



What makes a trend

Human truths behind the
Top 5 YouTube trends

Thailand

A decorative grid pattern of thin black lines in the top-left corner of the page.

What are millions of people
choosing to watch on the **world's
largest video platform?**

**And what is it
that makes
these videos
so popular?**

A series of thin black diagonal lines in the bottom-right corner of the page.

Here, we look at the **top 5 YouTube trends**
from the last year and the **human truths** that
are driving them.

A close-up portrait of Paul Pattarapon, a man with short dark hair, looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. He is wearing a dark blue shirt. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

TREND 1

The success of sequels

Some of 2021's most successful videos were **follow-ups** to top-viewed videos.

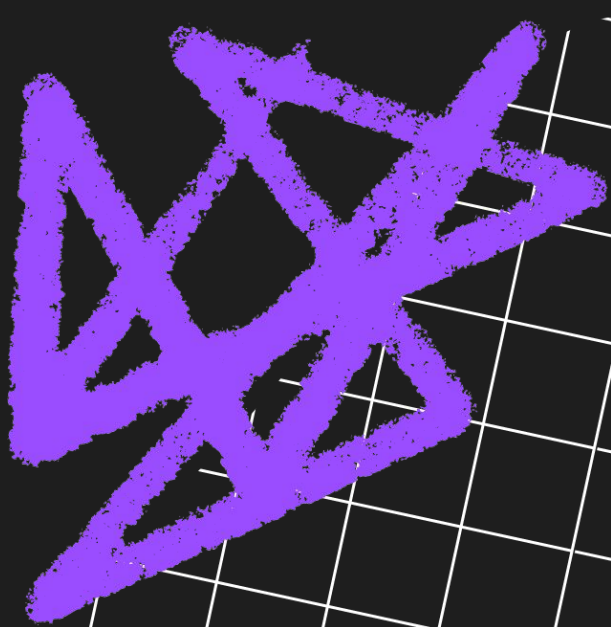
Paul Pattarapon พอล ภัทรพล has **1.18M subscribers** tuning in to his informational videos about **finance** and **personal growth**. His Money Matters series is especially popular and the most watched video in the series from last year has **1.7M views**.

WHAT WE LEARNED:

If it ain't broke, don't fix it

The success of sequels reveals how viewers are taking **comfort in familiarity**, particularly amid times of uncertainty.

Once viewers are **invested** in content they love, they begin to actively seek out **more of the same**.





TREND 2

Live streams are mainstream

Creators are using **live streams** to connect with their audiences in **real time**, making cultural moments a **communal** affair.

โคตรคุณ live streams their weekly "หมีLIVEปะ" show to **2.4M subscribers**. It features **candid conversations** and video calls from viewers. Their most popular live stream has **1.4M views**.

WHAT WE LEARNED:

Connection tops credentials



You don't need big budgets or intricate scripts to captivate audiences. The popularity of live streams shows that viewers are placing value on **authentic and immediate** content that **reflects real life**.

TREND 3

You play, I watch

Once a subculture, gaming is now undeniably pop culture. The first half of 2021 saw over **800B gaming-related views** on YouTube.¹

zbing z. brings entertaining gameplay content to her **15.7M subscribers**, brightening up walkthroughs with funny **commentary**. Her most popular gaming video from last year has **17M views**.

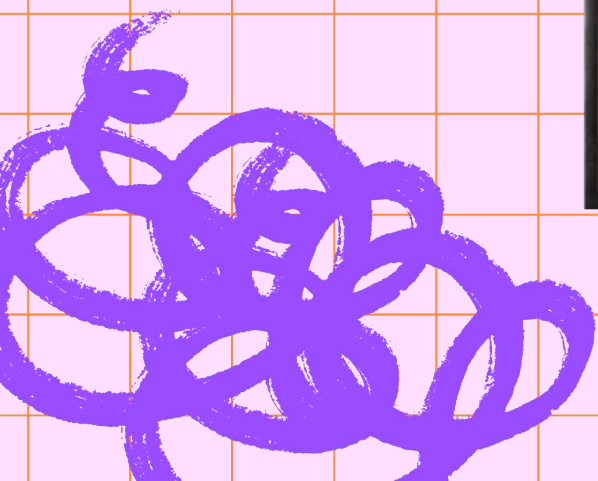
1. Source: YouTube data, Global, H2 2021

WHAT WE LEARNED:

Create shared experiences to bring people closer

Gaming is more than holding a controller — it's **joining a community**.

Digital audiences seek content they can **relate to** and **tribes they can align with**, and gaming pop culture provides a colorful backdrop for **diverse storytelling** and **engaging experiences**.



TREND 4

Podcast enthusiast

YouTube is now an established **podcast destination**, buoyed by greater demand for **audio content** and **multisensory experiences**.

The Standard Podcast has a following of **478K subscribers** and over **40M hits** a year after launch. It covers a range of topics from mental health to world history and current affairs, and its most popular video in 2021 has **1.5M views**.

