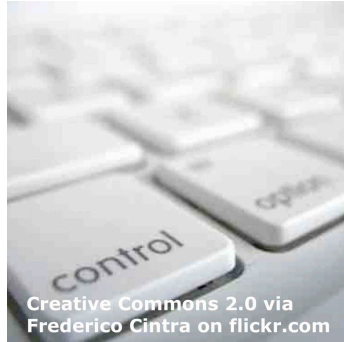


Elon Musk to remove blocking feature on X

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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: [cnn.com](https://www.cnn.com) / [theverge.com](https://www.theverge.com) / [forbes.com](https://www.forbes.com)

Writing

Do you think social media users should be able to block other users. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

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

True / False

- 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

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 |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you know about X (formerly Twitter)?
- b) What social media platform is best?
- c) Do you worry about being on social media?
- d) How important is it to be able to block people?
- e) Are there friends on your social media who are not really friends?
- f) What are the good and bad things about blocking people?
- g) How good a business leader is Elon Musk?
- h) What changes would you like social media platforms to make?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| 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 |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- Which is the better name, X or Twitter?
- How important is social media to you?
- Have you received any hateful comments on social media?
- How big a problem are bots and spam?
- What do you think of online bullying?
- How can we keep predators away from social media?
- What questions would you like to ask Elon Musk?

Spelling

- Musk has onenunadc he will remove the blocking feature
- rymeflro known as Twitter
- tirsrect individual accounts
- Block is going to be dtelede as a feature
- Musk's holareuv of his platform
- yfsalof of employees
- Mr Musk's latest plraopos
- esiseanlt to keep people safe
- prevent hateful content and ansershamt
- netoctnaerc his efforts
- tiinbhi the free speech of users
- block auisevb users

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

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.

Speaking – Logos

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

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

Answers – True False

1	F	2	T	3	F	4	F	5	F	6	T	7	F	8	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.