

Free stuff for you!

Mockingbird

<http://www.kongregate.com/games/MockingbirdGames/mockingbird-the-game-making-game-platformer-kit>

- Super easy to use
- Game about making games
- Browser-based, no downloading required
- Work with preset kits to make simple Flash games

Twine

<http://www.auntiepixelante.com/twine/>

- Super easy to use
- Creates Choose-Your-Own-Adventure games
- Great for people who want to combine stories with games
- Games are played in your browser

Scratch

<http://scratch.mit.edu/>

- Easy
- Make interactive stories, games, art, etc.
- Visual interface
- Lots of project sharing, can pick a project you like as a base to start with

Game Maker

<http://www.yoyogames.com/studio>

- Easy
- 2D Games of all kinds
- Lots of tutorials, drag-and-drop interface
- No need to delve into programming (but it's there for more complex things)

Construct2

<https://www.scirra.com/construct2>

- Easy
- HTML5
- Drag-and-drop interface
- Event-based system, no programming interface
- Lots of asset bundles

Stencyl

<http://www.stencyl.com/>

- For making iOS and Flash games
- Has both drag-and-drop style and support for custom AS3 coding
- Free version has some limitations (watermarks, etc)

Adventure Game Studio

<http://www.adventuregamestudio.co.uk/>

- Medium difficulty
- Makes point-and-click adventure style games
- Can make simple games, but more complicated games will require you to learn their scripting language

PuzzleScript

<http://www.puzzlescript.net/>

- Medium difficulty
- Makes simple puzzle games
- Done completely in your browser
- Uses scripting, but great for trial and error

Ren'Py

<http://www.renpy.org/>

- Medium difficulty
- Creates visual novel games – focuses on characters, dialogue, and stories
- Need to learn Python scripting, but tutorials are simple for making basic games

LOVE 2D

<http://love2d.org/>

- Medium difficulty
- 2D games
- Need to learn Lua (scripting language)

Unity 3D

<http://unity3d.com/>

- Difficult to use, but powerful
- Has lots of tutorials and example projects
- Can make 3D games for the browser, mobile, console, or standalone
- Need a computer with a graphics card to run

Unreal Development Kit

<http://www.unrealengine.com/udk/>

- Difficult and Complex, but very powerful
- Need a computer with a graphics card to run
- Can make pretty much any kind of game you want, but has a steep learning curve