

## Gaming behaviours and spending money

### Max's story

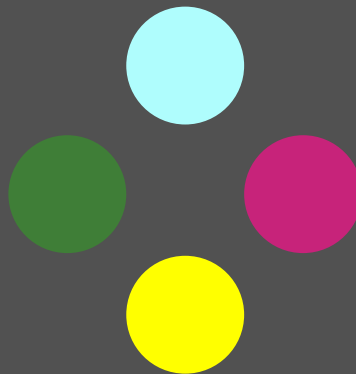


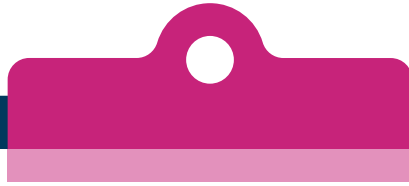
Max is 10. His favourite things are playing football and video games. He would love to be a professional video gamer when he grows up. Max likes teaming up with his friends and playing last-man-standing or survival games. He concentrates carefully on the games and all his friends say he is the best gamer - he likes showing them his skills. Sometimes Max's dad lets him buy loot boxes so he can get more skins and improve his play.

One day, Max was playing his favourite game when a pop-up on his screen said that if he bought more loot boxes there was a chance of winning rare skins. But when Max asked his dad, dad said no. Dad explained they had paid for some loot boxes last week, and if Max really wanted some new football boots too, they'd need to save some money for those instead. He was spending more and more time gaming and hadn't been going out to play football much anyway. He really wanted to be the best at gaming. Max's friend won some rare skins last week and Max really wanted them too.

Another day, Max and his friends were at a crucial point in the game, but to continue they had to pay. Max was finding it difficult to stop the game when exciting things were happening, and he didn't want to let his teammates down. "Don't stop now!" his friends said. Without asking his dad, he decided to click the 'continue play' button.

A few weeks later, it was Max's birthday. His family gave him some money to spend on something special. Straight away, he spent all his birthday money on loot boxes, but he didn't get the skins he wanted. Now, he didn't have any money left for gaming, or for the new football kit he also really wanted.





## Activity 1: How does Max feel?

What feelings did Max have at different parts of the story? Match the feelings words to the story sections. Add any other feelings words you think match the story.

### Max's story

### Feelings words to match the story

1. How did Max feel playing video games with his friends, and when Dad let him buy some loot boxes?  
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2. How did Max feel when he saw the pop-up advert for more loot boxes, but his dad said he couldn't have them?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. How did Max feel when he decided to continue to pay and play the game, but without asking Dad first?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. How did Max feel when he spent all his birthday money, but didn't get the skins or football kit he wanted?  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Feelings word bank

annoyed   anxious   ashamed   confident   confused   determined  
disappointed   envious   excited   enthusiastic   frustrated   guilty   happy  
proud   relaxed   satisfied   surprised   worried   upset



## Activity 3: Healthier habits

Choose three top tips to help gaming stay fun and enjoyable for Max, whilst minding the risks, write a tick or draw a smiley face next to your top three tips.

<b>Taking pressure off himself for needing to be 'the best gamer'</b>		<b>Asking Dad's permission before paying to play or buying loot boxes</b>	
<b>Talking to his friends if he is not sure what to do next and why</b>		<b>Spending some money on gaming but saving some for other things too</b>	
<b>Not chasing rewards that may be impossible to win</b>		<b>Setting time-limits for gaming</b>	
<b>Not giving in to peer pressure to spend more money or keep gaming</b>		<b>Playing games that don't need money</b>	
<b>Talking to his dad if he starts to feel angry, frustrated or is not sure what to do next</b>		<b>Creating a budget to help him keep gaming within controlled spending</b>	
<b>Making time for other hobbies too, such as playing football outside</b>		<b>Something else?</b>	