

Status

Asked to confirm their status in one line, any form, no rules, 6,771 people mostly answered in one word, and the most common word was a thumbs-up. The two most liked answers were bug reports.

THIS IS	PART OF	STATUS
PAPER 012 · A FINDING	THE GAME · ACT I, LEVEL 3	FILED · V1 · 31 AUG 2026
	STATUS WALL	

SOURCE

6,789 20 Nov 2025

COMMENTS

DATES

IN PLAIN WORDS

On 20 November 2025 a post asked the territory to confirm its status in the comments. One line. Any form. No rules. The caption added that a comment was a fingerprint and that likes and shares would boost your signal.

6,771 people answered. Forty-one percent used a single word. The five most common answers were a thumbs-up, a salute, the phrase group 7, a pair of eyes, and a flame. The two most liked answers, at 614 and 480 likes, both report the same thing: that the writer had skipped from level one to level three and wanted to know whether that was a glitch.

This paper reads what a crowd says when a form has no fields. The short answer is that it invents the fields, and the fields it invents are the ones the Game had already taught it.

THE QUESTION WE ASKED

Given a completely open prompt, what does a crowd write, and how much of it is about the crowd’s own life versus its position in the system that asked? The post named no topic. Whatever the answers cluster around is what the audience brought.

WHAT WE DID

- **Instruction:** Confirm your status in the comments. One line. Any form. No rules.

- **Where:** one Instagram reel, 20 November 2025, during Level 3. 6,789 top-level comments in the archive, 6,756 with text, from 6,771 people.
- **Length:** words per comment, split at spaces. An emoji alone counts as one word.
- **Exact answers:** comments lower-cased with whitespace collapsed, then counted as strings.
- **Themes:** keyword matches for the Game’s own vocabulary (level or lvl, skipped, group 7), for confirmation language (confirm, status), and for presence (here). A comment can match more than one.

WHAT HAPPENED

TABLE 1. How long a status was.

LENGTH	COMMENTS	SHARE
One word	2,792	41%
Two or three words	1,851	27%
Four to eight words	1,671	25%
Nine words or more	442	7%
Comments with text	6,756	6,771 people

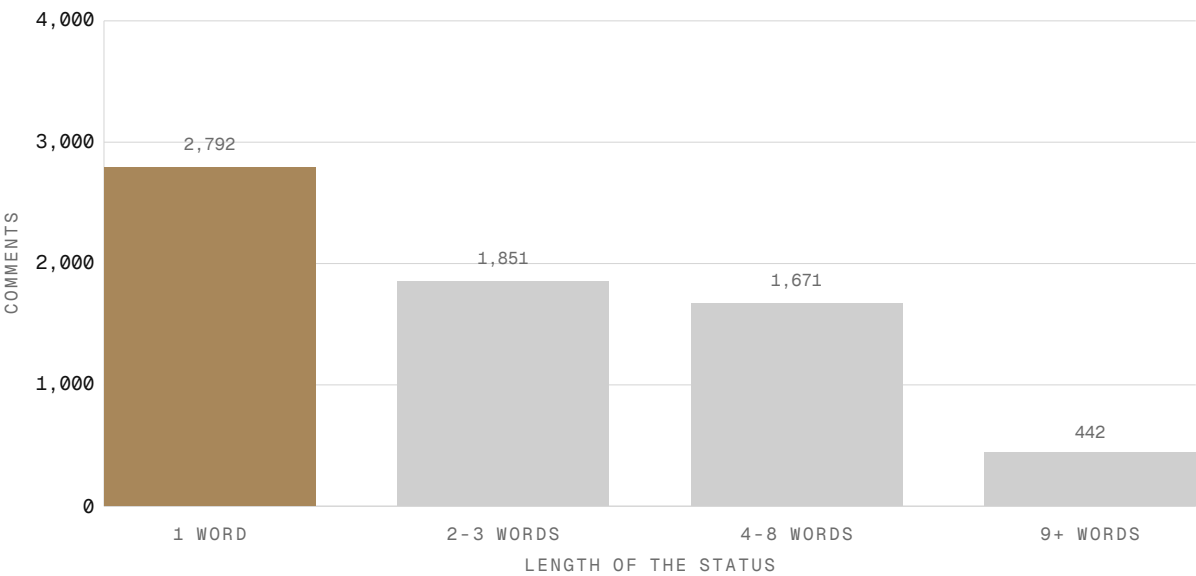


FIGURE 1. Statuses by length. Told there were no rules, most people wrote one to three words.

