



ELON MUSK TO TAKE OVER TWITTER



Scan to review worksheet

Expemo code:
17FF-FMB4-7KA



1

Warm up

Discuss the questions in pairs or small groups.

1. Do you use social media regularly?
2. Do you have a Twitter account? Why do you think Twitter is so popular?
3. Can you think of any advantages or disadvantages to using Twitter?
4. Why do you think Elon Musk wants to purchase Twitter?
5. Have you ever been the victim of online abuse, such as trolling or cyber-bullying?
6. Do you have a generally positive or negative view of Elon Musk?





2

Vocabulary focus

Part A: Match words with the correct definitions.

- | | |
|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. <u>supplement</u> (v) | a. available for use as you prefer/somebody prefers |
| 2. <u>stake</u> (n) | b. the act of joining two or more businesses or organisations into one |
| 3. at somebody's <u>disposal</u> (ph.) | c. a claim or complaint against somebody that a person or organisation can make in court |
| 4. <u>seal</u> (v) | d. add something to something in order to improve it or make it more complete |
| 5. <u>resistance</u> (n) | e. make something definite, so that it cannot be changed or argued about |
| 6. <u>lawsuit</u> (n) | f. opposition to or dislike of a plan, idea etc. |
| 7. <u>acquisition</u> (n) | g. money that somebody invests in a company |
| 8. <u>merger</u> (n) | h. a company, piece of land etc. bought by somebody, especially another company |

Part B: Now use the expressions below to create definitions for these words.

countries around
negative reaction

electronic money
rich and powerful

its shares
the value

1. **tycoon**: a person who is successful in business or industry and has become _____
2. **cryptocurrency**: any system of _____, used for buying and selling online without the need for a central bank
3. **Gulf state**: one of the _____ the Persian Gulf
4. **equity**: _____ of a company's shares
5. **takeover**: an act of taking control of a company by buying most of _____
6. **backlash**: a strong _____ by a large number of people, for example to something that has recently changed in society



Part C: Complete the sentences with some words from Part A and Part B. You may need to change the form of the word.

1. As my father had a large _____ in the business, my sister and I were invited onto the board when he died.
2. In order to finance the _____, my brother and I are selling one of our companies.
3. Like any good teacher, she has many tools _____, so her lessons are never dull.
4. When the game's publisher completed the _____ of our studio, most of us lost our jobs.
5. You might want to _____ your diet with vitamin pills, but you should focus on healthy foods primarily.
6. I was surprised when plans for a new library met with some _____ in our community.
7. If the _____ goes through, there will be redundancies in our bank.
8. The government faced a _____ after members of the Cabinet were caught breaking Covid restrictions.
9. In many cultures, couples make formal promises in front of witnesses in order to _____ their marriage.
10. These days, much of the admiration we used to have for _____ has been replaced with contempt.

3

Listening for specific information

Listen to the report. Match the numbers mentioned with the things they relate to.

100 billion
2002

12.5 billion
250 billion

13 billion
43.6%

18
6.8 billion

- a. _____ The value, in pounds, of the Tesla shares Elon Musk has sold.
- b. _____ The net worth, in dollars, of Elon Musk.
- c. _____ The number of investors who will help to finance Musk's takeover of Twitter.
- d. _____ The amount of money in dollars that comprised the loans secured against Musk's shares in Tesla in the original proposal.
- e. _____ The amount of money in dollars that comprised the loans secured in Twitter in the original proposal.
- f. _____ The estimated value of SpaceX.
- g. _____ The stake Musk holds in SpaceX.
- h. _____ When SpaceX was founded.



4

Listening comprehension

Listen to the report again. Answer the questions true, false or not given.

1. Musk is using shares from his Tesla business to aid in his purchase of Twitter. _____
2. The electric car company Tesla is named after the engineer Nikola Tesla. _____
3. Larry Ellison is the chief executive of cryptocurrency trading network Binance. _____
4. Elon Musk has changed the way in which he is funding the takeover. _____
5. Musk has described his rocket business SpaceX as a 'boring company.' _____
6. Musk set up SpaceX with the goal of helping humans to colonise Mars. _____
7. Almost all of Twitter's users appear to support Musk's takeover. _____
8. In Florida, Twitter is suing Musk over the takeover. _____

5

Reading: general vocabulary

Match the words and phrases in bold with the correct definitions.

