

Twitter ends 140-character Direct Message limit

15th August, 2015



For the first time on Twitter, people will be able to send messages that are longer than 140 characters. While tweets will still be restricted to the 140-character limit, Direct Messages (DMs) will be capped at 10,000 characters. These are the personal

communications sent from one person to another. Twitter's Product Manager Sachin Agarwal blogged about the change. He wrote: "You can now chat on and on in a single Direct Message and likely still have some characters left over." He added: "While Twitter is largely a public experience, Direct Messages let you have private conversations....Tweets...are an opportunity for you to spark a conversation about what's happening in your world."

Twitter users will experience the change over the next few weeks as Twitter rolls out the new system worldwide on a country-by-country basis. The site's co-founder Jack Dorsey recently admitted Twitter needed to do better to keep up with its social networking competitors. Twitter currently has about 300 million global users while rival Facebook has more than 1.4 billion. Sites like Facebook and WhatsApp have spent a lot of money on making their messaging services more user-friendly. Twitter has had a similar focus throughout this year. It recently allowed group DMs and allowed people to accept private messages from people even if they do not follow them.

Sources: *PC Mag.com / Daily Mail.co / Mirror.co*

Writing

What are the pros and cons of social networks? Which is your favourite? Why?

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

the first time / messages / restricted / limit / blogged / experience / conversations / the next few weeks / worldwide / networking / rival / messaging / recently / follow

True / False

- There will soon be no character limit on Twitter Direct Messages. T / F
- Tweets will still have a 140-character limit. T / F
- Twitter's CEO blogged about being able to chat and chat T / F
- A product manager said tweets are for sparking conversations. T / F
- The new system will roll out across the world in the coming weeks. T / F
- Twitter's co-founder said the website needed to do more. T / F
- There is no such thing as group DMs on Twitter. T / F
- You cannot DM someone on Twitter unless they follow you. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. restricted | a. mainly |
| 2. left over | b. presently |
| 3. largely | c. occurring |
| 4. spark | d. launches |
| 5. happening | e. rivals |
| 6. rolls out | f. limited |
| 7. competitors | g. permitted |
| 8. currently | h. remaining |
| 9. throughout | i. ignite |
| 10. allowed | j. all through |

Discussion – Student A

- What should all social network websites provide?
- What do you think of ads on social networks?
- How important is Twitter for providing real-time world news?
- Why does Facebook have so many more users than Twitter?
- How would your life change if social networks ended?
- Can you say what you want in 140 characters?
- Which do you prefer, face-to-face chats or online chats?
- What questions would you like to ask Twitter's CEO?

Breaking News English - The Mini Lesson

Phrase Match

- restricted to the
- personal
- still have some characters
- spark a
- what's happening
- over the next
- on a country-by-country
- Twitter needed to do better
- making their messaging services more user-
- a similar focus throughout
- conversation
- friendly
- in your world
- few weeks
- 140-character limit
- to keep up
- left over
- this year
- communications
- basis

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of Twitter?
- How important is social networking to you?
- What are the good and bad things about social networking?
- What do you think of Twitter's 140-character limit?
- How does Twitter compare to other social networking sites?
- Will the 10,000 characters on DMs get Twitter more users?
- Do people spend too long on social networks?
- Do people need social networks to spark conversations?

Spelling

- tweets will still be rstireetcd
- acpped at 10,000 characters
- personal csmmiiucantnoo
- largely a public rceexpeni
- an opyutrpoitn for you
- spark a entiosanvorc
- rolls out the new tmsyse
- eidttamd Twitter needed to do better
- social networking ooecttismrp
- asmgnsegi services
- tohruuogth this year
- etaccp private messages

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – Twitter

You think Twitter is the best site. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their sites aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Google, news sites or weather sites.

Role B – Google

You think Google is the best site. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their sites aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Twitter, news sites or weather sites.

Role C – News

You think news sites are the best sites. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their sites aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Google, Twitter or weather sites.

Role D – Weather

You think weather sites are the best sites. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their sites aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Google, news sites or Twitter.

Speaking – Websites

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

- Twitter
- Facebook
- Google
- News
- Sports
- Cooking
- Weather
- eBay

Answers – True / False

a	F	b	T	c	F	d	T	e	T	f	T	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.