

Everything I hate is on Twitter – how can the alternatives compete?

Level 1: Elementary / Pre-Intermediate

1 Warmer

1. Do you have an active X account (formerly Twitter)? How much do you use the app?
2. Why do you think so many people use social media?

b. Match the following social media terms with their definitions.

DM

hashtag

feed

repost

post

1. _____: the # symbol followed by a keyword which helps people find specific topics more easily
2. _____: a text, photo, or video shared on social media
3. _____: a private message
4. _____: when you share someone else's post on your profile
5. _____: the list of all the posts from the accounts you follow

2 Key words

a. Fill the gaps in the sentences using these key words from the text. An example sentence has been given to help you.

comment

journalist

quit

scam

tick

1. A _____ is a mark that shows that something is correct or that something has been done.
Please read the question and put a _____ by your answer.
2. To _____ is to leave a job.
She didn't enjoy working at the gym, so she _____.
3. A _____ is someone who writes articles for a magazine or newspaper.
The _____ listened and made notes.
4. A _____ is something that you write or say to express your opinion.
Many people loved the photo of the elephant, but it only has one _____.

Everything I hate is on Twitter – how can the alternatives compete?

Level 1: Elementary / Pre-Intermediate

5. A _____ is a dishonest plan to make money.

The email said I won one million dollars, but I think it's just a _____.

cooperation

existing

moderate

platform

repetitive

6. To _____ is to make sure the rules of a discussion or debate are followed.

*Students share their opinions online, but their teachers _____
their posts.*

7. If something is _____, it involves doing or saying the same thing
many times.

I love swimming and how _____ it is. It makes me feel relaxed.

8. If something is _____, you can find it.

*You should look at all the _____ cat websites before you try to make a
new one.*

9. A _____ is a specific kind of technology that people use to communicate.

Twitter is a popular social media _____.

10. _____ is the act of working together with someone and being helpful.

Thank you, students, for your _____!

Everything I hate is on Twitter – how can the alternatives compete?

Level 1: Elementary / Pre-Intermediate

Zoe Williams

12 July, 2023

- 1 Elon Musk bought Twitter last October. Even though everything I hate is there, so is a lot of what I love. My father never had a TV because he said every time you thought you were good at something – cooking, being alive – on the TV, there was someone better at it than you. I thought that was the whole point: the more people who can do it, the better. Also, I really wanted a TV.
- 2 Soon after Musk bought Twitter, more of what I hated was there. Donald Trump was let back on, and you had to pay for blue ticks. Some staff quit, and some were fired. The new owner did surprising things: walking into the office with a sink, using a poo emoji to answer journalists. One man could get the whole world to have the wrong conversation.
- 3 And Twitter wasn't good for users. There were long conversations I wasn't interested in, prejudice and unpleasant comments on my timeline. How could this be made "for me" when I blocked it years ago?
- 4 My direct messages were full of pretty avatars trying to sell a new scam. A young woman who wants to sell crypto but has just broken up with her boyfriend and is drunk.
- 5 As other options appeared, the question moved on: Mastodon has the right politics. It can never be bought, is democratically moderated, and is also nothing like horrible enough. However, it does not have as much content and is sometimes repetitive.
- 6 Threads, Mark Zuckerberg's network tied to Instagram, was better because it had more money. It was also part of an existing platform, and many of Twitter's ex-employees went to work there. Very soon, it had 100 million users.
- 7 These platforms make me ask some questions: What makes Wikipedia Wikipedia – an amazing example of human cooperation and knowledge – and Facebook Facebook – a place where people make each other crazy? What is it about money, the way they are run, that creates such different experiences from the same things: people participating? Is it as simple as money, and if so, why aren't all non-profit platforms better?
- 8 In one way, Musk taught us how one ego can destroy things, but we must find a solution that is better than "stop using Twitter and find a hobby".

© Guardian News and Media 2023

First published in *The Guardian*, 07/12/2023

Everything I hate is on Twitter – how can the alternatives compete?

Level 1: Elementary / Pre-Intermediate

3 Comprehension check

a. Are these statements True (T) or False (F) according to the article? Fix any that are false.

1. There are things on Twitter that the writer loves and things that she hates.
2. There weren't many changes after Musk bought Twitter.
3. Twitter became better for users.
4. Mastodon did some things right.
5. Threads didn't have as many advantages as Mastodon.
6. The writer strongly believes that money makes these platforms very different.
7. The writer thinks getting a hobby and forgetting about Twitter is best.

4 Key language

a. Look at the adjectives and nouns from the text. Match each adjective with a noun to form a phrase from the article.

amazing different long pretty repetitive surprising unpleasant

1. _____ things
2. _____ conversations
3. _____ comments
4. _____ avatars
5. _____ example
6. _____ content
7. _____ experiences

Everything I hate is on Twitter – how can the alternatives compete?

Level 1: Elementary / Pre-Intermediate

b. Now complete the sentences so they are true for you.

1. The most surprising _____ about me is that I _____.
2. When I read unpleasant _____, I feel _____.
3. I enjoy long _____ with _____.
4. I think people should _____ to have different _____.
5. _____ is an amazing _____ of what people can achieve together.

5 Discussion

a. Answer these questions.

- Did anything in the article surprise you? What?
- Do you agree or disagree with the writer? Why?
- How could social media be better?
- What do you know about the other platforms mentioned in the article (Mastodon and Threads)?

6 In your own words

a. Find information about Twitter and another social media platform. Complete the table.

	Twitter	Other platform
how it works		
what people use it for		
how users experience it: good things		
how users experience it: bad things		



Everything I hate is on Twitter – how can the alternatives compete?

Level 1: Elementary / Pre-Intermediate

b. Write some sentences to compare the two platforms. Share your ideas with a classmate.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____