I

1. In many countries, posting anything online that could be considered to be **inciting** violence is illegal.
 2. When Leicester City won the Premier League, everyone was shocked, as they were clear **underdogs**.
 3. Some countries have a history of repeated **insurrections**, which can make them very dangerous places to live in.
 4. In the early days, internet chatrooms could best be described as a **nest** of awfulness.
 5. I once made the mistake of posting a song I made on YouTube. Some of the comments I received were **vicious**, and the whole experience was very upsetting.
-
- a. a person, team, country etc. that is thought to be in a weaker position than others and therefore not likely to be successful, win a competition etc.
 - b. a secret place which is full of bad people and their activities
 - c. violent and cruel
 - d. a situation in which a group of people try to take political control of their own country through violence
 - e. encourage somebody to do something violent, illegal or unpleasant, especially by making them angry or excited



II

1. Coffee is one of the most **addictive** substances we consume on a regular basis.
 2. Celebrities who use their fame to **stir up** negative emotions in people should be held responsible.
 3. Some **allegations** that people make online could actually get them in a lot of legal trouble.
 4. In recent years, **libertarian** ideas have become very popular, especially in Western countries.
-
- a. to make people feel strong emotions
 - b. describing a substance or activity that makes people unable to stop using it or doing it
 - c. a person who strongly believes that people should have the freedom to do and think as they like
 - d. a public statement that is made without giving proof, accusing somebody of doing something wrong or illegal

Discuss these questions in pairs.

1. Would you describe yourself as a **libertarian**?
2. Do you support a sports team that is often thought of as the **underdog** compared to other teams?
3. Should people who post **vicious** comments or false **allegations** about others online be punished?
4. Do you know anyone who often tries to **stir up** negative feelings in other people?
5. Can you think of a social network or website that you would describe as a **nest** of awfulness?

6

Reading for general understanding

You are going to read a text about people's reactions to Elon Musk's Twitter takeover, and their thoughts on the social network. Scan the text quickly and match the profession with the correct speaker. One of the professions doesn't match a speaker and should be marked 'Not given'.

1. Psychologist - _____
2. Author - _____
3. Journalist - _____
4. Investor - _____
5. Cryptocurrency Entrepreneur - _____



A bright future, or the end of Twitter?

Your view on Elon Musk's Twitter takeover

A. **Ready4Change23**

It took a long time, but eventually, Donald Trump was banned from Twitter. Considering what he did – inciting an attempted insurrection in the United States – I believe it was the least Twitter could do. I believe in freedom of speech, like most people, and like most people, I think that there should be limits. Publishing words, whether in print or online, can have consequences. People's lives have been ruined by false allegations, and Trump's attempts to stir up anger and hatred until it boiled over and became something dangerous to *the fabric of our society had nothing to do with freedom of speech. As a journalist, if I wrote some of the things he said in my articles I'd be fired or taken to court. Now, with Musk's Twitter takeover on the cards, Trump could be back on the platform. This is something we shouldn't allow to happen.

B. **FreedomWarrior872**

For many of us, Musk is a legend. He's the underdog that came out on top, he has the sort of determination many of us wish we had, and he's a champion for freedom of speech. A true libertarian. As a crypto-entrepreneur, he's something of a personal hero to me. He's also the world's greatest troll, and once again, he has everybody talking about him. Of course, some people don't get it – they think he's going to 'ruin' Twitter, as if it wasn't already a nest of hatred and witch hunts. Personally, I think the people who organise those witch hunts – the ones who go after individuals in order to 'cancel' them and destroy their lives – they are scared of Musk's plans for Twitter. They want to live in a world where everybody agrees with them. It's time for a wake-up call, and Elon Musk is going to improve Twitter for everyone, whether they like it or not.

