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Level 6 – 21st August 2023

Elon Musk to remove blocking feature on X

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com//2308/230821-blocking-on-social-media.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).

Twitter



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THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com//2308/230821-blocking-on-social-media.html>

Elon Musk has announced he will remove the blocking feature from accounts on X, formerly known as Twitter. Mr Musk, who is the owner of X, said users would no longer be able to block comments from unwanted followers. Under the new policy, X users will be unable to restrict individual accounts from contacting them, following them or seeing their posts. However, people will still be able to block direct messages. Musk wrote on Friday: "Block is going to be deleted as a 'feature,' except for DMs." He added that being allowed to block other people's comments "makes no sense". The change would be the latest in Musk's overhaul of his platform. Others include the name and logo change and layoffs of employees.

Many X users are up in arms over Mr Musk's latest proposal. They believe the block function is essential to keep people safe and to prevent hateful content and harassment from appearing in their feeds. Changpeng Zhao, the CEO of the crypto-currency company Binance, said Musk should concentrate his efforts on making X safer and easier to use. He said: "X should really solve the bots and spam problems before removing blocks." Another critic said the lack of a blocking feature could make bullying more common. He said it could inhibit the free speech of users who are the targets of bullies and predators. Another observer said people, "need a mechanism to block abusive users".

Sources: <https://www.cnbc.com/2023/08/18/elon-musk-says-x-users-will-be-losing-the-ability-to-block-content-.html>
<https://www.theverge.com/2023/8/18/23837494/elon-musk-twitter-x-remove-blocking>
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/brianbushard/2023/08/18/musk-ends-block-feature-on-x-in-latest-twitter-change-up>

WARM-UPS

1. SOCIAL MEDIA: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about social media. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

blocking / X / Twitter / followers / accounts / posts / direct messages / sense / logo / up in arms / harassment / crypto-currency / concentrate / bullying / critic / predators

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. BLOCK: Students A **strongly** believe we should not be allowed to block other people on social media; Students B **strongly** believe we should. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. SOCIAL MEDIA: What are the good and bad things about these social media platforms? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Good Things	Bad Things
X		
Facebook		
TikTok		
YouTube		
Instagram		
Reddit		

5. ACCOUNT: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "account". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

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

- X
- Apple
- McDonald's
- Chanel
- Nike
- The Olympics
- Barbie
- Mercedes Benz

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 1. formerly | a. A temporary or permanent discharge of a worker or workers because of economic conditions or shortage of work. |
| 2. policy | b. A course or principle of action adopted or proposed by an organization or individual. |
| 3. restrict | c. A distinctive attribute or aspect of something. |
| 4. feature | d. In the past; in earlier times. |
| 5. overhaul | e. Workers in a company or organization. |
| 6. layoffs | f. Put a limit on; keep under control. |
| 7. employees | g. Analyze and improve (a system). |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 8. up in arms | h. Aggressive pressure or intimidation. |
| 9. proposal | i. Arousing, deserving of, or filled with hatred. |
| 10. hateful | j. Hinder, restrain, or prevent (an action or process). |
| 11. harassment | k. Very angry. |
| 12. critic | l. A plan or suggestion, especially a formal or written one, put forward for consideration by others. |
| 13. inhibit | m. A person who ruthlessly exploits others. |
| 14. predator | n. A person who expresses an unfavourable opinion of something. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com//2308/230821-blocking-on-social-media.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

1. Twitter is formerly known as X. **T / F**
2. X users will still be able to block direct messages. **T / F**
3. Elon Musk said blocking people's comments made sense. **T / F**
4. Elon Musk said he was considering changing his name. **T / F**
5. Many people raised their arms when Twitter became X. **T / F**
6. A crypto-currency CEO said Elon Musk should focus on spam. **T / F**
7. A critic said the new X could increase free speech for targets of bullies. **T / F**
8. Not allowing blocking could increase bullying. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH: (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1. announced | a. rebuild |
| 2. formerly | b. workers |
| 3. restrict | c. detestable |
| 4. overhaul | d. very angry |
| 5. employees | e. made it known |
| 6. up in arms | f. work out |
| 7. hateful | g. limit |
| 8. concentrate | h. tool |
| 9. solve | i. previously |
| 10. mechanism | j. focus |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| 1. formerly | a. on making X safer |
| 2. Block is going to be deleted | b. sense |
| 3. makes no | c. and predators |
| 4. the latest in Musk's overhaul | d. and harassment |
| 5. layoffs of | e. of his platform |
| 6. Many X users are up | f. as a feature |
| 7. prevent hateful content | g. known as Twitter |
| 8. Musk should concentrate his efforts | h. in arms |
| 9. X should really solve the bots | i. employees |
| 10. users who are the targets of bullies | j. and spam problems |

GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com//2308/230821-blocking-on-social-media.html>

Elon Musk has announced he will remove the blocking feature from accounts on X, (1) _____ known as Twitter. Mr Musk, who is the owner of X, said users would no (2) _____ be able to block comments from (3) _____ followers. Under the new policy, X users will be unable to (4) _____ individual accounts from contacting them, following them or seeing their posts. However, people will still be able to block (5) _____ messages. Musk wrote on Friday: "Block is going to be (6) _____ as a 'feature,' except for DMs." He added that being allowed to block other people's comments "makes no (7) _____". The change would be the latest in Musk's overhaul of his platform. Others include the name and logo change and (8) _____ of employees.

deleted
unwanted
formerly
layoffs
longer
direct
sense
restrict

Many X users are up in (9) _____ over Mr Musk's latest proposal. They believe the block function is essential to keep people safe and to prevent (10) _____ content and harassment from appearing in their feeds. Changpeng Zhao, the CEO of the crypto- (11) _____ company Binance, said Musk should concentrate his (12) _____ on making X safer and easier to use. He said: "X should really (13) _____ the bots and spam problems before removing blocks." Another critic said the lack of a blocking feature could make (14) _____ more common. He said it could inhibit the free speech of users who are the (15) _____ of bullies and predators. Another observer said people, "need a (16) _____ to block abusive users".

efforts
bullying
arms
currency
mechanism
solve
hateful
targets

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com//2308/230821-blocking-on-social-media.html>

- 1) Elon Musk has announced he will remove the blocking _____
 - a. feature from account
 - b. feature from all accounts
 - c. feature from accounts
 - d. feature from acorns
- 2) Mr Musk, who is the owner of X, said users would no longer be able _____
 - a. to block comment
 - b. to block comments
 - c. to block commence
 - d. to block commences
- 3) Under the new policy, X users will be unable to _____
 - a. reset individual accounts
 - b. restrict individual accounts
 - c. restrict individually accounts
 - d. restrict individual account
- 4) He added that being allowed to block other people's comments _____
 - a. makes no sentence
 - b. makes no sensible
 - c. makes no senses
 - d. makes no sense
- 5) Others include the name and logo change and _____
 - a. layoffs off employees
 - b. layoff soft employees
 - c. layoffs of employers
 - d. layoffs of employees
- 6) Many X users are up in arms over Mr _____
 - a. Musk's latex proposal
 - b. Musk's lay test proposal
 - c. Musk's late test proposal
 - d. Musk's latest proposal
- 7) He said X should really solve the bots _____
 - a. and spam problems
 - b. and ham problems
 - c. and span problems
 - d. and sham problems
- 8) Another critic said the lack of a blocking feature could make _____
 - a. bully more common
 - b. bullying more common
 - c. bully in more common
 - d. bullion more common
- 9) it could inhibit the free speech of users who are the targets of _____
 - a. bully and predators
 - b. bullies and predator
 - c. bullies and predators
 - d. bullies end predators
- 10) Another observer said people need a mechanism to _____
 - a. block abrasive users
 - b. block abusive users
 - c. block abuse sieve users
 - d. block abusive user

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com//2308/230821-blocking-on-social-media.html>

Elon Musk has announced he will remove the blocking feature from accounts on X, (1) _____ Twitter. Mr Musk, who is the owner of X, said users would no longer be able to block comments from unwanted followers. Under the new policy, X users will be (2) _____ individual accounts from contacting them, following them or seeing their posts. However, people will (3) _____ to block direct messages. Musk wrote on Friday: "Block is going to (4) _____ a 'feature,' except for DMs." He added that being allowed to block other people's comments "(5) _____". The change would be the latest in Musk's overhaul of his platform. Others include the name and logo (6) _____ of employees.

Many X users are (7) _____ over Mr Musk's latest proposal. They believe the block function is essential to keep people safe and to (8) _____ and harassment from appearing in their feeds. Changpeng Zhao, the CEO of the crypto-currency company Binance, said Musk should (9) _____ on making X safer and easier to use. He said: "X should really (10) _____ and spam problems before removing blocks." Another critic said the lack of a blocking feature could make (11) _____. He said it could inhibit the free speech of users who are the targets of bullies and predators. Another observer said people, "need a mechanism to (12) _____".

