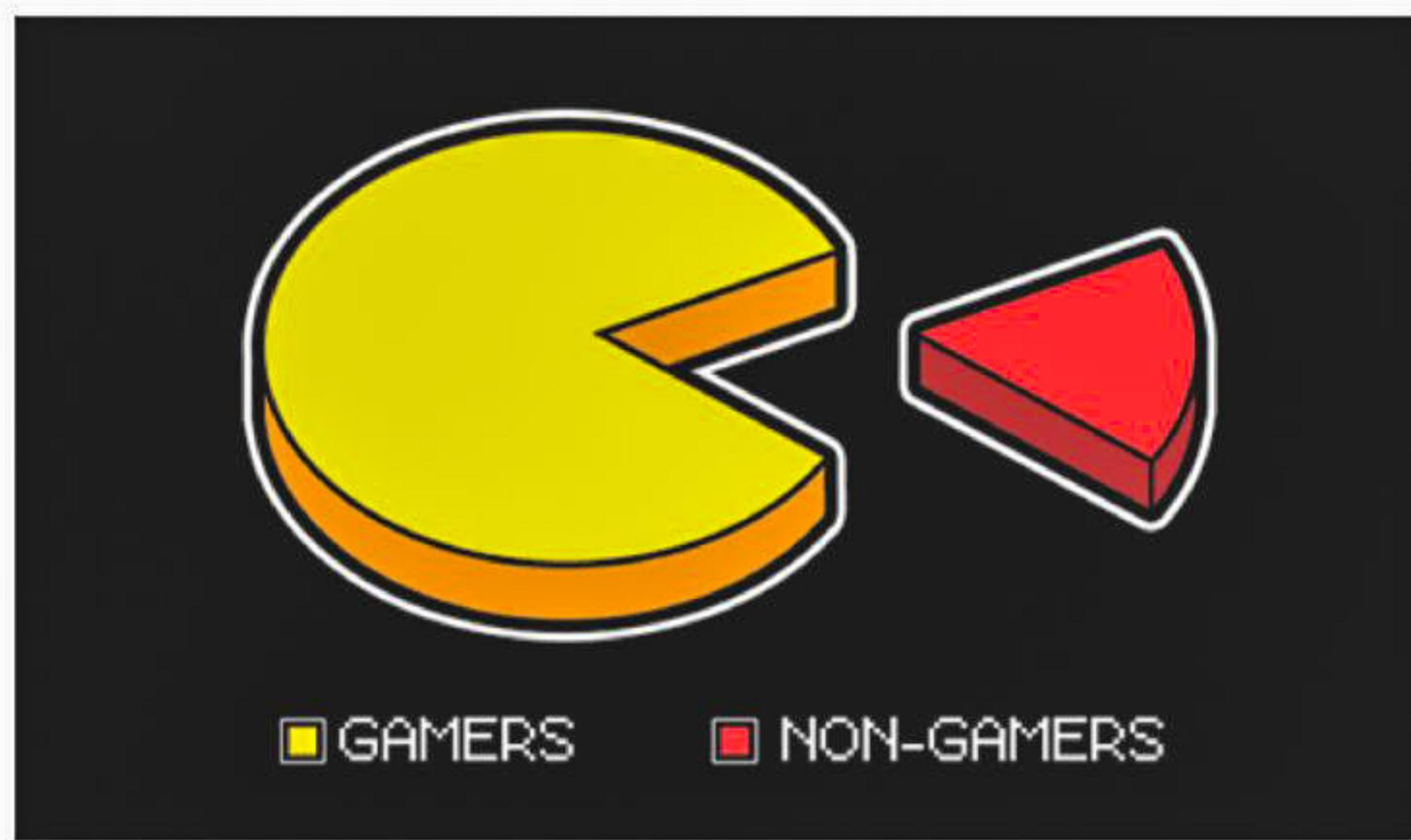


## STRUGGLES OF A MALE NON-GAMER



MUSHFIQUR RAHMAN SHANTO

Video games are an integral part of the life of an average urban young male. Starting from trips to the local games store to purchase CDs of classic games such as Need For Speed, Call of Duty, Grand Theft Auto, FIFA etc; some people have gone on to become hardcore gamers while others prefer to play casually during their free time. I am someone who was never really into video games. And if you're like me, you may have noticed some instances of difficulty in "fitting in". Let's go over some of the struggles we have to go through as non-gamers.

