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Level 6

Social media sites face heavy hate speech fines

17th March, 2017

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

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

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<https://plus.google.com/+SeanBanville>

THE ARTICLE

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

Social media websites in Germany could be in for fines of up to 50 million euros (\$54 million) for removing illegal content too slowly. The German government has decided to crack down on the darker side of online content, including hate speech, slander, fake news and other illegal material. Under the proposed new law, the likes of Facebook and Twitter would be given seven days to delete content flagged as illegal, or incur a heavy financial penalty. Any content deemed to be "clearly criminal" would have to be removed within 24 hours. Germany's justice minister Heiko Maas quoted research which suggested Twitter deletes only one per cent of the hate speech it is told about by users, and Facebook, 39 per cent.

Mr Maas said the new fines and regulations were necessary due to heightening concern over the influence social media is having in shaping public opinion. He said: "The biggest problem is that the social networks do not take the complaints of their own users seriously enough." He added that voluntary efforts to tackle the problem were not working, saying: "Too few comments are deleted, and they're not being deleted quickly enough." Mr Maas said all social media companies would be required to set up a complaints team that must be operational 24/7. A digital trade organization feared that removing content within 24 hours from sites that handle more than one 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/>

WARM-UPS

1. HATE SPEECH: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about hate speech. 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?

social media / illegal content / the darker side / hate speech / fake news / criminal / fines / regulations / public opinion / complaints / voluntary / team / one billion posts

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

3. FREE SPEECH: Students A **strongly** believe because of hate speech, there is no free speech; Students B **strongly** believe free speech is any and all speech. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. ILLEGAL CONTENT: Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

Type	How bad?	Punishment?	Effects?
Sexual activity			
Explicit violence			
How to do a crime			
Hate speech			
Terrorist training material			
Slander of individuals			

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

6. HATE: Rank these with your partner. Put the worst kinds of hate speech at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- racist attacks
- body shaming
- sexist attacks
- religious hate
- homophobia
- Holocaust denial
- criticism of a nation
- slander of individuals

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

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

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

- a. Social media sites in Germany could get \$54 million hate speech fines. **T / F**
- b. Sites will have seven days to delete material flagged as hate speech. **T / F**
- c. Sites will have 24 hours to delete clearly criminal hate speech. **T / F**
- d. Twitter deletes 30% of posts its users flag as being hate speech. **T / F**
- e. There is growing concern over the influence of social media. **T / F**
- f. A justice minister said social media sites take complaints seriously. **T / F**
- g. The minister said voluntary efforts to tackle the problem worked well. **T / F**
- h. An organization said sites could easily monitor one billion posts a day. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms. The words in **bold** are from the news article.

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| 1. removing | a. growing |
| 2. crack down | b. considered |
| 3. fake | c. cited |
| 4. deemed | d. totally |
| 5. quoted | e. deleting |
| 6. regulations | f. determining |
| 7. heightening | g. get tough |
| 8. shaping | h. establish |
| 9. set up | i. rules |
| 10. utterly | j. hoax |

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

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. websites in Germany could be in for fines of | a. shaping public opinion |
| 2. crack down on the darker | b. financial penalty |
| 3. incur a heavy | c. minister |
| 4. content deemed | d. side of online content |
| 5. justice | e. own users seriously |
| 6. necessary due | f. 24/7 |
| 7. the influence social media is having in | g. up to 50 million euros |
| 8. take the complaints of their | h. impossible |
| 9. be operational | i. to heightening concern |
| 10. utterly | j. to be "clearly criminal" |

GAP FILL

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

Social media websites in Germany could be (1) _____ for fines of up to 50 million euros (\$54 million) for removing illegal content (2) _____ slowly. The German government has decided to crack (3) _____ on the darker side of online content, including hate speech, slander, fake news and other illegal material. Under the proposed new law, the (4) _____ of Facebook and Twitter would be given seven days to delete content flagged as illegal, or incur a (5) _____ financial penalty. Any content deemed to be "(6) _____ criminal" would have to be removed within 24 hours. Germany's (7) _____ minister Heiko Maas quoted research which suggested Twitter deletes only one per cent of the hate speech it is told about by (8) _____, and Facebook, 39 per cent.