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com//2308/230821-blocking-on-social-media.html>

1. Who is the owner of X?
2. Who did Elon Musk say people would not be able to block?
3. What feature will users still be able to block?
4. What did Elon Musk say made no sense?
5. What change has Elon Musk made besides the logo and name of Twitter?
6. How do many people feel about the changes?
7. What is Changpeng Zhao the CEO of?
8. What did Changpeng Zhao say Elon Musk should focus on?
9. What did a critic say there could be more of without the block feature?
10. What did an observer say was needed for people to block abusive users?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com//2308/230821-blocking-on-social-media.html>

- 1) Who is the owner of X?
 - a) Tim Cook
 - b) Changpeng Zhao
 - c) Elon Musk
 - d) an investment fund
- 2) Who did Elon Musk say people would not be able to block?
 - a) unwanted followers
 - b) celebrities
 - c) family
 - d) friends
- 3) What feature will users still be able to block?
 - a) friend requests
 - b) videos
 - c) images
 - d) direct messages
- 4) What did Elon Musk say made no sense?
 - a) life
 - b) the block feature
 - c) social media
 - d) sharing posts
- 5) What change has Elon Musk made besides the logo and name of Twitter?
 - a) raising salaries
 - b) relocating its headquarters
 - c) laying off employees
 - d) the company motto
- 6) How do many people feel about the changes?
 - a) in two minds
 - b) up in arms
 - c) down in the dumps
 - d) over the moon
- 7) What is Changpeng Zhao the CEO of?
 - a) a free speech company
 - b) Twitter
 - c) Facebook
 - d) a crypto-currency company
- 8) What did Changpeng Zhao say Elon Musk should focus on?
 - a) ham and eggs
 - b) spam and bots
 - c) increasing users
 - d) money
- 9) What did a critic say there could be more of without the block feature?
 - a) bullying
 - b) direct messages
 - c) posts
 - d) layoffs
- 10) What did an observer say was needed for people to block abusive users?
 - a) bullies
 - b) nice users
 - c) a new law
 - d) a mechanism

ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com//2308/230821-blocking-on-social-media.html>

Role A – X

You think the X logo is the best. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their logos. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): Apple, the Olympics or Nike.

Role B – Apple

You think the Apple logo is the best. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their logos. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): X, the Olympics or Nike.

Role C – The Olympics

You think the Olympics logo is the best. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their logos. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): Apple, X or Nike.

Role D – Nike

You think the Nike logo is the best. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their logos. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): Apple, the Olympics or X.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com//2308/230821-blocking-on-social-media.html>

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'social' and 'media'.

social	media

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• remove• unwanted• seeing• except• sense• employees	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• arms• hateful• efforts• lack• free• targets
---	--

SOCIAL MEDIA SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com//2308/230821-blocking-on-social-media.html>

Write five GOOD questions about social media 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.

SOCIAL MEDIA DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'social'?
3. What do you know about X (formerly Twitter)?
4. What social media platform is best?
5. Do you worry about being on social media?
6. How important is it to be able to block people?
7. Are there friends on your social media who are not really friends?
8. What are the good and bad things about blocking people?
9. How good a business leader is Elon Musk?
10. What changes would you like social media platforms to make?

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SOCIAL MEDIA DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'media'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. Which is the better name, X or Twitter?
15. How important is social media to you?
16. Have you received any hateful comments on social media?
17. How big a problem are bots and spam?
18. What do you think of online bullying?
19. How can we keep predators away from social media?
20. What questions would you like to ask Elon Musk?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com//2308/230821-blocking-on-social-media.html>

Elon Musk has announced he will remove the blocking feature from accounts on X, (1) ____ known as Twitter. Mr Musk, who is the owner of X, said users would no (2) ____ be able to block comments from unwanted followers. Under the new policy, X users will be unable to (3) ____ individual accounts from contacting them, following them or seeing their posts. However, people will still be able to block direct messages. Musk wrote on Friday: "Block is going to be deleted (4) ____ a 'feature,' except for DMs." He added that being allowed to block other people's comments "makes no (5) ____". The change would be the latest in Musk's overhaul of his platform. Others include the name and logo change and (6) ____ of employees.

Many X users are up in (7) ____ over Mr Musk's latest proposal. They believe the block function is essential to keep people safe and to prevent (8) ____ content and harassment from appearing in their feeds. Changpeng Zhao, the CEO of the cryptocurrency company Binance, said Musk should concentrate his efforts (9) ____ making X safer and easier to use. He said: "X should really (10) ____ the bots and spam problems before removing blocks." Another critic said the lack of a blocking feature could make bullying more common. He said it could (11) ____ the free speech of users who are the targets of bullies and predators. Another observer said people, "need a (12) ____ to block abusive users".