WHAT WE LEARNED:

Show how content is made



The rise of video podcasts shows how viewers are seeking to **build deeper connections** with the content and creators they care about.

Providing **behind-the-scenes access** can help to establish virtual proximity for viewers, while offering creators and brands an opportunity to show a **different** or more **intimate side of themselves**.



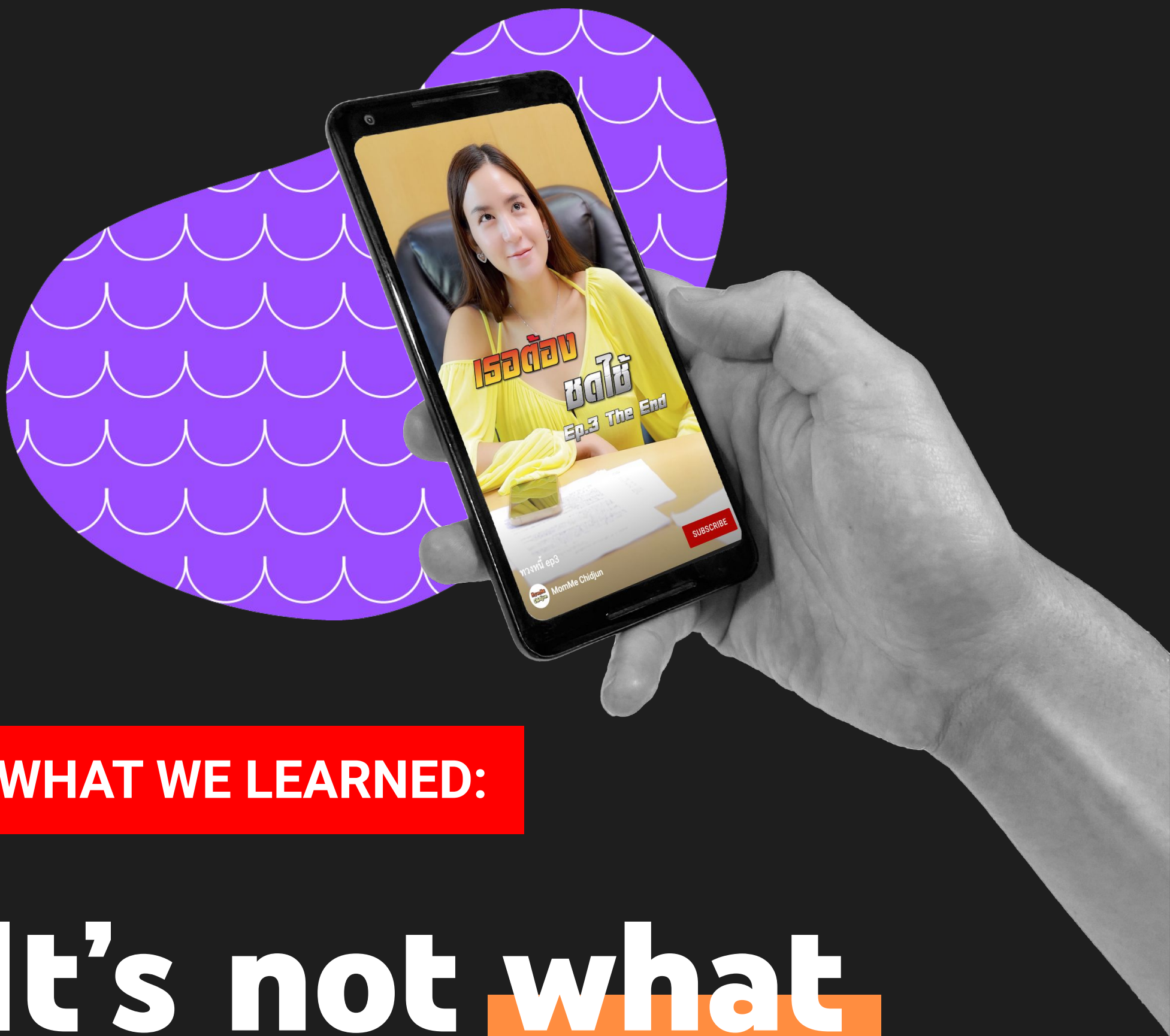
TREND 5

Short and sweet

Is reality more captivating than fiction?
Millions of people seem to think so.

MomMe Chidjun's Shorts about **motherhood and daily life** have brought her **1.52M subscribers**. Her most popular sketch has **6.3M views**.

Top creators are tapping into the **quick, informal** aspect of Shorts to spotlight the **humor and relatability** of daily life.



WHAT WE LEARNED:

It's not **what**
you say,
it's **how** you
say it

Regardless of themes or topics, this year's most popular Shorts had one thing in common: they were **relatable**.

Today's viewers are looking for content that is **unfiltered** and **unpretentious**.

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