



## Example Experience

By Garrett Clausen

Alex and Ethan are friends looking for an activity to do this weekend. Alex mentions that she has been watching replays of a new game called Multiplayer Battle Arena (MBA) on Youtube, but that she doesn't know where the closest option is to play. Later that night Ethan gets an ad for Multiplayer Battle Arena while scrolling on social media. The ad informs him that there is a Battle Arena in Indianapolis where they live, and that they would be able to get something to eat while they are there. The next day when they get together, Ethan shares this information and they decide to give it a try.

To get started they both download the MBA mobile app and set up their accounts. Once they log into the app, Ethan goes to the scheduling section to find an available time, while Alex checks to see what is happening in the chatroom for their location. Ethan is unable to find anything open for their group of two in the Arena, however, Alex finds a Guild looking for two people to join them in battle on Friday evening. Alex sends them a message responding to their call for players and introducing the pair. After a couple of minutes, one of the Guild members, Max, responds. They would be happy to have them both. Noticing that they are first time players, Max suggests showing up 30 minutes early so that the Guild can show Alex and Ethan the ropes before the battle.

Friday comes around, and the pair arrives at the MBA location when asked. About 30 seconds later a trio walks up. Having recognized Alex from her profile picture, Max makes in person introductions. There's Max, whom they had already been talking with online, Brad and Kat. Once the introductions have been finished, they all enter the building with Kat leading the way. As the group passes through the door an employee walks up wearing a pair of goggles. When they reach the group they inform Kat that her group has already been checked in and can wait in the lobby. They also remind the group that their Augmentation Suits will be ready 15 minutes before their battle. Ethan asks Brad what the goggles are for. Brad explains that they use AR goggles instead of a tablet or desktop to manage the system on site. While the group waits in the lobby Max, Brad and Kat point out the main features to be familiar with. The most important part of the lobby is pointed out by Kat, the food. The Tavern in the far right corner of the lobby is where players can grab a drink and some food while they wait for their turn in the Arena. She then motions towards either side of the lobby, noting that behind each of the doors is a practice room. Kat explains that practice rooms are where players can go to get more familiar with Armor Sets and collect some gold. Next, Brad explains that the desk on the left of the lobby is where the group will be picking up their Augmentation Suits. Finally, Max gestured to the Gate in the center of the wall opposite the entrance informing Alex and Ethan that it is the entrance to the Arena where they will be playing.

After the brief overview of the facility, the experienced players lead those without experience to the Armor Displays. Here they explain each suit's characteristics, ability and special attack. They then briefly explain their strategy before letting the new players decide which Armor Sets they would like to use for the coming Battle. Now, it was time to suit up. The Guild walks over to the Quartermaster's desk and gets their Suits. Alex got a single large weapon

to go with her Grenadier Armor Set and Ethan got two small weapons to go with the Forge Armor Set he had chosen. These sets had been recommended as they were on the less technical side and would be good for new players to use in their first Battle. Once everyone from both Guilds was comfortable in their suits the Guilds were brought over to the gate and told to activate their magic (press the trigger button on their weapon to turn the suit on.) As the Augmentation Suits kicked on, the runes on the stone gray gate started to glow an electric blue. A fog appeared around the other players. After a short time, the fog morphed and solidified into the Armor Sets selected by each player. The Gate opens and the Guilds from the previous Battle file out. Alex and Ethan's Guild is directed to take a left as they enter and go all the way down to their base. Following Max, Brad and Kat, Alex and Ethan do as they are told, reaching the Base after a few seconds. Kat leads the group in a quick pep "1, 2, 3 GUILD!" cheer and the countdown begins.

**"5..."**

**"4..."**

**"3..."**

**"2..."**

**"1..."**

**"Begin!"**

As the word rings out each member of the Guild starts to enact the strategy discussed before picking up their Augmentation Suits. Brad and Alex go down the left path. Max disappears into the off path area to complete a mission and defeat a monster. Kat takes the center path and Ethan starts up the bottom.

**30 seconds:** Players in each path start encountering Imps, defeating them to gain Ether and start the game with some early upgrades. Ethan focuses his upgrades on improving his ability, Burn, which leaves his opponent with continual damage for a couple of seconds. Shortly after he completes his first upgrade he gets ambushed by the other Guilds player in the same lane and is defeated. This forces him to return to base until he respawns.

**3 minutes:** The Guild is notified that Kat has destroyed the first tower in the center lane.

**5 minutes:** Brad and Alex defeat their first tower and Kat has deactivated her second.

**7 minutes:** Ethan had recovered from his initial setback and had now defeated his first tower.

**10 minutes:** Max has joined Kat in the center lane and they have taken out the center anchor while Alex and Brad deactivate their second tower.

**12 minutes:** Kat calls the Guild to the center lane to attempt a final push. Ethan worked his way through the off path area, joining the rest of the Guild. The Guild breaks their opponent's defenses and deactivates the two remaining anchors.