down
heavy
users
too
likes
justice
in
clearly

Mr Maas said the new fines and regulations were necessary (9) _____ to heightening concern over the influence social media is having in (10) _____ public opinion. He said: "The biggest problem is that the social networks do not (11) _____ the complaints of their own users seriously enough." He added that voluntary efforts to tackle the problem were not working, saying: "Too (12) _____ comments are deleted, and they're not being deleted quickly (13) _____." Mr Maas said all social media companies would be required to set up a complaints team that must be (14) _____ 24/7. A digital trade organization (15) _____ that removing content within 24 hours from sites that handle more than one billion posts per day was "(16) _____ impossible".

enough
due
feared
take
utterly
few
shaping
operational

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

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

- 1) The German government has decided to crack _____ darker side
 - a. down in the
 - b. up on the
 - c. down on a
 - d. down on the
- 2) online content, including hate speech, slander, fake news and _____ material
 - a. another illegals
 - b. others illegal
 - c. other illegals
 - d. other illegal
- 3) given seven days to delete content flagged as illegal, or _____ financial penalty
 - a. incur a heavy
 - b. concur a heavy
 - c. recur a heavy
 - d. occur a heavy
- 4) Any content deemed to be "clearly criminal" would have to be _____ 24 hours
 - a. remove within
 - b. removed within
 - c. removed with in
 - d. removed withering
- 5) ...suggested Twitter deletes only one per cent of the hate speech it is _____ users
 - a. told above by
 - b. told about buy
 - c. told about by
 - d. told around by
- 6) Mr Maas said the new fines and regulations were necessary _____ concern
 - a. due to heighten in
 - b. due to heightening
 - c. due to height awning
 - d. due to high tanning
- 7) the influence social media is having in shaping _____
 - a. publics opinion
 - b. publicity opinion
 - c. publicly opinion
 - d. public opinion
- 8) social networks do not take the complaints of their _____ seriously enough
 - a. owner users
 - b. own users
 - c. own user
 - d. owners users
- 9) required to set up a complaints team that must be _____
 - a. operation all 24/7
 - b. operational 7/24
 - c. operates and all 7/24
 - d. operational 24/7
- 10) ...from sites that handle more than one billion posts per day was " _____ "
 - a. udder the impossible
 - b. utterly impossible
 - c. another impossibility
 - d. utters the impossible

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

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

Social media websites in Germany (1) _____ fines of up to 50 million euros (\$54 million) for removing illegal content too slowly. The German government has decided (2) _____ the darker side of online content, including hate speech, slander, fake news (3) _____ material. Under the proposed new law, the likes of Facebook and Twitter would be given seven days to delete content flagged as illegal, (4) _____ heavy financial penalty. Any content (5) _____ "clearly criminal" would have to be removed within 24 hours. Germany's justice minister Heiko Maas quoted research which suggested Twitter deletes only one per (6) _____ speech it is told about by users, and Facebook, 39 per cent.

Mr Maas said the new fines and regulations (7) _____ to heightening concern over the influence social (8) _____ shaping public opinion. He said: "The biggest problem is that the social networks do not take (9) _____ their own users seriously enough." He added that (10) _____ tackle the problem were not working, saying: "Too few comments are deleted, and they're not being deleted quickly enough." Mr Maas said all social media companies would be required (11) _____ complaints team that must be operational 24/7. A digital trade organization feared that removing content within 24 hours from sites that handle more than one billion posts per (12) _____ impossible".