The most liked status, at 614 likes: wait I just skipped level 2. Good thing or bad thing? The second, at 480: Found backdoor from level one to level 3. Please patch unless glitch is intentional. Both are on the page. The status field became a bug tracker.

Platform numbers are from the Instagram API on 31 August 2026. Comment counts there include replies and everything written since the round, which is why they run above the counts this paper analyses; views and reach are the tallies the platform reports.

TABLE 2. The twelve most common exact answers.

ANSWER	COUNT	SHARE
thumbs-up emoji	258	3.8%
salute emoji	241	3.6%
group 7	180	2.7%
eyes emoji	173	2.6%
fire emoji	113	1.7%
here	94	1.4%
active	65	1.0%
confirm	64	0.9%
status confirmed	61	0.9%
confirm status	58	0.9%
invitation → lvl 3	53	0.8%
still here	44	0.7%
Distinct exact answers	thousands	the long tail is the point

TABLE 3. Themes, with 95 percent intervals. A comment can carry more than one theme.

MEASURE	COUNT	OF	SHARE	95% INTERVAL
One word	2,792	6,756	41.3%	40.2% to 42.5%
Mentions a level (level, lvl)	1,207	6,756	17.9%	17.0% to 18.8%
Mentions group 7	295	6,756	4.4%	3.9% to 4.9%
Mentions skipping	170	6,756	2.5%	2.2% to 2.9%
Confirmation language (confirm, status)	448	6,756	6.6%	6.1% to 7.2%
Presence (here)	478	6,756	7.1%	6.5% to 7.7%

TABLE 4. The post at platform scale, as of 31 August 2026.

REEL	VIEWS · REACH	COMMENTS TODAY
The Status Wall · 20 November 2025	208,528 · 114,560 reach	14,800
Likes on the reel	16,778	

WHAT IT MEANS

Told there are no rules, a crowd does not write freely. It writes short, it reaches for symbols, and it reports its position in the system that asked. The open prompt measured what the Game had already installed.

Forty-one percent one word, and the top five answers all emoji, is the first finding: the cost of a status is the cost of typing it, and with nothing to say the cheapest true answer is a gesture. A thumbs-up and a salute are both a way of saying present without composing a sentence. So is the word here, which 478 people used.

The second finding is where the content went. One in six statuses mentions a level. Nearly three hundred name group 7, a label the Game had handed out weeks earlier. The most liked answers are about a level skip. Asked for their status with no topic set, people reported their status in the Game: which level, which group, which glitch. The system had become the frame people described themselves inside, three weeks after it opened.

The two bug reports at the top are worth keeping as a lesson about what a comment section is for. A wall meant for presence became, by vote, a place to report that the levels were out of order. The audience found the fault, named it, and asked whether it was intended, and the rest of the room agreed by liking it to the top. That is the audience doing quality assurance in public, unasked.

WHAT THIS DOES NOT SHOW

- **Keyword themes overlap and miss.** A status can carry two themes and be counted twice; a status about the Game phrased without the keywords is missed. The theme rows are indicative, not a partition.
- **Emoji were counted as single words.** A status that was only a symbol counts as one word, which is the reading we intend but worth stating.
- **No comparison prompt.** We do not have a post that asked the same open question outside the Game, so we cannot say how much of the shortness is the crowd and how much is the platform.

WHAT WE WOULD RUN NEXT

The same post with one change: no rules, but a topic. Confirm your status in one line about your day. If the level reports vanish and the length stays, the Game was supplying the content and the platform the length. If both change, the open prompt itself was doing the work.

THE WHOLE ROUND

The transmission this paper reads is one post. Its numbers on the platform, and what the comment archive holds of it, are below.

POST	DATE	VIEWS	REACH	COMMENTS	ARCHIVED
The Status Wall	2025-11-20	208,528	114,560	14,800	11,077

Views, reach and comments are the platform's figures from the Instagram API, snapshot 2026-08-31, and keep growing. The reach total adds each post's reach and overlaps between posts, so it is not a count of distinct people. Archived is the number of comments the archive holds for the post; ingestion is selective,

so a gap between the two columns is expected and is stated wherever it changes a count in the paper.

IN THE RECORD

The post is filed in the Chronicle as THE STATUS WALL, ◊015. The level skip the top answers report belongs to the same weeks as THE KINDNESS TEST, ◊016, and THE MISSION THE PLAYERS WROTE, ◊017.

