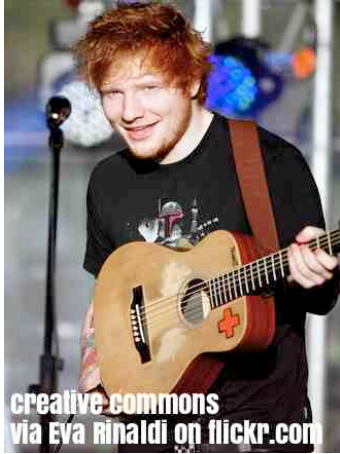


## Ed Sheeran takes a year's break from social media

16th December, 2015



creative commons  
via Eva Rinaldi on flickr.com

Singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran has announced he is "taking a break" from social media because he is fed up with spending so much time looking at his mobile phone or iPad. The international superstar has 16 million followers on Twitter and another 5.5 million on Instagram. He has been active in keeping his fans up to date on his

personal life but now wants to have a rest. He wrote on his Instagram account: "Hello all. I'm taking a break from my phone, e-mails and all social media for a while." He went on to explain: "I've had such an amazing [time] over the last five years but I find myself seeing the world through a screen and not my eyes."

Sheeran has been touring the world since August 2014 giving dozens of sellout concerts. He apologised to his friends and family for his upcoming online absence. He said he wanted to see the world instead of continually working and touring. He wrote: "I'm taking this opportunity of me not having to be anywhere or do anything to travel the world and see everything I missed." The singer will also use his time off to get surgery for a burst eardrum he got while doing a concert. He also had good news for his millions of fans. He announced that his third album is on its way and that it is the best thing he has produced so far. He thanked his fans and said he would be back next autumn.

Sources: [bbc.com](http://bbc.com) / [billboard.com](http://billboard.com) / [smh.com](http://smh.com)

## Writing

What are the good and bad things about social media? Why do you like or dislike it?

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

*singer / songwriter / social media / superstar / personal life / account / screen / amazing / concerts / opportunity / surgery / millions / album / thanked / fans / autumn*

## True / False

- Ed Sheeran said he is fed up with using social media too often. T / F
- Sheeran has 16 million Instagram and 5.5 million Twitter followers. T / F
- Sheeran told his followers he would still use e-mail. T / F
- Sheeran said he's had an amazing time over the past 10 years. T / F
- The singer has been touring the world for over a year. T / F
- Sheeran needs an operation on his ear. T / F
- Sheeran said he will soon release his fourth album T / F
- Sheeran told fans he would be back in the spring. T / F

## Synonym Match

- |                |                     |
|----------------|---------------------|
| 1. announced   | a. awesome          |
| 2. fed up      | b. constantly       |
| 3. active      | c. tired            |
| 4. while       | d. made             |
| 5. amazing     | e. fall             |
| 6. touring     | f. made known       |
| 7. continually | g. an operation     |
| 8. surgery     | h. traveling around |
| 9. produced    | i. busy             |
| 10. autumn     | j. time             |

## Discussion – Student A

- What do you need to take a break from?
- What do you know about Ed Sheeran?
- Do you ever get fed up looking at a screen?
- Do you prefer a TV screen or your mobile phone screen?
- How bad is it that people that spend more time looking at screens than looking at other people?
- What would you do without social media?
- Which is better – a mobile phone or an iPad?
- What advice do you have for Ed Sheeran?

# BreakingNewsEnglish - The Mini Lesson

## Phrase Match

- |                                      |                         |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. he is fed                         | a. since August 2014    |
| 2. 16 million                        | b. life                 |
| 3. personal                          | c. up                   |
| 4. for a                             | d. is on its way        |
| 5. seeing the world through a screen | e. of fans              |
| 6. touring the world                 | f. while                |
| 7. dozens of sellout                 | g. for a burst eardrum  |
| 8. get surgery                       | h. and not my eyes      |
| 9. good news for his millions        | i. concerts             |
| 10. his third album                  | j. followers on Twitter |

## Discussion – Student B

- How useful is social media?
- How dangerous is social media?
- How important is it to look at the world through your eyes?
- What are the benefits of traveling the world?
- Do you like not having to be anywhere?
- How much time each day do you spend staring at a screen?
- What will social media be like in 20 years from now?
- What questions would you like to ask Ed Sheeran?

## Spelling

- enonadncu he is taking a break
- The tnalnieoirnta superstar
- 16 million llroeofsw
- He wrote on his Instagram ocnuatc
- I've had such an gaaiznm time
- seeing the world through a cseren
- ougrnti the world since August 2014
- oesdzn of sellout concerts
- his upcoming online aebecsn
- get rseuyrg for a burst eardrum
- good news for his msliloni of fans
- next tumuan

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. c	3. i	4. j	5. a
6. h	7. b	8. g	9. d	10. e

## Role Play

### Role A – Twitter

You think Twitter is the best website. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their websites. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): Facebook, SnapChat or Google.

### Role B – Facebook

You think Facebook is the best website. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their websites. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): Twitter, SnapChat or Google.

### Role C – SnapChat

You think SnapChat is the best website. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their websites. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): Facebook, Twitter or Google.

### Role D – Google

You think Google is the best website. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their websites. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): Facebook, SnapChat or Twitter.

## Speaking – Websites

Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |             |            |
|-------------|------------|
| • Twitter   | • Apple    |
| • Instagram | • Snapchat |
| • Facebook  | • Yahoo!   |
| • Google    | • eBay     |

### Answers – True False

a	T	b	F	c	F	d	F	e	T	f	T	g	F	h	F
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.