

Fallout New Vegas Character Creation Guide



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Fallout New Vegas is not just another entry in the acclaimed Fallout series; it's a rich, immersive experience that allows players to shape their journey through the post-apocalyptic Mojave Wasteland. Character creation is a pivotal element of this game, affecting how you interact with the world, the quests you can undertake, and the outcomes of your story. This guide will walk you through the character creation process, providing insights on Attributes, Skills, Perks, and the overarching choices that define your character in your adventure through New Vegas.

Understanding the Basics of Character Creation

Character creation in Fallout New Vegas begins with the Vault-Tec Assisted Targeting System (VATS) tutorial and culminates in a series of choices that will shape your gameplay. The character you create will reflect your playstyle, whether you prefer diplomacy, stealth, brute force, or a combination of approaches.

1. The Role of S.P.E.C.I.A.L.

The S.P.E.C.I.A.L. system is one of the core components of character creation in Fallout New Vegas. It consists of seven attributes that define your character's abilities:

- Strength (S): Determines melee damage, carrying capacity, and the ability to use heavy weaponry.
- Perception (P): Influences accuracy in combat, as well as the ability to detect enemies and find items.
- Endurance (E): Affects health points, resistance to damage, and the ability to withstand environmental hazards.
- Charisma (C): Impacts dialogue options, barter, and the effectiveness of companions.
- Intelligence (I): Increases skill points gained per level and affects the effectiveness of certain skills.

- Agility (A): Determines action points in VATS and affects your overall ability to dodge attacks.
- Luck (L): Influences critical hit chance, loot quality, and random events.

When creating your character, you have 40 points to distribute among these attributes, with a maximum of 10 in any single category. It's crucial to consider your desired playstyle when allocating these points.

2. Choosing Your Skills

Skills in Fallout New Vegas are categorized into several groups, each of which is affected by your S.P.E.C.I.A.L. attributes. There are 13 skills to choose from, and they are:

- Barter
- Energy Weapons
- Explosives
- Guns
- Lockpick
- Medicine
- Melee Weapons
- Repair
- Science
- Sneak
- Speech
- Survival
- Unarmed

At the start of the game, you can allocate 15 skill points across these skills. Consider your character concept and playstyle when selecting skills; for example, a stealthy sniper would benefit from high skill in Guns and Sneak, while a charismatic character might prioritize Speech and Barter.

3. Selecting Perks

Perks are special abilities that provide various benefits, and you can choose one perk every two levels. The right perks can significantly enhance your character's capabilities. Some popular perks include:

1. Educated: Gain additional skill points per level.
2. Intense Training: Increase one of your S.P.E.C.I.A.L. attributes.
3. Sniper: Improve your accuracy with rifles in VATS.
4. Silent Running: Move more quietly while sneaking.
5. Scrounger: Find more ammunition when looting.

When choosing perks, think strategically about how they complement your skills and overall character build.

Creating Your Character's Background

In addition to gameplay mechanics, Fallout New Vegas places a strong emphasis on narrative. You can flesh out your character's backstory, which can enhance your immersion in the game. Here are some elements to consider:

1. Character Motivation

What drives your character? Possible motivations include:

- Revenge: Seeking vengeance against a specific faction or individual.
- Survival: Focusing on resource gathering and self-preservation.
- Redemption: Trying to make amends for past mistakes.
- Exploration: Driven by the desire to discover the secrets of the Mojave Wasteland.

2. Faction Alignment

Fallout New Vegas features several factions, each with its own ideologies and goals. Your character's alignment can shape your interactions and influence the game's ending. Major factions include:

- New California Republic (NCR): A democratic republic aiming to restore order.
- Caesar's Legion: A brutal autocracy led by Caesar, seeking to conquer the wasteland.
- Mr. House: The enigmatic figure who rules New Vegas, with his own mysterious agenda.
- Independent: Choosing to forge your own path, free from faction influence.

Deciding where your character stands can open or close various story arcs, so think carefully about your choices.

3. Appearance Customization

While gameplay mechanics are essential, character appearance is another aspect that allows for personal expression. Fallout New Vegas offers a variety of options for customizing your character's look:

- Face: Adjust facial features, including nose shape, eye size, and more.
- Hair: Choose from a variety of hairstyles and colors.
- Body Type: Set your character's height and build, which can subtly influence how NPCs perceive you.

Remember, while appearance is purely cosmetic, it can add to your role-playing experience.

Gameplay Tips for Your Character

Once your character is created, the real fun begins. Here are some tips to help you enjoy your journey through the Mojave Wasteland:

1. Experiment with Different Playstyles

Fallout New Vegas encourages experimentation. Don't be afraid to try different approaches to quests and challenges. If you initially built a stealth character, try engaging in direct combat or use speech options to see how it affects interactions.

2. Manage Your Resources

Resource management is key in the wasteland. Keep an eye on your ammunition, health items, and supplies. Skills like Survival can help you craft items and improve your resource management.

3. Form Companions Wisely

Companions can provide invaluable support. Each has unique skills and abilities, so choose companions that complement your playstyle. For example, if you're a combat-focused character, consider a companion skilled in healing or ranged combat.

4. Explore Thoroughly

The Mojave Wasteland is filled with hidden treasures, quests, and lore. Take your time exploring different areas, and don't shy away from side quests. They often provide valuable rewards and insights into the game's rich narrative.

Final Thoughts

Character creation in Fallout New Vegas is a complex, rewarding process that sets the stage for your entire gaming experience. By carefully considering your S.P.E.C.I.A.L. attributes, skills, perks, background, and appearance, you can create a character that truly reflects your playstyle and narrative choices. Embrace the diverse opportunities the game offers, and remember that every decision can lead to unexpected outcomes. Your journey through New Vegas awaits!

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the key attributes to focus on during character creation in Fallout: New Vegas?

The key attributes to focus on are Strength, Perception, Endurance, Charisma, Intelligence, Agility, and Luck. Players should consider their preferred playstyle—combat, stealth, or dialogue—and allocate points accordingly.

How does the 'S.P.E.C.I.A.L.' system work in Fallout: New Vegas?

The 'S.P.E.C.I.A.L.' system stands for Strength, Perception, Endurance, Charisma, Intelligence, Agility, and Luck. Each attribute affects different gameplay aspects, such as combat effectiveness, skill points, and dialogue options.

What skills should I prioritize for a combat-focused character?

For a combat-focused character, prioritize skills like Guns, Melee Weapons, and Unarmed. Additionally, investing in Explosives can be beneficial for dealing with groups of enemies.

How can I create a character that excels in dialogue and persuasion?

To excel in dialogue, invest heavily in Charisma and Intelligence. Skills like Speech and Barter are crucial for a persuasive character, allowing you to negotiate better deals and win conversations.

What are some recommended traits for a stealthy character build?

Recommended traits for a stealthy character include 'Sneaky' and 'Good Natured'. These traits enhance your stealth abilities and improve skills like Sneak, Lockpick, and Repair.

Can I change my character's attributes later in the game?

While you cannot change your base attributes after character creation, you can increase skills and perks throughout the game. Certain items and special events may also allow temporary boosts.

What is the importance of choosing the right perks during character creation?

Choosing the right perks is crucial as they provide significant bonuses that complement your character's build. Perks can enhance skills, improve combat abilities, or offer unique advantages, shaping your gameplay experience.

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