does the writer recommend the game to?

### **Text Analysis**

1. What do you notice about the title?
  - a. What literary device has the writer used?
2. What's the purpose of the first paragraph?
  - a. Why does the writer use the 2nd person?
3. Who do you think the target reader is?
4. What's the purpose of the underlined phrases?
  - a. Can you find more examples?

### **Language Analysis**

Find examples of:

- Phrasal verbs
- Impressive expressions
- Descriptive language
- Specific vocabulary related to the topic

### **Adverb + Adjective Collocations:**

*Match the adverbs (1-7) with the adjectives (a-g)*

- |                   |                        |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| 1. fiendishly     | a. impossible          |
| 2. utterly        | b. inept/inadequate    |
| 3. woefully       | c. positive            |
| 4. wildly         | d. competitive         |
| 5. highly         | e. difficult/addictive |
| 6. overwhelmingly | f. brilliant           |
| 7. virtually      | g. successful          |

Complete the sentences with collocations from the previous exercise.

1. In our first game we were ....., we got our asses handed to us, but we soon improved.
2. The latest game in the ....., best selling franchise.
3. Reviews for the game have been ....., with many giving it a perfect 10.
4. My brother and I found it ....., we just couldn't put the controllers down.
5. Be careful, the open online games are ..... and not for the faint-hearted.
6. Overall, the game is ..... from start to finish and I couldn't recommend it more highly.
7. The final level is full of ..... puzzles that will have you tearing your hair out.
8. To begin with, defeating the boss seemed ....., but once you spot the pattern, it gets easier.

## Memory Test

Can you remember the missing words?

Overcooked: C..... C..... C.....

A b..... of sweat rolls d..... your forehead as you f..... rush from chopping board to frying pan. "Two cheeseburgers with everything, then a pepperoni pizza, then two sushi rolls." You hear your colleague, a raccoon in a wheelchair, shout. "Ok, we've got this" you shout back. Then, out of the b....., the kitchen splits in two, and a giant rat steals your tomato! Don't w....., you're not having a nightmare, it's the new, chaos-filled cooking e..... that is Overcooked! If you're a f..... of fast-paced teamwork, hilarious mishaps, and delicious meals, t..... is the game for you.

In Overcooked, you and your p..... take o..... the role of chefs working frantically to prepare and s..... up tasty dishes. But it's not as simple as just tossing some ingredients together and throwing them on a plate. Oh no, no, no. You'll be tasked w..... all kinds of crazy challenges, from cooking on a pirate ship to dodging traffic on a busy street.

Now, here's the real k.....: you have to work together to get it done. That's r....., it's a co-op game, which means you'll need to communicate, d..... tasks, and k..... an e..... on the clock if you want to succeed. But n..... f....., even if you burn the soup or accidentally s..... the kitchen on fire, it's all in good fun.

The mechanics of the game are simple enough for anyone to p..... up, but the challenges quickly become more and more demanding. You'll need to c....., f....., b.....l, and plate dishes as fast as you can while avoiding obstacles. It's e..... said than d....., but t..... me, when you finally manage to serve up that perfectly cooked sushi roll, the sense of satisfaction is u.....

O....., I'd say Overcooked is an absolute b..... to play with friends. It's the kind of game that will have you shouting and laughing and h.....-f..... each other (or a..... profusely for dropping the pizza on the floor). I'd recommend it to a..... who loves a good party game or just wants to b..... with their b..... over some virtual cooking chaos. So fire up the g..... and get ready to serve up some culinary m.....!

## The Task

A prominent politician has recently stated that videogames are antisocial. In response, your university's student newspaper has put out a call for reviews of video games that have a social or cooperative element. You should briefly describe the game, explain the game's cooperative mechanics and why it's fun and recommend the game to a specific audience.

Task Prep:

- Choose a game
- How will you use "in media res" for your hook?
  - What part of the game do you want to drop your reader into?
- Brainstorm specific vocabulary related to the game:
  - FIFA: football vocab
  - COD: weapon/war vocab
  - etc.
- How many relevant phrasal verbs and expressions can you think of?