C. **Christine**

I don't use Twitter anymore, although I used to. I was encouraged to engage with my readers through social media by my agent, who said it'd make it a lot easier to find a publisher. I did have some pleasant interactions with readers at first, but things quickly turned nasty. I somehow acquired an online stalker. At first, he left bad reviews. He didn't have much to say about my novels, but plenty of cruel comments about my appearance. After a while, he started to comment on all of my Tweets, making up vicious lies about me. I blocked him, but then he went after my friends and family. I reported him, but he didn't get banned, and so eventually I deleted my Twitter profile. I don't miss it, and from what I gather of the Musk takeover, it'll be even worse in the future. I just hope that nobody else has to go through the same experience.

D. **MindclarityThoughts**

If we look at the psychology of social networks, it's about creating addictive behavioural cycles in users. I don't work in the therapy side of psychology – my field is purely research – but colleagues have reported patients coming in showing signs of addiction. They're not struggling with drugs, but with their social media usage. Platforms like Twitter encourage people to post regularly through algorithms that – if some reports are to be believed – punish users by 'hiding' Tweets if a certain level of participation isn't met on a daily basis. This could be as high as 7 Tweets a day. Many users have admitted to deleting Tweets if they don't 'succeed', meaning 'gain some level of interaction'. Interaction could be in the form of comments, likes or shares. I believe Elon Musk is attempting to buy this model of addiction in order to monetise the behavioural patterns Twitter has already created. Once he introduces a subscription fee, hapless users will feel forced to pay for their digital fix. If it works, we can expect to see similar models rolled out across other existing social networks. What kind of impact this will have on our online and physical lives remains to be seen, but I wouldn't say the future is bright.



7

Reading comprehension

Part A: Read the article again. Match statements with the correct speakers. Some statements can be matched to more than one speaker. One of the statements cannot be matched to any of the speakers and should be marked 'Not given'.



Who ...

1. feels positive about the takeover? _____
2. has stopped using Twitter altogether? _____
3. feels negative about the future of Twitter under Musk? _____
4. thinks that Elon Musk should be banned from Twitter? _____
5. believes Musk may have financial motivations for the takeover? _____

Part B: For each question, choose the answer you believe best suits the speaker.

1. Why might Ready4Change23 think that freedom of speech should have some limits?
 - a. She thinks that people should be banned from saying things that others may find offensive.
 - b. She thinks that words can be used to incite violence or ruin somebody's life.
 - c. She believes that children need protecting from offensive comments online.
2. Why might FreedomWarrior872 think that Twitter users want to 'cancel' other users?
 - a. He thinks that they are taking their anger out on other users in whichever way they can.
 - b. He believes that they want to live in a world where everybody agrees with them.
 - c. He thinks that they believe they are making the world a safer place for others.
3. Why did Christine decide to leave Twitter?
 - a. After being stalked online she decided that it was better to communicate with readers through her agent.
 - b. Most of her interactions with readers were unpleasant, so she decided to leave the social network.
 - c. After her experience with a stalker, she felt let down by Twitter's lack of action and deleted her profile.
4. How does MindClarityThoughts think Twitter creates addictive behavioural cycles in users?
 - a. By encouraging users to participate multiple times a day, and punishing them if they don't.
 - b. By creating a subscription fee for premium features.
 - c. By encouraging users to like and share each other's tweets in order to generate feelings of satisfaction.



8

Reading: specific vocabulary

Part A: Complete the definitions of the words below by filling in the gaps with the correct words from the list.

amount

deliberately

electronic

follows

punish

rules

1. **troll** (n): a person who posts something online in order to _____ make other people angry
2. **stalker** (n): a person who _____ and watches or harasses another person over a long period of time in a way that is annoying or frightening
3. **subscription** (n): an _____ of money that you pay regularly to receive a service
4. **witch hunt** (n): an attempt to find or _____ people whose opinions are unpopular or thought to be dangerous to society
5. **crypto** (adj.): relating to any system of _____ money
6. **algorithm** (n): a set of mathematical instructions or _____ that, especially if given to a computer, will help it to calculate an answer to a problem

Part B: Complete the sentences with the correct word from Part A.

