

7th September 2022

The software company Microsoft has announced plans to buy all of Activision Blizzard, a company who own many of the most popular video games like *Candy Crush* and *Call of Duty*. The Xbox **brand** will pay almost \$70 billion for the publisher. Xbox Game Studios' head Phil Spencer **commented**, "the biggest gaming platform on the planet is mobile phones". This is an area in which Microsoft don't have enough experience and want to make an **entry**. But there is some worry that with the new addition Microsoft could **refuse** access to these popular titles on other devices, like Sony PlayStation. Another complaint was that by owning so many cloud gaming services, Microsoft could financially hurt its competitors. Some authorities believe that this might do a lot of damage to the gaming industry. They are **exploring** if there are any steps Microsoft would be **permitted** to take. However, the **firm** grabbed *Minecraft* in 2014 for much less, \$2.5 billion, and didn't limit it only to Xbox. The point was repeated later in a blog post by Spencer, "We want people to have more access to games, not less". Some video games press said that the deal can be **trusted**, if Activision games are on both systems as Microsoft have **promised**.

Q1. \_\_\_\_\_

Name five things that can be associated with the number billions.

Draw a mind map, with either *hardware* or *software* as the centre word, and around it all the things to do with that word.

Q2. \_\_\_\_\_

Which bolded words in the text mean:

1. stop .....
2. business .....
3. agreed .....
4. considering .....
5. said .....
6. bought .....
7. company .....
8. believed in .....
9. start .....
10. allowed .....

Q3. \_\_\_\_\_

"the *point* was repeated later in a blog post"

What does the italicised word above mean:  
*direction - arrow - matter?*

Q4. \_\_\_\_\_

Comprehension questions:

1. What will Microsoft own after buying Activision Blizzard?
2. How did Phil Spencer describe mobile gaming?
3. Why is the deal worrying for the gaming industry?
4. What are the authorities exploring?
5. Do the video games press support Microsoft or Sony?

Q5. \_\_\_\_\_

Link the five synonym pairs:

- |             |          |
|-------------|----------|
| 1. addition | A. look  |
| 2. planet   | B. extra |
| 3. explore  | C. take  |
| 4. entry    | D. start |
| 5. grab     | E. world |

Q6. \_\_\_\_\_

Spell the words correctly:

1. a w o r t s e f .....
2. h l b r s e u i p .....
3. d o i t i d n a .....
4. s t r u i t o i a h e .....
5. m i t l i .....

Q7. \_\_\_\_\_

Discussion questions / Writing practice:

What does the computing term *platform* mean, and what platforms do you know?

Is *Minecraft* still popular? What would you recommend playing instead?

If you had the money, what company would you buy and how would you improve it?

Q8. \_\_\_\_\_

10 B1 lesson keywords: underlined in text.