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1. | (a) formerly | (b) firmly | (c) femur | (d) framer |
| 2. | (a) shorter | (b) lengthen | (c) longer | (d) shorten |
| 3. | (a) detach | (b) unlock | (c) restrict | (d) annihilate |
| 4. | (a) has | (b) was | (c) be | (d) as |
| 5. | (a) sense | (b) sensible | (c) sensory | (d) senses |
| 6. | (a) layabouts | (b) layoffs | (c) layouts | (d) laybys |
| 7. | (a) heads | (b) legs | (c) hands | (d) arms |
| 8. | (a) hateful | (b) hateful | (c) hatred | (d) hated |
| 9. | (a) in | (b) at | (c) on | (d) by |
| 10. | (a) evolve | (b) solve | (c) involve | (d) devolve |
| 11. | (a) entreat | (b) stencil | (c) smoke | (d) inhibit |
| 12. | (a) mechanic | (b) mechanism | (c) mechanical | (d) machine |

SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com//2308/230821-blocking-on-social-media.html>

Paragraph 1

1. Musk has onenunadc he will remove the blocking feature
2. rymeflro known as Twitter
3. tirsrect individual accounts
4. Block is going to be dtelede as a feature
5. Musk's holareuv of his platform
6. yfsalof of employees

Paragraph 2

7. Mr Musk's latest plraopos
8. esiseanlt to keep people safe
9. prevent hateful content and ansershamt
10. netoctnaerc his efforts
11. tiinbhi the free speech of users
12. block auisevb users

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com//2308/230821-blocking-on-social-media.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () critic said the lack of a blocking feature could make bullying more common. He said it could
- () being allowed to block other people's comments "makes no sense". The change would be the latest
- () of the crypto-currency company Binance, said Musk should concentrate his efforts on making X
- (**1**) Elon Musk has announced he will remove the blocking feature from accounts on X, formerly
- () inhibit the free speech of users who are the targets of bullies and predators. Another observer
- () said people, "need a mechanism to block abusive users".
- () accounts from contacting them, following them or seeing their posts. However, people will still be able to
- () people safe and to prevent hateful content and harassment from appearing in their feeds. Changpeng Zhao, the CEO
- () block direct messages. Musk wrote on Friday: "Block is going to be deleted as a 'feature,' except for DMs." He added that
- () known as Twitter. Mr Musk, who is the owner of X, said users would no longer be able to block
- () safer and easier to use. He said: "X should really solve the bots and spam problems before removing blocks." Another
- () comments from unwanted followers. Under the new policy, X users will be unable to restrict individual
- () Many X users are up in arms over Mr Musk's latest proposal. They believe the block function is essential to keep
- () in Musk's overhaul of his platform. Others include the name and logo change and layoffs of employees.

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com//2308/230821-blocking-on-social-media.html>

1. blocking from will He the remove accounts . feature
2. able from block comments unwanted Be followers . to
3. accounts . individual will be unable to restrict Users
4. Musk's his in latest overhaul of platform . The
5. Others logo and layoffs . and name include change,
6. users X Many in arms . are up
7. is essential people safe . The keep to function
8. solve should bots X really problems . the
9. It inhibit the speech of users . free could
10. People a abusive block need users . mechanism to

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2308/230821-blocking-on-social-media.html>

Elon Musk has announced he will remove the blocking *future / feature* from accounts on X, formerly *known / knowing* as Twitter. Mr Musk, who is the owner of X, said users would no *longer / longing* be able to block comments *from / for* unwanted followers. Under the new policy, X users will be unable to restrict individual accounts from *contracting / contacting* them, following them or seeing their posts. However, people will still be able to block *directive / direct* messages. Musk wrote on Friday: "Block is going to be deleted *has / as* a 'feature,' except for DMs." He added that being allowed to block other people's comments "makes *no sense / nonsense*". The change would be the latest in Musk's *overall / overhaul* of his platform. Others include the name and logo change and *layoffs / layouts* of employees.

Many X users are up in *legs / arms* over Mr Musk's latest proposal. They believe the block function is essential *for / to* keep people safe and to prevent *hateful / hated* content and harassment from appearing in their *feeds / feeds*. Changpeng Zhao, the CEO of the crypto-currency company Binance, said Musk should *concentrate / cooperate* his efforts on making X safer and *easier / easily* to use. He said: "X should really solve the *pots / bots* and spam problems before removing blocks." Another critic said the lack of a blocking feature could make *bully / bullying* more common. He said it could inhibit the *free / freedom* speech of users who are the targets of bullies and predators. Another observer said people, "need a mechanism to block *abusive / abrasive* users".