### 1. You're a houseplant during intensive video game discussions

Usually, I'm a very social person and can contribute to almost any topic if I want to. Sadly, video games are a popular topic among my guy friends and all I can do is go silent after making a joke about playing Minesweeper and Solitaire. Since video game discussions are a common thing, especially among guys, you cannot help but feel like you're missing out.

### 2. You're terrible at FIFA

FIFA and chill is probably the favorite activity of any bro squad. While most guys develop a certain ego around their FIFA skills leading to intense competitions, I usually just sit there and hope to not suck as bad as last time. Luckily, I can always blame the controller and claim that the 6-0 loss should have been a 4-1, if I had fully functional hardware.

### 3. You can't be excited about gaming competitions

Fests and competitions organised by various school-based clubs have become a popular thing. A lot of these events include a video game tournament to attract more people. And it works. Unfortunately, this isn't something we can get excited about, and thus the feeling of missing out kicks in once again.

### 4. Your gamer friends have a much more technologically advanced PC

Gamers are constantly upgrading their PC with expensive additions, so that they can continue to play games that require a higher configuration. So performance wise, they end up with a PC that is an absolute beast. Something which makes my lowly laptop look like a flip-phone next to an iPhone.

### 5. You can't relate to SHOUT's Overclock section

Being a writer of SHOUT, I naturally am a regular reader and like to read the work of my colleagues. I'm pretty flexible in terms of genre, so I enjoy reading almost all of them, from Humour, to coverages of various events, to Fable Factory. But Overclock, a dedicated section to gaming is like a book on organic chemistry to me. A section shrouded in mystery, a cluster of amazing content written in code language that cannot be cracked by non-gamers.

Most concerned adults treat gaming as an unhealthy and unproductive activity. As I was never really into gaming, I do agree that it has allowed me more time to focus on doing other socially appraised things. But as you can see, there are definitely cons to being a non-gamer too. At the end of the day, it's your choice and doing things that you enjoy doing is all that matters.

Mushfiqur Rahman Shanto is an undercover wizard who spends his days quietly observing muggles. Send him new magic spells at [mushfiqshanto1234@gmail.com](mailto:mushfiqshanto1234@gmail.com)

# What your favourite shoe says about you

SAMIN SABAH ISLAM

They say you shouldn't judge a person unless you've walked a mile in their shoes. Well I'm feeling a little rebellious and I'm about to judge you just by the type of shoe you wear.

\*pushes in glasses and sips tea\*

### CHAPPAL

You're the type of person who has three tee shirts in the same colour yet wears the same one throughout the week. Your mother is always pestering you about cutting that *Meyedermotolombachul* of yours and your dad only shakes his head in disapproval when he sees your humongous headphones. People may think you like wearing these ugly, leathery, two strapped foot wear, but honestly, this is just the only thing they make in your size.

### CONVERSE

This is most likely the only pair of your shoes that you've ever worn which makes it your favourite by default. You're the type of person who's still into knock knock jokes. Other than that, you're just another tomato cube in life's enormous salad bowl.

Unless you wear neon orange converse. If you do, then you're a freak, and I respect that.

### FLATS

If you're someone who always turns to flats, chances are you an extremely hard worker, who's always on her feet. You're humble and down to earth, and that's how you like your shoes.

Well it's either that or you're 5 feet

8 and your boyfriend won't let you wear the shortest heels, because even though he doesn't admit it, he's an easy two inches shorter.

### KNEE-HIGH BOOTS

Perhaps you're a decent bathroom singer and you've somehow grown the impression that you're Beyoncé and you can rock these boots. You say these are your favourite pair of shoes but you've only ever wore them once, in the store when you bought them. All the impact these "favourite shoes" of yours has brought onto your life is the 302 likes you got by posting an aesthetic picture of it on Instagram and the fact that anytime a celebrity appears with boots on TV you go like "Yeah, I've got those too".

### PUMPS

If you're into pumps, chances are you're a total girl boss. You're fierce, competitive and a leader. Your dominant and powerful aura makes people stutter in fear when you're around. Or maybe, it's just because they're just afraid what may be the fate of their toes if you were to "accidentally" step on them.

### WEDGES

You aren't exactly vertically blessed and heels are a menace. You are eternally grateful to the shoe industry for this beautiful invention. Now you get to be tall, and comfortable.

*Samin Sabah Islam believes, there are very few problems in life, if any, that a good nap can't fix. If she isn't asleep, your queries may be answered at [sabahsamin11@gmail.com](mailto:sabahsamin11@gmail.com)*

