



In Control

What is braille?

- Braille is a special code made from six raised dots on a grid. Different combinations create different letters.
- The dots are raised so blind people can read them by feeling the pattern.

Photo: A variety of video game controllers.

Braille Controller To Help Gamers

A new braille game controller could be on its way to help **visually impaired** or blind gamers.

Gaming is something that many people enjoy — some people even think gaming should be an Olympic sport!

Unfortunately, not all games are always **inclusive**. Some need lots of quick hand movements. This can be difficult for people with less **mobility**.

Other games use a lot of text which can make it hard for blind or visually impaired gamers to play.

A new controller is looking to solve this problem. It would use braille to share information in the game.

Microsoft has submitted a **patent** for this controller. There aren't any plans to produce it at the moment but the patent means that it could make its way to the shops soon.

Other companies have also made controllers to help everyone play games. One controller allows gamers to use their feet to control the game instead of their hands.

Way back in 1989, Nintendo made a

controller which allowed people who couldn't move easily to control the game using their breath.

Toys have also used braille to allow everyone to play. Special braille building blocks have been designed so people can build sentences using braille and have fun.

All these new creations should help everyone enjoy these video games and toys!

Glossary

visually impaired	Partly unable to see.
inclusive	Not excluding any people or section of society.
mobility	The ability to move easily and freely.
patent	A government authority stopping anyone else from making or selling something.

Questions

1. Who is the braille controller designed to help?

- ☐ People with less mobility
- ☐ Teenagers
- ☐ Blind or visually impaired people
- ☐ Adult gamers

2. Find a phrase the author uses to show that 1989 was a long time ago.

3. All these new creations should help everyone enjoy these video games and toys!

Tick the word which is closest in meaning to 'creations' in this sentence.

- ☐ paintings
- ☐ inventions
- ☐ objects
- ☐ letters

4. How do you think visually impaired gamers will feel about this news?

5. Summarise the news story in 15 words or fewer.

6. Do you think other companies will start selling controllers to help blind and visually impaired people play games? Explain your answer.

Answers

1. Who is the braille controller designed to help?

- ☐ People with less mobility
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Way back in 1989

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Tick the word which is closest in meaning to 'creations' in this sentence.

- ☐ paintings
- ☒ inventions
- ☐ objects
- ☐ letters

4. How do you think visually impaired gamers will feel about this news?

Accept any reasonable answer based on the news story, e.g. I think visually impaired gamers will be pleased because it will make it easier for them to play games.

5. Summarise the news story in 15 words or fewer.

Accept any reasonable summary which is 15 words or fewer, e.g. A new braille controller will help blind or visually impaired people play video games.

6. Do you think other companies will start selling controllers to help blind and visually impaired people play games? Explain your answer.

Accept any reasonable answer based on the news story, e.g. I think other companies will also start selling controllers to help blind and visually impaired people play games because it will help everyone enjoy video games.