

# War Thunder Beginners Guide



**War Thunder** is a free-to-play vehicular combat multiplayer video game developed by Gaijin Entertainment. Set in the mid-20th century, War Thunder allows players to take control of a wide variety of military vehicles, including aircraft, tanks, and ships, across various battlefields. With its intricate mechanics and vast array of vehicles, newcomers may find themselves overwhelmed. This guide aims to provide a comprehensive overview for beginners to help them get started in War Thunder.

## Understanding the Basics

Before diving into the game, it's essential to understand the fundamental aspects of War Thunder.

### Game Modes

War Thunder offers several game modes, each catering to different play styles:

- 1. Arcade Battles:** These are fast-paced matches where players can respawn and enjoy a more casual gaming experience. Ideal for beginners, arcade mode simplifies many mechanics.
- 2. Realistic Battles:** This mode provides a more authentic experience, focusing on historical accuracy and realism. Players have to manage fuel, ammunition, and damage realistically.
- 3. Simulator Battles:** The most challenging mode, where players must fly or drive without any HUD elements. This mode requires advanced skills and a deep understanding of the game mechanics.

## Vehicle Types

War Thunder features three main types of vehicles:

- Aircraft: Players can pilot various aircraft types, including fighters, bombers, and ground attack planes.
- Tanks: Ground forces include light, medium, heavy tanks, and tank destroyers, each with its unique characteristics.
- Naval Vessels: Although less emphasized, players can also engage in naval battles with different classes of ships.

## Getting Started with Your First Vehicle

When starting War Thunder, you'll be introduced to a variety of vehicles. Here's how to choose the right one and get accustomed to its controls.

### Selecting Your First Vehicle

1. Choose a Nation: War Thunder features several nations, including the USA, Germany, USSR, UK, and Japan. Each nation has its unique vehicles and strengths.
2. Focus on One Type: It's advisable to focus on one type of vehicle (aircraft or tanks) initially. This will allow you to hone your skills without being overwhelmed.
3. Try Different Vehicles: Don't hesitate to try out various vehicles to find which ones suit your playstyle. Each vehicle has different attributes, such as speed, armor, and firepower.

## Controls and Interface

Familiarizing yourself with the controls and interface is crucial:

- Key Bindings: Review and customize key bindings in the settings menu to fit your preferences.
- HUD Elements: Learn to interpret the HUD, which displays vital information such as speed, altitude, and ammo count.

## Mastering the Gameplay Mechanics

Understanding the core gameplay mechanics is essential for success in War Thunder.

### Combat Mechanics

1. Aiming and Shooting: In aircraft, lead your target by aiming ahead of

them, especially when they are moving. In ground battles, account for bullet drop and distance when firing.

2. Mobility: Positioning is key. Use cover effectively in ground battles and maintain altitude in aerial combat.

3. Team Play: Communicate and collaborate with your teammates. War Thunder heavily emphasizes teamwork, and supporting each other can turn the tide of battle.

## **Upgrades and Research**

As you play, you'll earn experience points (XP) and Silver Lions (SL), which are essential for upgrading your vehicles:

- Researching Upgrades: Use XP to unlock modifications for your vehicles, such as better guns, armor, and engines.
- Purchasing New Vehicles: Silver Lions can be used to purchase new vehicles. Focus on upgrading and buying vehicles that complement your preferred playstyle.

## **Learning the Maps**

Maps in War Thunder can greatly influence your strategy and gameplay style.

## **Familiarizing Yourself with Maps**

- Study the Layout: Take note of key locations, spawn points, and terrain features. Knowing the map can help you plan your movements effectively.
- Use the Environment: Utilize hills, buildings, and other terrain features for cover. In aerial battles, use the terrain for tactical advantages.

## **Game Strategies**

1. Ground Battles: Stay aware of your surroundings, avoid open areas, and use cover effectively. Always be mindful of where enemy vehicles might be hiding.
2. Aerial Battles: Master the art of energy fighting; maintain altitude and speed while managing your aircraft's energy state.

## **Progression and Economy**

Understanding the progression system and economy is vital for long-term success in War Thunder.

## Rewards and Currency

- Silver Lions: The primary currency used for purchasing vehicles and upgrades.
- Golden Eagles: A premium currency that can be purchased and used for various boosts and premium content.

## Effective Grinding Techniques

1. Daily Tasks and Events: Engage in daily tasks and special events to earn more rewards.
2. Premium Vehicles: Consider investing in premium vehicles or a premium account to speed up your progression, although it's not mandatory.

## Community and Resources

The War Thunder community is vast, and numerous resources are available for beginners.

## Joining the Community

- Forums and Discord: Engage with fellow players on official forums or Discord servers for tips and guidance.
- YouTube and Twitch: Watch tutorials and gameplay videos to learn from experienced players.

## Practice Makes Perfect

- Test Flight: Use the test flight mode to practice flying and familiarize yourself with aircraft controls and mechanics.
- Custom Battles: Create or join custom battles to practice without the pressure of competitive play.

## Conclusion

Getting started in War Thunder can be daunting, but with patience and practice, players can develop their skills and enjoy the game. By understanding the basics, mastering gameplay mechanics, and utilizing the resources available, beginners can pave their way to becoming proficient players. Remember, the key to success in War Thunder lies in teamwork, strategy, and continual learning. Happy flying and tanking!

## Frequently Asked Questions

## **What are the basics of aircraft controls in War Thunder for beginners?**

Beginners should familiarize themselves with the basic aircraft controls, including pitch, roll, yaw, throttle, and flaps. It's recommended to use a joystick or gamepad for more precise control, and to practice in the test flight mode to get comfortable with the aircraft's handling.

## **How can new players effectively choose their first nation in War Thunder?**

New players should choose a nation that aligns with their preferred playstyle. For example, the USA offers versatile aircraft with good all-round performance, while Germany is known for its heavy hitters. Exploring the tech trees of each nation can help players find what suits them best.

## **What are the best game modes for beginners in War Thunder?**

For beginners, the Arcade mode is recommended as it provides a more forgiving experience with simplified controls and respawn options. It allows new players to learn the mechanics of the game without the steep learning curve of Realistic or Simulator modes.

## **How can beginners improve their aiming skills in War Thunder?**

Beginners can improve their aiming by practicing in the test flight mode to get a feel for bullet travel time and lead. Using the aiming reticle effectively and learning to predict enemy movements will also enhance shooting accuracy in combat.

## **What tips can help new players manage their resources effectively in War Thunder?**

New players should focus on completing daily tasks and events to earn Silver Lions and Research Points. It's also wise to avoid unnecessary repairs and upgrades on vehicles until they have a better understanding of the game mechanics and their preferred playstyle.

## **How important is teamwork in War Thunder for beginners?**

Teamwork is crucial in War Thunder, as coordinating with teammates can significantly increase the chances of success in battles. Beginners should communicate with their team, support each other, and work together to achieve objectives rather than going solo.

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