TWITTER

**Dan:** Yeah, I do have a Twitter account, but I find it difficult to keep up … um … with my own life … uh … let alone spending lots of time trying to sift through what I … uh … what I believe to be relevant information … um ….

**Lily:** But wait, isn’t that the whole point of it that it’s meant to be—it’s not meant to take up loads of your time?

**D:** Yeah, but I tend to go through … um … phases of thinking that I like people and then following them, and then when I turn on Twitter every now and again - I’m not a big user - but when I do … um … there tends to be lots of tweets from— from people I don’t really care about. And what I do care about, and what I— what I use it for mainly is … um … is for football, cos I love football. And … um … the good thing about Twitter in that respect is that every football team has its own Twitter account, and they will—

**L:** Yeah. I was gonna say, how do you use it for—

**D:** Yeah, they … uh … they put … um … they put news— in— team news … uh … injuries, breaking news, sports … uh … news—

**L:** But how— wait, the team puts this up?

**D:** Yeah. So for instance, Tottenham Hotspur, the greatest team in the world … um … has a Twitter account and they will say … um … ‘look, here’s … uh … Adebayor training’ … uh … and that will really rev you up for a football match and then just before the football match, they’ll say ‘this is the team that’s playing’ aka team news, or the team sheet. Um, and— and that’s good information to know. And the good thing about Twitter is it’s more instant than … uh … say, normal websites. And if you’re following lots of different sports or lots of different teams you have all that information in one place. But you don’t really like football, so what do you use it for?

**L:** I wouldn’t use it— I wouldn’t use it for— for football. I don’t really use it at all … um … I— I— when I first— I— I made a Twitter account but then I sort of started fo— I didn’t really know who to follow … um … and I spoke to a couple of friends and one of them recommended following journalists … um … from newspapers I like and stuff like that, so I started doing that and … um … what I found was … um … I can’t have it on in the day cos I don’t want it popping up [*Yeah I agree, I agree.*] whilst I’m at work - [*Yeah.*] … um … I wouldn’t read it. So then I— in the evening I’d have to sift through like the whole day’s— I don’t really— I don’t really understand it.

**D:** I agree with that. Um, if you’re away for long periods of time you tend to get a lot of information in one go. A lot of people tweet really irrelevant stuff and I— and who knows why they do that? And that’s— … uh … that’s where Twitter is a lot like Facebook, I believe.

**L:** Wait, do you use— but don’t— don’t you use Twitter for people that you don’t know personally but more like celebrities or footballers, like in your case, or—

**D:** Yeah, but— [*So it’s not like Facebook.*] celebrities have a lot of stuff that they— yeah, that’s true. But I mean in terms of they— the level of relevant information that you would actually care about is the same across all media— … uh … all— all aspects of social networking and— and social media. There’s really not a lot of good information.

**L:** What, you mean the quality of the information?

**D:** Quality of infor— yeah, quality of information is diluted.

**L:** But are you tweeting— but isn’t that if you’re tweeting your—

**D:** Not— not when I tweet. My tweets are fantastic and insightful—

**L:** Well— do— have you ever sent a Tweet?

**D:** I’m talking about the rest of Twitter. I’ve sent many tweets.

**L:** To who?

**D:** Um, to my friends. So, in— in that respect, I follow people I don’t know but I do follow some of my friends. I don’t have many friends and— … uh … and the— the—the few friends I do have, even less of them use Twitter. Um—

**L:** Wait, why are you tweeting your friends? Why don’t you just text them or email them? I don’t understand, I would never tweet my friends. I don’t have any fr— I don’t have any friends— well, I don’t think I have any friends on Twitter.

**D:** Um, on Twitter?

**L:** Well, like, who are my friends on Twitter. I’m only— … uh … I only follow people who I wouldn’t be able to text, you know.

**D:** Yeah. Well that’s— that’s the good thing about Twitter and other … uh … websites of that nature that you can keep in touch with people around the world, but what I’m saying is, if someone tweets something then you can reply to it. You wouldn’t text them back and say ‘I just read your Tweet. Why are you planning on doing that?’

**L:** What, so you use Twitter as a bit of a joke really and you just send round [*Yeah, I don’t—*] stuff to your friends?

