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Ready-to-Use English Lessons by Sean Banville

Level 5 – **21st August 2023**

Elon Musk to remove blocking feature on X

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https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2308/230821-blocking-on-social-media-5.html

Contents

Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

THE READING

Elon Musk said he will remove the blocking feature from X, formerly known as Twitter. Mr Musk is the owner of X. He said users will no longer be able to block comments from unwanted followers. X users will be unable to restrict people from contacting or following them or from seeing their posts. People will be able to block direct messages. Musk wrote: "Block is going to be deleted as a 'feature,' except for DMs." He added that blocking comments "makes no sense". The change is the latest in Musk's redesign of X. Others include the name and logo change.

Many X users are angry. They believe the block function is essential to keep people safe from hateful content and harassment. The CEO of the crypto-currency company Binance said Musk should focus 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 no blocking feature could make bullying more common. He said it could discourage the free speech of users who are the targets of bullies. Another critic said people, "need a mechanism to block abusive users".

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

PARAGRAPH ONE:

1.	remove the blocking	a.	direct messages
2.	formerly	b.	to block comments
3.	users will no longer be able	c.	be deleted
4.	restrict people from contacting	d.	change
5.	People will be able to block	e.	feature from X
6.	Block is going to	f.	Musk's redesign
7.	The change is the latest in	g.	known as Twitter
8.	the name and logo	h.	or following them

PARAGRAPH TWO:

1.	Many X users	a.	content
2.	the block function is essential	b.	and spam problems
3.	hateful	c.	making X safer
4.	the crypto-	d.	of bullies
5.	focus his efforts on	e.	are angry
6.	X should really solve the bots	f.	common
7.	make bullying more	g.	to keep people safe
8.	users who are the targets	h.	currency company

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

Elon Musk said he (1) _____ blocking feature from X, formerly known as Twitter. Mr Musk is (2) _____ X. He said users will no longer be able to block comments from unwanted followers. X users will (3) _____ restrict people from contacting or following them or from seeing their posts. People will be able to block direct messages. Musk wrote: "Block is going to (4) _____ a 'feature,' except for DMs." He added that blocking comments "(5) _____". The change is the latest in Musk's redesign of X. Others include the (6) _____ change.

Many X users are angry. They believe the block function (7) _____ keep people safe from hateful content and harassment. The CEO of the crypto-currency company Binance said Musk should (8) _____ on making X safer and easier to use. He said: "X should really (9) _____ and spam problems before removing blocks." Another critic said no blocking feature could (10) _____ common. He said it could discourage the (11) _____ users who are the targets of bullies. Another critic said people, "need a mechanism to (12) _____".

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

ElonMusksaidhewillremovetheblockingfeaturefromX,formerlyknow nasTwitter.MrMuskistheownerofX.Hesaiduserswillnolongerbeableto blockcommentsfromunwantedfollowers.Xuserswillbeunabletorestri ctpeoplefromcontactingorfollowingthemorfromseeingtheirposts.Pe oplewillbeabletoblockdirectmessages.Muskwrote:"Blockisgoingtob edeletedasa'feature,'exceptforDMs."Headdedthatblockingcommen ts"makesnosense".ThechangeisthelatestinMusk'sredesignofX.Othe rsincludethenameandlogochange.ManyXusersareangry.Theybeliev etheblockfunctionisessentialtokeeppeoplesafefromhatefulcontenta ndharassment.TheCEOofthecrypto-currencycompanyBinancesaidM uskshouldfocushiseffortsonmakingXsaferandeasiertouse.Hesaid:"X shouldreallysolvethebotsandspamproblemsbeforeremovingblocks. "Anothercriticsaidnoblockingfeaturecouldmakebullyingmorecomm on.Hesaiditcoulddiscouragethefreespeechofuserswhoarethetargets ofbullies.Anothercriticsaidpeople,"needamechanismtoblockabusive users".

SOCIAL MEDIA SURVEY

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) _____

WRITING

Write about **social media** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.