



# Everything Bad is Good for You: How Today's Popular Culture is Actually Making Us Smarter

*Steven Johnson*

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# Everything Bad is Good for You: How Today's Popular Culture is Actually Making Us Smarter

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**Everything Bad is Good for You: How Today's Popular Culture is Actually Making Us Smarter** Steven Johnson

Forget everything you've ever read about the age of dumbed-down, instant-gratification culture. In this provocative, unfailingly intelligent, thoroughly researched, and surprisingly convincing big idea book, Steven Johnson draws from fields as diverse as neuroscience, economics, and media theory to argue that the pop culture we soak in every day—from **Lord of the Rings** to **Grand Theft Auto** to **The Simpsons**—has been growing more sophisticated with each passing year, and, far from rotting our brains, is actually posing new cognitive challenges that are actually making our minds measurably sharper. After reading *Everything Bad is Good for You*, you will never regard the glow of the video game or television screen the same way again.

With a new afterword by the author.

Steven Johnson's newest book, *How We Got to Now*, is now available from Riverhead Books.

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