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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

1. What is the maximum fine a social media site could get?
2. How long will sites have to delete content flagged as illegal?
3. How long will sites have to delete "clearly criminal" content?
4. What position does Heiko Maas hold in Germany's government?
5. What percentage of hate speech flagged by Twitter users is deleted?
6. What is Heiko Maas concerned that social media is influencing?
7. What did Mr Maas say social networks do not take seriously?
8. What did Mr Maas say social media companies would have to set up?
9. How long will a team have to be operational for?
10. What did a digital organization say about the chance of deleting content?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

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

- 1) What is the maximum fine a social media site could get?
 - a) 50 million euros / \$54 million
 - b) 100 million euros / \$108 million
 - c) 75 million euros / \$81 million
 - d) 10 million euros / \$10.8 million
- 2) How long will sites have to delete content flagged as illegal?
 - a) 48 hours
 - b) 4 days
 - c) 7 days
 - d) 14 days
- 3) How long will sites have to delete "clearly criminal" content?
 - a) one hour
 - b) 24 hours
 - c) 36 hours
 - d) 48 hours
- 4) What position does Heiko Maas hold in Germany's government?
 - a) Social Minister
 - b) Policing Minister
 - c) Internet Minister
 - d) Justice Minister
- 5) What percentage of hate speech flagged by Twitter users is deleted?
 - a) 1%
 - b) 3.6%
 - c) 17%
 - d) 39%
- 6) What is Heiko Maas concerned that social media is influencing?
 - a) morals
 - b) brain size
 - c) Internet speeds
 - d) public opinion
- 7) What did Mr Maas say social networks do not take seriously?
 - a) each other
 - b) user opinions
 - c) their responsibility
 - d) hate speech
- 8) What did Mr Maas say social media companies would have to set up?
 - a) complainant teams
 - b) plaintiff teams
 - c) complaining teams
 - d) complaints teams
- 9) How long will a team have to be operational for?
 - a) 9-5
 - b) Mon-Fri
 - c) 24/7
 - d) during Internet hours
- 10) What did a digital organization say about the chance of deleting content?
 - a) "so do-able"
 - b) "utterly impossible"
 - c) "50-50 chance of success"
 - d) "not too bad"

ROLE PLAY

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

Role A – Racist Attacks

You think racist attacks are the worst form of hate speech. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them how to tackle their forms of hate speech. Also, tell the others which of these is the easiest to combat (and why): body shaming, homophobia or slander of individuals.

Role B – Body Shaming

You think body shaming is the worst form of hate speech. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them how to tackle their forms of hate speech. Also, tell the others which of these is the easiest to combat (and why): racist attacks, homophobia or slander of individuals.

Role C – Homophobia

You think homophobia is the worst form of hate speech. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them how to tackle their forms of hate speech. Also, tell the others which of these is the easiest to combat (and why): body shaming, racist attacks or slander of individuals.

Role D – Slander of Individuals

You think slander of individuals is the worst form of hate speech. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them how to tackle their forms of hate speech. Also, tell the others which of these is the easiest to combat (and why): body shaming, homophobia or racist attacks.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

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

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

hate	speech
-------------	---------------

- 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">• could• down• other• given• clearly• only	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• due• take• efforts• few• set• per
---	--

HATE SPEECH SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1703/170317-hate-speech.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.

HATE SPEECH DISCUSSION

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

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What springs to mind when you hear the term 'hate speech'?
3. What do you think of Germany's proposed new law?
4. What are the dangers of hate speech?
5. How can we better deal with hate speech?
6. What do you think of people who post hate speech?
7. What responsibility do social media sites have to delete hate speech?
8. How difficult is it to decide what is hate speech?
9. Has anyone ever posted something about you that you didn't like?
10. What three adjectives best describe those who post hate speech?

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HATE SPEECH 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 term 'social media'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. Is hate speech part of free speech?
15. How is social media influencing public opinion?
16. To what degree is online content controlling our lives?
17. How worried are you about online safety?
18. What advice do you have for social media sites?
19. How can a site monitor a billion posts a day?
20. What questions would you like to ask bosses of social media sites?