1. Some companies use _____ in order to improve their marketing results.
2. He calls himself a _____, but he doesn't know much about online currencies
3. If you're struggling with monthly bills, it might be a good idea to cut out any _____ services you don't need, such as Netflix.
4. Campaigners have been putting pressure on police to take _____ more seriously.
5. Taking part in an online _____ may feel like a positive move at the time, but perhaps it's worth taking a step back and considering that your target is a human being, too.
6. My son calls himself an internet _____, but he's quite innocent really – he just likes to post memes with his friends.



9

Talking point

In pairs or small groups, discuss the following questions.

1. After listening to the report and reading the article, has your opinion of Elon Musk changed?
2. Do you think that Donald Trump should continue to be banned from Twitter? Why/why not?
3. Why do you think that a Saudi prince and a Qatari group are investing in Musk's Twitter takeover?
4. Do you think that social media in general has been generally good or generally bad for the human species?
5. Is Elon Musk's plan to take over Twitter driven by a desire to monetise the platform?
6. Would you consider paying for access to social media services, such as Twitter, Facebook or Instagram?
7. With the rise of Instagram and now TikTok, is the written word becoming less popular on the internet? Will video and image sharing replace tweeting or blogging?

10

Homework - vocabulary

Part 1: Complete the short text with the correct words from below. You may need to change the form of the words.

inciting / underdog / insurrection / nest / addictive / stir up
allegations / libertarian / takeover / vicious

The focus on Elon Musk's _____¹ of Twitter has brought an old debate back into the public eye. I've used the social network for years, but, like many people, I have mixed feelings about it. I first started noticing _____² patterns emerging in my behaviour within the first few months of creating my account. I would find myself logging in every day as part of my job – I'm a journalist – and more and more, the place felt like a _____³ of terrible people. I began noticing _____⁴ comments popping up on my newsfeed – not aimed at me, but still upsetting.

Some people have suggested that, in order to combat the endless offensive comments, anonymous accounts should be banned. I have to say that I think this is a terrible idea: many people who use Twitter live in countries that are far from _____⁵, in which freedom of speech doesn't really exist. Journalists like myself who happen to be born in such countries have been accused of _____⁶ public anger, just for reporting the news. I've even heard of a reporter being arrested for _____⁷ an armed _____⁸.

Without an anonymous platform like Twitter, there is no way to give a voice to the _____⁹. In countries where freedom is a foreign concept, _____¹⁰ of 'plotting against the state' can result in severe punishment. I hope that, whatever happens with Twitter's new owner, it continues to be a safe space for those who need it around the world. Maybe we could all learn to be a little nicer to each other online, though.

**Part 2: Match the words and phrases (from the article) in bold with the correct definitions.**

1. The fans' emotions eventually **boiled over** and they invaded the football pitch.
 2. My cousin is trying to figure out a way to **monetise** her Instagram account – she has over 90,000 followers.
 3. We should view the pandemic as a **wake-up call** – it is now clear that most countries are poorly prepared for a global health catastrophe.
 4. There are concerns that the development of self-aware robots would threaten the **fabric of society**.
 5. It's important to remember that anything you post online should be considered **in print** and, as such, could open you up to legal trouble.
 6. Gamers often struggle with addiction, and some stay up all night trying to get their digital **fix**.
 7. Allowing yourself to feel **hatred** for another human being isn't healthy.
-
- a. to earn money from something
 - b. an amount of something that you need and want frequently, especially an addictive substance/activity
 - c. published in a book, newspaper etc.
 - d. (of a situation, emotion etc.) to change into something more dangerous or violent
 - e. a very strong feeling of dislike for somebody/something
 - f. an event that makes people realise that there is a problem that they need to do something about
 - g. the basic structure of a society

11**Extended activity/writing homework**

Write an opinion essay on **ONE** of the topics below. Your essay should agree with or disagree with the statement, and should be between 260 – 320 words.

1. Social networks such as Twitter should do more to fight abuse on their platforms. If they fail to take action on trolls, they should be made to do so by governments.
2. Freedom of speech should be protected, no matter what. All kinds of censorship are wrong and should be avoided.