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Level 5

Social media sites face heavy hate speech fines

17th March, 2017

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1703/170317-hate-speech-5.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1703/170317-hate-speech-5.html>

Social media sites in Germany could face fines of \$50 million for removing illegal content too slowly. Germany's government is cracking down on illegal online content, including hate speech, slander and fake news. The proposed new law would give Facebook, Twitter and other sites seven days to delete content flagged as illegal, or get a big financial penalty. Any content that was "clearly criminal" would have to be removed within 24 hours. Justice minister Heiko Maas said Twitter deletes only one per cent of the hate speech it is told about by users, and Facebook, 39 per cent.

Mr Maas said the fines were necessary due to increasing concern over the influence social media is having on public opinion. He said: "The biggest problem is that the social networks do not take the complaints of their own users seriously enough." He said voluntary efforts to tackle the problem were not working as too few comments are being deleted, too slowly. Mr Maas said social media sites would have to set up a complaints team that functions 24/7. A digital trade organization feared the 24-hour deadline for sites that deal with over a billion posts per day was "utterly impossible".

Sources: <http://www.bbc.com/news/technology-39269535>
<http://www.dw.com/en/germany-to-force-facebook-twitter-to-delete-hate-speech/a-37927085>
<https://techcrunch.com/2017/03/14/facebook-twitter-still-failing-on-hate-speech-in-germany/>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1703/170317-hate-speech-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. face | a. penalty |
| 2. removing illegal content | b. down |
| 3. Germany's government is cracking | c. new law |
| 4. hate speech, slander | d. too slowly |
| 5. The proposed | e. flagged as illegal |
| 6. delete content | f. about by users |
| 7. get a big financial | g. fines of \$50 million |
| 8. the hate speech it is told | h. and fake news |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Mr Maas said the fines | a. concern |
| 2. increasing | b. to tackle the problem |
| 3. the influence social media | c. over a billion posts per day |
| 4. voluntary efforts | d. deadline |
| 5. a complaints team that | e. impossible |
| 6. the 24-hour | f. functions 24/7 |
| 7. sites that deal with | g. is having on public opinion |
| 8. utterly | h. were necessary |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1703/170317-hate-speech-5.html>

Social media sites in Germany (1) _____ \$50 million for removing illegal content too slowly. Germany's government is cracking (2) _____ online content, including hate speech, slander and fake news. The (3) _____ law would give Facebook, Twitter and other sites seven (4) _____ content flagged as illegal, or get a big financial penalty. Any content that (5) _____ would have to be removed within 24 hours. Justice minister Heiko Maas said Twitter deletes only one per cent (6) _____ it is told about by users, and Facebook, 39 per cent.

Mr Maas said the fines were necessary (7) _____ concern over the influence social media (8) _____ public opinion. He said: "The biggest (9) _____ the social networks do not take the (10) _____ complaints of their own users seriously enough." He said voluntary efforts to tackle the problem were not working as too few (11) _____ deleted, too slowly. Mr Maas said social media sites would have to set up a complaints team that functions 24/7. A digital trade organization feared the 24-hour deadline for sites that deal with over a billion posts per (12) _____ impossible".

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1703/170317-hate-speech-5.html>

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HATE SPEECH SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1703/170317-hate-speech-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about hate speech in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

WRITING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1703/170317-hate-speech-5.html>

Write about **hate speech** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner’s paper.
