

## Beating the boredom

After a harsh day in school or work everybody likes to chill out. Reading books, watching TV or playing a game. The last one had become a phenomenon in recent years. However, spending countless hours in front of computer screen, people tend to forget, there is another way of gaming: tabletop games.

Of course, computer games have their advantages. All you need is to turn your PC or console on, choose a game you want to play and start it. It is as simple as that. Moreover, you do not have to bother with other people if you don't want to. There are many singleplayer games focusing on the story thus making the player feel to be part of the world. Enchanted with beautiful graphics these games make very immersive experience. Their only disadvantage is that they often lack replayability. For this reason, some people prefer competitive multiplayer games such as League of Legends or World of Warcraft. Games like that are practically endless. Despite having repetitive content, they are still fun, because you play with or against real people and the flow is never the same. Furthermore, playing with friends in comfort of your own room is the real cause making massively multiplayer online games this popular.

On the other hand, computers and consoles slowly pushed out traditional tabletops games and made them underappreciated or even almost forgotten. But the main reason tabletop games are this underrated is that people actually don't know them. Nevertheless, tabletop games aren't just the old excavations we know from our childhood like ludo, chess or criss-cross. Just like video games, board games undertook great development, so they both look awesome and still provide quality entertainment. There are beautifully drawn cards of monsters you can summon and precisely made miniatures representing characters or whole armies. This is one of the reason, some people prefer tabletop games to the virtual ones.

However, it is the social aspect, on which board games stand or fall. When you want to play, you always need at least one friend to play with you, but many games require up to four players, which might be troublesome. On the other hand, when you manage to get enough mates, you will have a good time without fail. Bluffing, calculating and scheming are the mechanics you will enjoy more when in person. Cooperating between team members without attracting attention is then more challenging than in video games, where you can simply send a personal message. And because the whole group is sitting around one table, something good to drink or eat always comes in handy. Instead of playing on Wii console, a suitable board game is the right form of entertainment for your party.

So what tabletop games should you play? Well, it may be difficult to choose, because the offer is wide and the games vary in both content and playstyle. Very popular are for example collectible card games such as Magic: the Gathering. For some people this is not than just a game but a lifestyle, since every year a new pack, they can customize their deck with, comes out. The main purpose is to have such cards to be able to beat the enemy one. The game itself is then actually only half of the process, where you will find out, how strong your deck is. Another interesting choice is Arkham Horror, where you cooperate with other players, rather than compete with them, and try to beat the game itself before the main boss wakes up. Or you can learn the famous Dungeons and Dragons, where victory doesn't matter, rules are just an advice, and even the weakest player can enjoy roleplaying his character. Using ordinary pencil and a set of dice you can follow the narrator

a.k. Dungeon Master on a glorious quest limited only by your fantasy. Last but not least, you can try something simpler such as Jungle Speed, where your reaction is the only thing that counts, or Dixit, which requires just a bit of imagination and a good guess. Games like that are very simple, hence they are more suitable for casual players.

All in all, both alternatives have their pros and cons. It's not surprising that video games are more popular, since they are also more convenient. However, tabletop games have their loyal supporters, whose ranks would definitely grow if people were more aware of the possibilities that board gaming offers. Just give it a try.