



# Teacher's page

## Fun lesson plans from Learn Hot English

### *Dangerous Twitter messages!*

**Level:** Intermediate (B1) to Upper Intermediate (B2)

**Audio:** Yes

In this fun lesson, your students will discuss social media and Twitter in particular. This practical class will get your students using lots of useful language and all the essential skills: speaking, listening, reading and writing. Here are some ideas for doing it in class. Good luck!



### 1 Warm-up

#### **Funny Twitter messages – scroll down for the student pages**

Students read over the Twitter messages from below and choose the one they like the best. Then, they get into pairs and exchange notes and decide which one they both like the most. Finally, in pairs or individually, students write a Twitter message like the ones below, as an observation or comment on life. They should write this on a slip of paper. When they're ready, collect in all the messages and read them out. Students vote on the best one/s.

### 2 Lesson activities

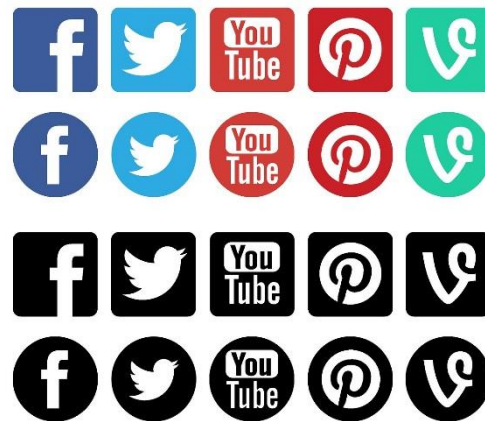
Go through the activities for the lesson on the sheet: the Pre-reading, Reading I and Reading II activities. You could do this lesson as a *listening* activity. In order to do this, tell your students to turn over the sheet so they can't see the text as they do the exercises.

Remember, for the first listening you should play the recording once without stopping so students get the gist of it.

For the second listening, if your students' listening level is low, stop the recording after each paragraph and check their understanding.

After finishing that, and if you've done this as a listening activity (not a reading), let your students read the text as you play the recording again. This is good for developing their listening skills as they can see the connection between the written and spoken language.





### 3 Follow-up activities

#### Retell it!

Assign a paragraph (or paragraphs) to each student. Students have a minute or two to try to remember the text. When they're ready, students try to recount the information, using as much of the language as possible. This works well in pairs, with you monitoring the language.

#### Famous Tweets

In pairs or small groups, students find the Twitter page for a famous person (someone that other students will know). Then, they take turns reading out Tweets by that person. Other students (or other teams) have to say who has Tweeted the messages. The person, group or team who guesses first wins.

#### Dialogue

In pairs, students write up notes for a dialogue between a reporter and someone from one of the stories in this article. The reporter should ask open-ended questions to find out as much information as possible: *what, when, where, who, why, how...* Tell your students to make the dialogue as funny, silly or serious as they like. When they're ready, ask for volunteers to read or act out their dialogues (from memory or by using notes, not reading it out word-for-word). Other students listen and vote on the best ones, or ask and answer questions.

#### Discussion: social media

Discuss these questions in pairs.

- What social media platforms do you use? Which one/s do you use the most? Why?
- What sort of things do you post on your social media pages?
- Have you ever posted a photo? What was it of? How many likes did it get?
- How many followers or friends have you got on your social media platforms?
- On average, how many likes do you get when you post things?
- Which of your posts has had the most likes? Why?
- Who do you follow on social media? Why do you follow them? What do you like about the things they post?
- Which social media platforms do you like the most? Why?
- Do you have a Twitter account? Why? Why not? What do you like about it? What do you post on it?
- Do you have a Facebook or Instagram account? Why? Why not? What do you like about it? What do you post on it?





Student's page

## ***Dangerous Twitter messages!***

**Level:** Intermediate (B1) to Upper Intermediate (B2)

### **1 Warm-up**

#### **Funny Twitter messages**

Read over the Twitter messages from below and choose the one you like the best. Then, get into pairs and decide which one you both like the most. Finally, in pairs or individually, write a Twitter message like the ones below, as an observation or comment on life. Write this on a slip of paper. When you're ready, take turns reading out your Twitter messages so the class can hear them. Finally, all students vote on the best one/s.







**Megan**

@therealeatwood

Follow

Is coral the stupidest animal or the smartest rock

10:28 AM - 13 Jan 2016

10,280 18,818



**phil mann**

@philmann

Follow

WITCH (using her broom for just sweeping): did we give up our dreams?

WIZARD (using his pointy hat as a piping bag for cupcake icing):  
yes

4:01 AM - 28 Apr 2015

1,665 3,412

**Objective** To improve your reading and listening skills.

**Think about it** Have you ever sent an e-mail or message, etc. and then regretted it? What was it? Who were you writing to? Where did you send the message from? Do you think it's fair that people can get convicted for the things they write on Twitter or other social media sites? Why? Why not? What's the strangest message you've ever received?

**Exams** This listening activity will help prepare you for English exams such as PET and TOEFL.

TRACK 15: ENGLISHMAN & ENGLISHWOMAN

# Dangerous Twitter messages!



WHAT TWITS!

@julianaxelrod  
Ethan Hawke seems like a guy who wasn't supposed to be a movie star, but he slipped through the cracks and everyone was just like "Ok".



@kemotherapy7  
There are people who think Julia Roberts is hot! Her gigantic mouth looks like it will devour an elephant in one bite.