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

Social media websites in Germany could be (1) _____ for fines of up to 50 million euros (\$54 million) for removing illegal content too (2) _____. The German government has decided to crack (3) _____ on the darker side of online content, including hate speech, slander, fake news and other illegal material. Under the proposed new law, the (4) _____ of Facebook and Twitter would be given seven days to delete content flagged (5) _____ illegal, or incur a heavy financial penalty. Any content deemed to be "clearly criminal" would have to be removed within 24 hours. Germany's justice minister Heiko Maas quoted research which (6) _____ Twitter deletes only one per cent of the hate speech it is told about by users, and Facebook, 39 per cent.

Mr Maas said the new fines and regulations were necessary due (7) _____ heightening concern over the influence social media is having in shaping (8) _____ opinion. He said: "The biggest problem is that the social networks do not (9) _____ the complaints of their own users seriously enough." He added that voluntary efforts to (10) _____ the problem were not working, saying: "Too few comments are deleted, and they're not being deleted quickly enough." Mr Maas said all social media companies would be required (11) _____ set up a complaints team that must be operational 24/7. A digital trade organization feared that removing content within 24 hours from sites that (12) _____ more than one billion posts per day was "utterly impossible".

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1. | (a) on | (b) to | (c) down | (d) in |
| 2. | (a) slowish | (b) slow | (c) slows | (d) slowly |
| 3. | (a) up | (b) down | (c) in | (d) out |
| 4. | (a) liking | (b) likelihood | (c) likes | (d) likely |
| 5. | (a) was | (b) is | (c) as | (d) has |
| 6. | (a) suggested | (b) suggest | (c) suggesting | (d) suggestive |
| 7. | (a) of | (b) to | (c) from | (d) for |
| 8. | (a) public | (b) general | (c) private | (d) specific |
| 9. | (a) have | (b) take | (c) play | (d) write |
| 10. | (a) kick | (b) grip | (c) tackle | (d) knock |
| 11. | (a) for | (b) of | (c) to | (d) by |
| 12. | (a) caress | (b) touch | (c) stroke | (d) handle |

SPELLING

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

Paragraph 1

1. removing igallel content
2. hate speech, aesldr, fake news...
3. the pdroepso new law
4. rciun a heavy financial penalty
5. content mddeee to be "clearly criminal"
6. Maas detuqo research which suggested...

Paragraph 2

7. the new fines and aniorelstgu
8. the eiefcnlun social media is having
9. rlontyuav efforts
10. set up a npitcomsal team
11. be lnriaaeotop 24/7
12. rtluety impossible

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

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

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () only one per cent of the hate speech it is told about by users, and Facebook, 39 per cent.
- () of their own users seriously enough." He added that voluntary efforts to tackle the problem were not
- () enough." Mr Maas said all social media companies would be required to set up a complaints team that must be
- () new law, the likes of Facebook and Twitter would be given seven days to delete content flagged as illegal, or incur
- () operational 24/7. A digital trade organization feared that removing content within
- () within 24 hours. Germany's justice minister Heiko Maas quoted research which suggested Twitter deletes
- () Mr Maas said the new fines and regulations were necessary due to heightening concern over the influence social media is
- () too slowly. The German government has decided to crack down on the darker
- (**1**) working, saying: "Too few comments are deleted, and they're not being deleted quickly
- () having in shaping public opinion. He said: "The biggest problem is that the social networks do not take the complaints
- () 24 hours from sites that handle more than one billion posts per day was "utterly impossible".
- () Social media websites in Germany could be in for fines of up to 50 million euros (\$54 million) for removing illegal content
- () side of online content, including hate speech, slander, fake news and other illegal material. Under the proposed
- () a heavy financial penalty. Any content deemed to be "clearly criminal" would have to be removed

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

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

1. for media Germany in Social in be fines websites could .
2. The down crack to decided has government German .
3. hate darker online including The of , speech side content .
4. flagged Be days content illegal seven delete as given to .
5. told the Only is of users it cent by speech per about hate one .
6. in opinion social having public influence is shaping The media .
7. their own users seriously Networks do not take the complaints of .
8. not tackle working the Voluntary problem efforts were to .
9. complaints must 24/7 A that operational team be .
10. handle one per that than posts Sites more billion day .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