**13 minutes:** The opposing Guild has regrouped and is mounting a defense. Max is the first to fall, followed quickly by Brad and Kat. Alex and Ethan survive for a bit longer, chipping away at the health of their opponent's Container before being defeated themselves.

**14 minutes:** The rival Guild has counterattacked, destroying the last anchor and are beginning to damage Alex and Ethan's Container.

**15 minutes:** Max, Kat, and Brad attempt to defend their base but are unsuccessful as their container is destroyed. Ending the battle.

After the Guild has exited the Arena, Brad checks his phone and sees an opening to play another battle in 2 hours. After a quick check with the Guild, he books it. After turning in their Augmentation Suits, Kat recommends grabbing some food and having a bit of a debrief about their match. The tavern is currently selling kebabs which have been supplied by a local Egyptian restaurant. Kat and Alex both order the vegetarian option, kicking off a bit of conversation between them. Once everyone has gotten their food, the group finds a place to sit and they dig in. Kat takes the lead, discussing the areas in the match that she believed were positive and then where she saw areas of improvement for the Guild. One area of improvement she saw was that the new players, while able to work as part of the larger group, should have been able to hold their ground longer than they did during the last push. Ethan pitches in saying that he felt like he was being defeated too easily. Brad asks Ethan what he had been upgrading during the match. Ethan had focused on his attack and special attack, neglecting upgrades to his health points. Brad suggests Ethan redirect some of the Ether that he earns towards this in order to help solve this problem. Kat brings the group back from this tangent, refocusing on the new players ability to stand their ground. She proposes renting a practice area for some 3 vs. 2 duels where Alex and Ethan could get more experience with defending their position while outnumbered and give more opportunity for the other players to give advice. Brad finds a Practice Room opening in 20 minutes. The group wraps up their meal and grabs new suits from the Quartermaster for their practice session.

With their suits activated, they enter the Practice Area and the duel holograms render in. Alex and Ethan go to the center of the room while the remainder of the Guild splits up between either end. They have selected to play five rounds while they are dueling.

**Round 1:** Alex and Ethan are only able to hold their ground for 30 seconds. The Guild members give feedback about evasive maneuvers and it's on to the next round.

**Round 2:** The pair lasts a full minute and is able to take Max down with them.

**Round 3:** The pair work to concentrate fire on an individual instead of splitting their focus. They have lasted 45 seconds Max takes them out, but not before they defeat both Kat and Brad.

**Round 4:** Alex and Ethan win the round.

**Round 5:** While the pair survives for 2 minutes the more experienced players are able to eventually overpower them and claim victory in the final round.

Kat, Brad and Max compliment the new players on their improvement in just the one practice session. The Guild heads out of the practice room to prepare for their next Battle.

After swapping out Augmentation Suit batteries, the Guild is at the gate again introducing themselves to their new opponents. The runes glow as the suits boot back up in preparation for the match. The gates open and the Guilds enter the Arena. This time the base is to the right. The Guild arrives and Kat leads another cheer. The countdown begins again.

**“5...”**

**“4...”**

**“3...”**

**“2...”**

**“1...”**

**“Begin!”**

The Guild has decided to keep the strategy from their first Battle and heads off in their respective directions.

**2 minutes:** The Guild has collected enough Ether for their first upgrades. Ethan takes Brad’s advice and upgrades his health.

**3 minutes:** Alex and Brad take out their first tower and Max has completed his challenge for the match.

**5 minutes:** Kat has destroyed her first tower, but Max has been defeated by the monster. Max makes the decision to redirect his energy to assist Ethan in the right lane.

**8 minutes:** Ethan and Max destroy their first tower, while Alex and Brad destroy their second.

**12 minutes:** Kat destroys the center lane’s second tower. Alex and Brad have deactivated their anchor.

**14 minutes:** Ethan and Max destroy their second tower. The opposing guild has gathered to defend their base.

**15 minutes:** With all Guild members at the end of their paths, Ethan and Max manage to deactivate their anchor before Max, Kat and Brad are defeated and have to retreat and respawn.

**16 minutes:** Alex and Ethan have regrouped and using the skills they had practiced, work together to focus their fire, holding their position and preventing a counter attack.

**17 minutes:** Alex and Ethan have held their ground and managed to deactivate the last Anchor when Max, Kat and Brad rejoin the fight.

**18 minutes:** The Guild overwhelms their opponents' defenses and destroy their Container. VICTORY! Flashes across their headset displays.

After leaving the arena, the Guild grabs a round of drinks from the Tavern to celebrate. After another half hour of getting to know each other, they make plans to meet back up in two weeks for another Battle or two. As the group parts ways, Alex and Ethan think they have found an activity they can do regularly, while making some new friends along the way. The two even make plans to spend some time in the Practice Area before their next Battle with the rest of the Guild.