THE POSTS, AS ISSUED

The instruction as it went out: the reel frame beside the caption, captured from the operation’s own signed-in account. What the paper counts is the answer to exactly this.





kinggwu_ 
Original audio



kinggwu_  40w
 ****Confirm your status in the comments.****

(One line. Any form. No rules.)

Your comment is your fingerprint.

Likes and shares boost your signal strength.

`[FREQ LOG // 3.01]`



skyekirstyn 39w
y am I always a week late

Reply

[View insights](#)

[Boost reel](#)

 **16.8K**  **14.8K**  **92** 

 Liked by **kingwu1206** and **16.7K others**
November 21, 2025

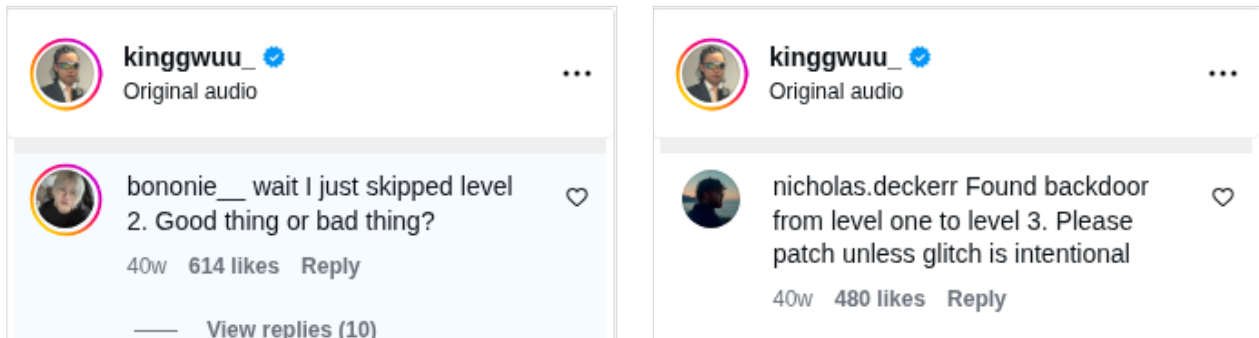


Add a comment...



THE RECEIPTS

Native captures of the comments this paper leans on, taken from the operation's own signed-in account on 31 Aug 2026. Handles and like counts are as they stood that day; the numbers in the paper are the round-time count.



METHOD NOTE

- **Source of truth:** the comment archive, top-level comments on the post, counted on 31 August 2026. No round ledger exists for Act I.
- **Counting rules:** as described in the method; the script is in the repository beside the paper data.

SOURCES, BY LINK

01 The Status Wall · 2025-11-20 · https://www.instagram.com/reel/DRQ1SmpE2_v/

WHERE THE NUMBERS COME FROM

POST-LEVEL COUNTS

Views, reach, comments, likes, shares and saves per post come from the Instagram Graph API (Meta), read with the operation's own access token for its own business account. Each paper states the date of the snapshot it uses. These are the platform's counts of events, not of people: one person can view a reel twice and comment ten times, and the counts keep growing after a round closes.

COMMENT TEXT

The comment archive is the operation's own database of public comments on its own posts, pulled through the Instagram Graph API comments endpoint and stored with the comment id, username, text, like count, timestamp and whether it is a reply. Ingestion is selective: the most engaged posts were backfilled and recent posts are pulled daily, so some posts are held whole and others only in part. Every paper states how much of each post the archive holds. Every count that reads text (exact matches, categories, keyword themes) is run as a read-only script against this archive, and the scripts are in the repository beside the paper data.

THE ROUND LEDGER

For Act II rounds, the counts filed on The Game's round record at the time each round closed. Where a paper uses a ledger figure it says so, and where the archive re-count differs from the ledger both numbers are shown.

RECEIPTS

Every comment and post shown as evidence is a native capture from the operation's own signed-in Instagram session, taken by opening the exact permalink, with the source URL, a description, the rights basis and a file hash recorded in a manifest that is checked on every build of the site. Nothing shown is recreated, retyped or edited beyond cropping to the post header and the comment.

STATISTICS

Shares carry Wilson 95 percent intervals: the range the share would land in 19 times out of 20 if the same count were taken on a fresh crowd of the same size. Differences between two shares carry a Wald interval. Where a study is cited as a baseline, its own reported figure and sample size are used.

WHAT NONE OF THIS CAN SEE

No demographics beyond what people typed. No view durations. No private messages. No comments that were deleted before the archive pulled them. No way to verify that a self-report is true. Every paper's limits section names the specific things its count cannot show.