



## Playthroughs-Fan Culture

Tobuscus (Toby Turner), is an American Internet personality, actor, comedian and musician. Tobuscus is best known for his YouTube videos, as well as a number of television and film roles.

Following success with comedy vlogs, in 2009 Tobuscus registered a new YouTube channel under the name “TobyGames”, designating it for a new series of comedic Let’s Play videos. Since its inception, the channel has featured playthrough videos of numerous games.

As of July 26, 2016, Turner has a total of over 15.3 million subscribers and over 3.6 billion video views over his three YouTube channels.

The type of walkthrough that Tobuscus broadcasts is called ‘Let’s Play’. Read the article below and identify the key features of this fan phenomena.

<http://www.avclub.com/article/best-lets-play-videos-offer-more-vicarious-playthr-218477>

Using the ideas expressed in the article and your own thoughts to define what the *audience pleasures* offered by ‘Let’s Play’ videos are.

The profile of YouTube playthroughs so significant that their support of certain games has boosted sales. Furthermore, game developers often offer beta versions of games to ‘Let’s Play’ YouTubers in order to build anticipation.



'Off the cuff running commentary, that's characterised by goofy jokes, profanity and loud outbursts' – The Wall Street Cheat Sheet

'[Youtuber gamers] acts like they are spending time with a friend' – Variety

What do the above quotes suggest about the appeal of YouTubers who broadcast playthroughs?

## Pleasures offered by Let's Play

- Participants can 'show off' their skills and expertise.
- Much in the same way that people who join book clubs share ideas, audiences can enjoy another player's subjective experience of a game.
- Vloggers often play the game with self-imposed limitations (completing the game without 'killing anyone', or within a certain time), which gives a sense of novelty.
- The interactive nature of YouTube allows for user comments and unmediated contact with other posters, fostering a sense of community.

## Glossary

**Walkthrough** - a visual or recorded demonstration that takes the audience through the entire narrative of a video-game.

**Let's Play** - (commonly referred to as an LP) is a series of videos or screenshots, documenting a playthrough of a video game, usually including commentary by the gamer.

**Vlog** - a video blog.

**Beta Version** - a version of a piece of software that is made available for testing before its general release.