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

Social media websites in Germany could be *in / out* for fines of up to 50 million euros (\$54 million) for removing illegal content too *slow / slowly*. The German government has decided to crack *up / down* on the darker side of online content, including hate speech, slander, fake news and *other / others* illegal material. Under the proposed new law, the *likely / likes* of Facebook and Twitter would be given seven days to delete content flagged as illegal, or *incur / concur* a heavy financial *penalty / penal*. Any content deemed to be "clearly *criminal / criminally*" would have to be removed within 24 hours. Germany's justice minister Heiko Maas quoted research which *suggestive / suggested* Twitter deletes only one per cent of the hate speech it is told about by *users / usage*, and Facebook, 39 per cent.

Mr Maas said the new fines and *regulations / regulatory* were necessary due to *heightening / upping* concern over the influence social media is having in shaping *public / private* opinion. He said: "The biggest problem is that the social networks do not take the *complaints / complains* of their own users seriously enough." He added that voluntary efforts to *kick / tackle* the problem were not working, saying: "Too *little / few* comments are deleted, and they're not being deleted *quick / quickly* enough." Mr Maas said all social media companies would be required to set up a *complaints / complaining* team that must be operational 24/7. A digital trade organization *frightened / feared* that removing content within 24 hours from sites that handle more than one billion posts per day was "*utterly / udders* impossible".

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

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

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

S_c__l m_d__ w_bs_t_s _n G_rm_ny c__ld b_ _n f_r
f_n_s _f _p t_ 50 m_ll__n __r_s (\$54 m_ll__n) f_r
r_m_v_ng __ll_g_l c_nt_nt t__ sl_wly. Th_ G_rm_n
g_v_rnm_nt h_s d_c_d_d t_ cr_ck d_wn _n th_ d_rk_r
s_d_ _f _nl_n_ c_nt_nt, _ncl_d_ng h_t_ sp__ch,
sl_nd_r, f_k_ n_ws _nd th_r __ll_g_l m_t_r__l. _nd_r
th_ pr_p_s_d n_w l_w, th_ l_k_s _f F_c_b__k _nd
Tw_tt_r w__ld b_ g_v_n s_v_n d_ys t_ d_l_t_ c_nt_nt
fl_gg_d _s __ll_g_l, _r _nc_r _h__vy f_n_nc__l p_n_lty.
_ny c_nt_nt d__m_d t_ b_ "cl__rly cr_m_n_l" w__ld
h_v_ t_ b_ r_m_v_d w_th_n 24 h__rs. G_rm_ny's
j_st_c_ m_n_st_r H__k_ M__s q__t_d r_s__rch wh_ch
s_gg_st_d Tw_tt_r d_l_t_s _nly _n_ p_r_c_nt _f th_
h_t_ sp__ch _t _s t_ld _b__t by _s_rs, _nd F_c_b__k,
39 p_r_c_nt.

Mr M__s s__d th_ n_w f_n_s _nd r_g_l_t__ns w_r_
n_c_ss_ry d__ t_ h__ght_n_ng c_nc_rn _v_r th_
_nfl__nc_ s_c__l m_d__ _s h_v_ng _n sh_p_ng p_b_l_c
_p_n__n. H_ s__d: "Th_ b_gg_st pr_bl_m _s th_t th_
s_c__l n_tw_rks d_n_t t_k_ th_ c_mpl__nts _f th__r
_wn _s_rs s_r__sly _n__gh." H_ _dd_d th_t v_l_nt_ry
_ff_rts t_ t_ckl_ th_ pr_bl_m w_r_ n_t w_rk_ng,
s_y_ng: "T__ f_w c_mm_nts _r_d_l_t_d, _nd th_y'r_
n_t b__ng d_l_t_d q__ckly _n__gh." Mr M__s s__d __ll
s_c__l m_d__ c_m_p_n__s w__ld b_ r_q__r_d t_ s_t_p
_c_mpl__nts t__m th_t m_st b_ _p_r_t__n_l 24/7. _
d_g_t_l tr_d_ _rg_n_z_t__n f__r_d th_t r_m_v_ng
c_nt_nt w_th_n 24 h__rs fr_m s_t_s th_t h_ndl_m_r_
th_n _n_ b_ll__n p_sts p_r_d_y w_s "_tt_rly
_mp_ss_bl_".

