

Twitter: Who's doing it?



Who uses Twitter?

- 1 Celebrities use it to keep their fans **updated** on their social life.
- 2 Politicians use it to motivate **supporters** during election campaigns.
- 3 Scientists use it to exchange research ideas.
- 4 Businesses use it for customer polls and to promote their products.
- 5 Political dissidents use it to avoid censure and **spread** their ideas.
- 6 Students use it to help with homework.
- 7 Ordinary people use it to keep in touch, share news and research information.

Twitter Facts

- Twitter is essentially a continuous conversation that takes place online between millions of people.
- Twitter Inc. was created officially in May 2007 by Biz Stone and Jack Dorsey.
- It asks the simple question "What are you doing?"
- Your answers must be written in fewer than 140 characters.
- This form of instant messaging is called 'microblogging'.
 - 'Following' are the people you contact.
 - 'Followers' are the people who keep in touch with you.
 - A 'tweet' is a message.
 - To 'twitter' is to communicate by microblogging.



1 Listen to two teenagers, Vicky and Paul, talking about using Twitter. Listen again and complete.



breakfast - point - useful - Twitter - faster - email - trust - lying

Vicky: I see you're still using, Paul. Don't you ever send text messages?

Paul: I don't see the of telling someone what I'm eating for

Vicky: I used to think that but now I'm **hooked** on fast news.

Paul: I find all the news I want on the Internet, not just the **headlines**.

Vicky: Twitter is better at giving it to you

Paul: But can you it? Is the information accurate? I read on the Net that some celebrities are impersonated by ordinary fans.

Vicky: True but they were soon exposed as **fakes**. Other people can verify what you say so it's **pointless**

Paul: I think is just trivial. The messages people send aren't important.

Vicky: **Fair enough**, but we'd never have found that great restaurant last night if I hadn't twittered the question about where to eat.

Paul: You're right. Maybe Twitter can be sometimes!

- updated** = aggiornati
- supporters** = sostenitori
- spread** = diffondere
- hooked** = agganciata
- headlines** = titoli
- fakes** = impostori
- pointless** = privo di senso
- fair enough** = mi sembra giusto

glossary

Twitter in the classroom

Another group of people who use **realtime** sms are students in the USA. They use Twitter in the classroom to help with class work and projects:

- 1 **Storywriting** - they select a story **topic** and style and each student writes a 'tweet' to develop the story. The students then reorder the 'tweets' for the best result.
- 2 **Vocabulary** - they **brainstorm** a word on Twitter, asking for synonyms, homonyms and antonyms from the Twitter Community.
- 3 **Question Writing** - they practise writing concise questions in under 140 characters to ask experts for their opinions.
- 4 **Online debate** - students find another class in a different school to debate a topic with.
- 5 **Data Analysis** - students collect data and opinions from the Twitter Community to produce graphs and **charts** on particular subjects.

realtime =
in tempo reale
topic = argomento
brainstorm =
confrontano
charts = tabelle

glossary



2 Read the information about Twitter in the classroom, then the statements and mark them true (T) or false (F).

- 1 One student writes ideas for a story and the others change the order.
- 2 Students can ask for similar or opposite words to one they are researching.
- 3 They can ask experts to comment on a topic they are studying.
- 4 They can share their opinions with students in schools in other areas.
- 5 Students can ask the Twitter Community to make graphs for them.

T F

T F

T F

T F

T F

English Humour

What do you get
when you cross
a motorcycle with
a funny story?
A Yamahahaha!



3 Write an example of a 'tweet' (less than 140 characters) about what you did at school today.