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Level 4 – 21st August 2023

Elon Musk to remove blocking feature on X

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2308/230821-blocking-on-social-media-4.html>

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Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2308/230821-blocking-on-social-media-4.html>

Elon Musk will remove the blocking feature from X, formerly known as Twitter. He said users will no longer be able to block comments from anyone. X users will be unable to stop people contacting or following them or from seeing their posts. People will be able to block direct messages. Musk said blocking comments "makes no sense". The change is the latest in Musk's redesign of X. Others include a name and logo change.

Many X users are angry. They believe blocking helps to keep people safe from hateful comments. The CEO of a cryptocurrency company said Musk should focus 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 no blocking could discourage the free speech of users who are the targets of bullies. Another critic said people must be able to block abuse.

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>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2308/230821-blocking-on-social-media-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. formerly | a. or following them |
| 2. He said users will no | b. of X |
| 3. block comments | c. messages |
| 4. stop people contacting | d. longer be able to |
| 5. block direct | e. change |
| 6. blocking comments makes | f. known as Twitter |
| 7. the latest in Musk's redesign | g. no sense |
| 8. a name and logo | h. from anyone |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. keep people safe | a. abuse |
| 2. a crypto- | b. on making X safer |
| 3. focus | c. currency company |
| 4. solve the bots | d. speech |
| 5. free | e. of bullies |
| 6. easier | f. and spam problems |
| 7. users who are the targets | g. from hateful comments |
| 8. people must be able to block | h. to use |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2308/230821-blocking-on-social-media-4.html>

Elon Musk (1) _____ blocking feature from X, formerly known as Twitter. He said users will (2) _____ able to block comments from anyone. X users will be unable to stop people contacting or following them or from (3) _____. People will be able (4) _____ messages. Musk said blocking comments "makes no sense". The change is (5) _____ Musk's redesign of X. Others include a name (6) _____.

Many X users are angry. They believe blocking (7) _____ people safe from hateful comments. The CEO of a crypto-currency company said Musk should (8) _____ X safer and easier to use. He said: "X should really solve the (9) _____ problems before removing blocks." Another critic said no blocking could discourage (10) _____ of users who are the (11) _____.

Another critic said people must be able (12) _____.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2308/230821-blocking-on-social-media-4.html>

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X users will be unable to stop people contacting or following them or from seeing their posts. People will be able to block direct messages. Musk said blocking comments "makes no sense". The change is the latest in Musk's redesign of X. Others include a name and logo change. Many X users are angry. They believe blocking helps to keep people safe from hateful comments. The CEO of a crypto-currency company said Musk should focus 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 no blocking could discourage the free speech of users who are the targets of bullies. Another critic said people must be able to block abuse.

SOCIAL MEDIA SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2308/230821-blocking-on-social-media-4.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.

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) _____