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

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

social media websites in germany could be in for fines of up to 50 million euros (\$54 million) for removing illegal content too slowly the german government has decided to crack down on the darker side of online content including hate speech slander fake news and other illegal material under the proposed new law the likes of facebook and twitter would be given seven days to delete content flagged as illegal or incur a heavy financial penalty any content deemed to be "clearly criminal" would have to be removed within 24 hours germany's justice minister heiko maas quoted research which suggested twitter deletes only one per cent of the hate speech it is told about by users and facebook 39 per cent

mr maas said the new fines and regulations were necessary due to heightening concern over the influence social media is having in shaping public opinion he said "the biggest problem is that the social networks do not take the complaints of their own users seriously enough" he added that voluntary efforts to tackle the problem were not working saying "too few comments are deleted and they're not being deleted quickly enough" mr maas said all social media companies would be required to set up a complaints team that must be operational 24/7 a digital trade organization feared that removing content within 24 hours from sites that handle more than one billion posts per day was "utterly impossible"

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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

SocialmediawebsitesinGermanycouldbeinforfinesofupto50millioneuros(\$54million)forremovingillegalcontenttooslowly.TheGermangovernmenthasdecidedtocrackdownonthedarkersideofonlinecontent,includinghatespeech,slander,fakenewsandotherillegalmaterial.Undertheproposednewlaw,thelikesofFacebookandTwitterwouldbegivensevendaystodeletecontentflaggedasillegal,orincurahavyfinancialpenalty.Anycontentdeemedtobe"clearlycriminal"wouldhavetoberemovedwithin24hours.Germany'sjusticeministerHeikoMaasquotedresearchwhichsuggestedTwitterdeletesonlyonepercentofthehatespeechitistoldaboutbyusers,andFacebook,39percent.MrMaassaidthenewfinesandregulationswerenecessaryduetoheighteningconcernovertheinfluenceofsocialmediaishavinginshapingpublicopinion.Hesaid:"Thebiggestproblemisthatthesocialnetworksdonottakethecomplaintsoftheirownusersseriouslyenough."Headdedthatvoluntaryeffortstotackletheproblemwerenotworking,saying:"Toofewcommentsaredeleted,andthey'renotbeingdeletedquicklyenough."MrMaassaidallsocialmediacompanieswouldberequiredtosetupacomplaintsteamthatmustbeoperational24/7.Adigitaltradeorganizationfearedthatremovingcontentwithin24hoursfromsitesthathandlemorethanonebillionpostsperdaywas"utterlyimpossible".

ACADEMIC WRITING

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

There is no such thing as free speech while there is hate speech. Discuss.

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 hate speech. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. HATE SPEECH: Make a poster about hate speech. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. FREE SPEECH: Write a magazine article about there being no free speech while there is hate speech. Argue that people must go to prison for hate speech. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for any kind of 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 hate speech. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your ideas on how to deal with it. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

a T b T c T d F e T f F g F h F

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. removing | a. deleting |
| 2. crack down | b. get tough |
| 3. fake | c. hoax |
| 4. deemed | d. considered |
| 5. quoted | e. cited |
| 6. regulations | f. rules |
| 7. heightening | g. growing |
| 8. shaping | h. determining |
| 9. set up | i. establish |
| 10. utterly | j. totally |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. 50 million euros / \$54 million
2. Seven days
3. 24 hours
4. Justice Minister
5. 1%
6. Public opinion
7. User complaints
8. A complaints team
9. 24/7
10. Utterly impossible

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

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

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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