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Level 4

Social media sites face heavy hate speech fines

17th March, 2017

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1703/170317-hate-speech-4.html>

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

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1703/170317-hate-speech-4.html>

Social media sites in Germany could be fined \$50 million for removing illegal content too slowly. The government is cracking down on illegal posts, including hate speech, slander and fake news. A proposed new law would give sites seven days to delete illegal content, or get a big fine. They would have to delete "clearly criminal" content within 24 hours. Germany's justice minister said Twitter deletes only 1% of the hate speech it is told about.

The minister said the fines were necessary due to worries about the influence social media is having on public opinion. He said the biggest problems were social networks not taking users' complaints seriously enough and comments being deleted too slowly, or not at all. The minister wants sites to set up a complaints team that works 24/7. A digital organization said the 24-hour deadline for sites that get a billion posts per day was "utterly impossible".

Sources: <http://www.bbc.com/news/technology-39269535>
<http://www.dw.com/en/germany-to-force-facebook-twitter-to-delete-hate-speech/a-37927085>
<https://techcrunch.com/2017/03/14/facebook-twitter-still-failing-on-hate-speech-in-germany/>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1703/170317-hate-speech-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. cracking | a. fine |
| 2. hate speech, slander | b. law |
| 3. A proposed new | c. hate speech it is told about |
| 4. seven days to | d. and fake news |
| 5. get a big | e. minister |
| 6. delete "clearly criminal" | f. down on illegal posts |
| 7. Germany's justice | g. delete illegal content |
| 8. 1% of the | h. content within 24 hours |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| 1. The minister said the fines | a. posts per day |
| 2. the influence social media is having | b. works 24/7 |
| 3. not taking users' complaints | c. on public opinion |
| 4. comments being deleted too slowly, | d. impossible |
| 5. set up a complaints team that | e. were necessary |
| 6. 24-hour | f. seriously enough |
| 7. sites that get a billion | g. deadline |
| 8. utterly | h. or not at all |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1703/170317-hate-speech-4.html>

Social media sites in Germany (1) _____ \$50 million for removing illegal content too slowly. The government is (2) _____ illegal posts, including hate speech, slander (3) _____. A proposed new law would give sites seven days to delete illegal content, (4) _____. They would have to delete "clearly criminal" content (5) _____. Germany's justice minister said Twitter deletes only 1% of the hate speech (6) _____.

The minister said the fines were (7) _____ worries about the influence social media is (8) _____ opinion. He said the biggest problems were social networks not taking users' (9) _____ enough and comments being deleted too slowly, (10) _____. The minister wants sites to (11) _____ team that works 24/7. A digital organization said the 24-hour deadline for sites that get a billion (12) _____ "utterly impossible".

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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HATE SPEECH SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1703/170317-hate-speech-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about hate speech 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) _____

WRITING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1703/170317-hate-speech-4.html>

Write about **hate speech** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner’s paper.