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct. Look up the definition of new words.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2308/230821-blocking-on-social-media.html>

Elon Musk has announced he will remove the blocking feature from X, formerly known as Twitter. Mr Musk, who is the owner of X, said users would no longer be able to block comments from unwanted followers. Under the new policy, X users will be able to restrict and delete comments from contacting them, following them or seeing their posts. However, people will still be able to block direct messages. Musk wrote on Friday: "Block users going to be deleted as 'followers,' except for DMs." He added that being allowed to block other people's comments "makes no sense". The change would be the latest in Musk's overhaul of his platform. There included the name and logo change and layoffs of employees.

Many X users are upset and some over Mr Musk's latest proposal. They believe the block function is essential to keep people safe and to prevent hateful content and harassment from happening on their feeds. Changing Zcash, the CEO of the cryptocurrency company Binance, said Musk should concentrate his efforts on making X safer and easier to use. He said: "X should really solve the bugs and spam problems before removing blocks." Another critic said the lack of blocking feature could make bullying more common. He said it could inhibit the free speech of users who are the targets of bullies and predators. Another observer said people, "need more mechanisms to block abusive users".

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com//2308/230821-blocking-on-social-media.html>

elon musk has announced he will remove the blocking feature from accounts on x formerly known as twitter mr musk who is the owner of x said users would no longer be able to block comments from unwanted followers under the new policy x users will be unable to restrict individual accounts from contacting them following them or seeing their posts however people will still be able to block direct messages musk wrote on friday block is going to be deleted as a feature except for dms he added that being allowed to block other peoples comments makes no sense the change would be the latest in musks overhaul of his platform others include the name and logo change and layoffs of employees

many x users are up in arms over mr musks latest proposal they believe the block function is essential to keep people safe and to prevent hateful content and harassment from appearing in their feeds changpeng zhao the ceo of the cryptocurrency company binance said musk should concentrate his efforts on making x safer and easier to use he said x should really solve the bots and spam problems before removing blocks another critic said the lack of a blocking feature could make bullying more common he said it could inhibit the free speech of users who are the targets of bullies and predators another observer said people need a mechanism to block abusive users

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com//2308/230821-blocking-on-social-media.html>

Elon Musk has announced he will remove the blocking feature from accounts on X, formerly known as Twitter. Mr Musk, who is the owner of X, said users would no longer be able to block comments from unwanted followers. Under the new policy, X users will be unable to restrict individual accounts from contacting them, following them or seeing their posts. However, people will still be able to block direct messages. Musk wrote on Friday: "Blocking is going to be deleted as a feature, 'except for DMs.' He added that being allowed to block other people's comments "makes no sense". The change would be the latest in Musk's overhaul of his platform. Others include the name and logo change and layoff of employees. Many X users are up in arms over Mr Musk's latest proposal. They believe the block function is essential to keep people safe and to prevent hateful content and harassment from appearing in their feeds. Changpeng Zhao, the CEO of the cryptocurrency company Binance, said Musk should concentrate his efforts on making X safer and easier to use. He said: "X should really solve the bots and spam problems before removing blocks." Another critic said the lack of a blocking feature could make bullying more common. He said it could inhibit the free speech of users who are the targets of bullies and predators. Another observer said people "need a mechanism to block abusive users".

HOMework

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. SOCIAL MEDIA: Make a poster about social media. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. BLOCKING USERS: Write a magazine article about requiring all social media companies to remove the blocking feature. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to an expert on social media. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your ideas on how to make it better. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. d 2. b 3. f 4. c 5. g 6. a 7. e
8. k 9. l 10. i 11. h 12. n 13. j 14. m

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- 1 F 2 T 3 F 4 F 5 F 6 T 7 F 8 T

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

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

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. Elon Musk
2. Unwanted followers
3. Direct messages
4. The block feature
5. Laying off employees
6. They are up in arms
7. A crypto-currency company
8. Solving the spam and bots problem
9. Bullying
10. A mechanism

WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

1. He will remove the blocking feature from accounts.
2. Be able to block comments from unwanted followers.
3. Users will be unable to restrict individual accounts.
4. The latest in Musk's overhaul of his platform.
5. Others include name and logo change, and layoffs.
6. Many X users are up in arms.
7. The function is essential to keep people safe.
8. X should really solve the bots problems.
9. It could inhibit the free speech of users.
10. People need a mechanism to block abusive users.

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. c 2. a 3. d 4. b 5. c 6. b 7. d 8. b 9. a 10. d

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)