With over a billion registered users and over 300 million active users, Twitter is one of the world's most popular social networks. It's fast and easy to use, with a limit of just 140 characters per message. But you have to be careful what you write, or you could end up in trouble.

## The cyclist

Emma Way was driving along a road when she turned a corner and knocked a cyclist off his bike. However, instead of stopping to help, she **drove off**. And once home, she **tweeted** this message:



"definitely knocked a cyclist off his bike earlier. I have **right of way** - he doesn't even pay **road tax**!"

Thanks to the **tweet**, Ms Way was located and **taken to court**. She was eventually **fined** £300, had to pay £337 in costs and had 7 **points** added to her licence. Asked by **defence counsel** to rate the stupidity of her tweet on a scale of 1-10, Miss Way replied, "I'd score it at 11". She added that her tweet was "the biggest **regret**" of her life. The cyclist, Toby Hockley, suffered **bruising** and minor damage to his bike.

## The celebrities

Talk show host Jimmy Kimmel asked guests on his show to read out some of the **mean** things people tweet about them. The idea was to get the authors of the messages to **reflect** on their actions. Some of the messages included:



@kemotherapy7  
There are people who think Julia Roberts is hot! Her gigantic

mouth looks like it will devour an elephant in one bite.



@julianaxelrod  
Ethan Hawke seems like a guy who wasn't supposed to be a movie star but he **slipped through** the tracks and everyone was just like "Ok".

## The party guy

Before leaving the UK for the trip of a lifetime in the USA, Leigh Van Bryan tweeted this message to his friends:



"Free this week, for quick gossip/**prep** before I go and destroy America?"

Unfortunately for him, the message was **picked up** by America's **Homeland Security**, and Van Bryan and his travelling companion, Emily Bunting, were detained after landing at Los Angeles International Airport. **Handcuffed**, Van Bryan, 26, was kept under armed guard in a **cell** with drug dealers for 12 hours. They tried to explain that "to destroy" means "to party hard" and not "to bomb". However, officials weren't impressed and put the pair on a plane back to Paris the next morning.

## The rioter

During a summit in Pittsburgh in September 2009 of the 20 richest nations, there were several anti-capitalist protests. During the **rioting**, Elliot Madison, a 41-year-old New Yorker, sent Twitter updates of the police force locations and movements to help protesters avoid arrest. Madison was arrested and charged with using a social networking site to help

demonstrators **evade** the police. 🚩

## VIDEO

YouTube

Watch a news report about the woman who knocked over the cyclist. Search YouTube for "Girl Brags About Knocking Cyclist Off Bike on Twitter".

## GLOSSARY

**a character** *n*  
a letter or punctuation mark: \*, ?, r, 6...  
**in trouble** *exp*  
if you're "in trouble", you have done something bad and you're going to have problems  
**to drive off** *phr vb*  
if you "drive off", you leave a place in your car  
**to tweet** *vb*  
to send a message via Twitter  
**right of way** *n*  
if you have "right of way" on a road, you can drive on that road and other cars have to stop  
**road tax** *n*  
"road tax" was once a tax motorists paid for using the road but it was abolished in 1937. It's been replaced with Vehicle Excise Duty, which is a tax on your car. Many people are confused by this and think that motorists pay "road tax"  
**a tweet** *n*  
a message via the social network Twitter  
**take to court** *exp*  
if someone is "taken to court", legal action is taken against them  
**to fine** *vb*  
if someone is "fined", they must pay a sum of money because they've broken a law or done something wrong  
**points** *n*  
you get "points" every time you do something illegal on the road. Once you have 12 points (in the UK), you can lose your driving licence  
**a defence counsel** *n*  
the person or people who defend you in court  
**a regret** *n*  
if you have a "regret", you feel sad or bad about something you did in the past  
**bruising** *n*  
if you suffer from "bruising" after an accident, you have purple marks on your body  
**mean** *adj*  
not nice, horrible, nasty  
**to reflect** *vb*  
if you "reflect" on your actions, you think about them and their consequences  
**to slip through** *phr vb*  
if someone "slips through", they enter a place secretly and without others noticing  
**gossip** *n*  
informal conversation, often about other people's private lives  
**prep** *n informal abbr*  
preparation  
**to pick up** *phr vb*  
if a message is "picked up", it's received, detected or noticed  
**Homeland Security** *n*  
an organisation in the US that protects the country from terrorism, etc.  
**to handcuff** *vb*  
to put "handcuffs" (metal objects) around someone's wrists (the joint between their hands and their arms)  
**a cell** *n*  
a small room where the police put a prisoner  
**rioting** *n*  
when there's "rioting", people are in the streets acting violently  
**to evade** *vb*  
if you "evade" someone, you hide in an area so they can't see or find you

Answers on page 44

## 1 Pre-reading

The following people wrote twitter messages and got into trouble. What do you think they wrote? Make notes: a driver, movie fans, someone who was about to travel to the United States, someone who was monitoring the riots in Pittsburgh

## 2 Reading I

Read or listen to the article once to compare your ideas from the Pre-reading activity.

## 3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, answer the questions.

1. How much did Emma Way have to pay in total?
2. What injuries did Toby Hockley suffer?
3. What part of Julia Roberts' body did one Tweeter insult?
4. What did Leigh mean when he said he was going to "destroy America"?
5. How long was he held for at Los Angeles International Airport?
6. Who was Elliot trying to help with his Twitter messages?