**D:** I— I— like, there are, I— I’m not … uh … I know that Twitter is a very serious website and a lot of people use it to connect with people but I just— I literally just use it to follow football teams … uh … and hear about, like, breaking news, football-related, and if it’s not that then it’s just … um … having a laugh with my mates.

**L:** So if you … um … so for example, you follow a football team … um … and then they’ll, what, put up updates or information about games or players or…?

**D:** Information about games, players, transfers, anything relevant.

**L:** So basically you don’t have to go looking for that information, it just comes to you.

**D:** Exactly. [*Yeah.*] Exactly. And it’s all— and— yeah, like I said before, if you’re— … um … if you’re looking, if— if— if you’re looking for more in— information from more than one team or source you don’t have to be going around all different websites, you got it on one stream, like loads of fish in a stream.

**L:** Yeah, I suppose so. I dunno, I just think that it’s a bit of a waste of time. Like, I think if you’re— I think we have way too much information and we’re always reading something and people don’t just ever look for information anymore, it’s— it’s available too easily. And, I don’t know, people forget— don’t you think that people forget how to think? [*Communicate.*] Yeah, or communicate, or talk to each other or—

**D:** Oh yeah, of course.

**L:** But then, look at— look at places like Egypt and— and places where they’ve had loads of— like, Twitter’s actually changed the way that people live. I mean, it has changed the way that we live and communicate, hasn’t it?

**D:** Yeah, yeah. But whether that’s for the better, I don’t quite know. I tend— I— I tend to think that the use of websites like Twitter have … uh … reduced the level of old-fashioned communication that people have but— it— but at the same time making it easier for people to communicate, just communicate stuff that’s of less quality.

**L:** What— yeah, I suppose so. Cos people don’t have to think as much.

**D:** Cos people just talk— people just talking about how they’re gonna go out for a walk and ‘OMG, I just saw a really funny dog’—

**L:** But isn’t that more Facebook though, do people do that on Twitter?

**D:** Yeah, course they do. Twitter is— is just a different— it’s the same … uh … it’s the same type of stuff. Well, like statuses on tw— on Facebook and tweets on Twitter are essentially, in my opinion, are essentially the same thing.

**L:** Yeah, but the whole arena’s different. Like, you’ve got an audience on Facebook of people who know you, but if you, if you wrote something controversial on Twitter it could potentially— it goes out to people who— like, if you were someone with loads of followers, you have to be probably really, really careful about what you say. In fact, that probably makes you think more about what you’re writing.

**D:** Sure, but— how— who’s gonna— people like you and I, are we gonna have that many followers? Is Brad Pitt gonna care what I say about Angelina Jolie? No.

**L:** Okay, so … um … when you’re checking on Twitter and stuff, how do you do it? Do you do it on your phone?

**D:** Yeah, mostly on my phone. I don’t think I’d ever go on my computer and go on to Twitter website, that’s just a personal preference of mine. It’s definitely a mobile thing I think, communicating on the move. That’s what— surely that’s one of the main advantages of why it was created? I mean, I’m no expert, but you wouldn’t sit down at your computer, turn it on, and then write 150 characters.

**L:** Is that how many you’re allowed to—

**D:** I dunno. I think so.

**L:** I thought it was, like, forty.

**D:** Um, well neither of us are obviously—

**L:**  Um, what— … uh … what— how often would you check your phone then?

**D:** Um, just when I— I— when I have nothing else to do. If I’m sitting on a train and I’ve run out of lives on my favourite game, I might go on my Twitter app [*So you basically do it—*] and see what’s up. Or actually, if there’s something impor— if— if there’s something … uh … if there’s something going on in— in the world that’s very important, like breaking news, or in— in football, then I guess I’m drawn more to … uh … to things like Twitter to try and keep up to date. Especially when on the move, but then it— like— like I said, if it— if I’m— … uh … if I’m back at home— but then again yeah, cos— cos Twitter is quite responsive. I dunno. [*If you saw something that’s—*] I’ve watched the telly though. I’ve switched to the telly, if I had a telly.

**L:** But Twitter’s way faster than the telly cos you can get a Tweet about something before they’ve had time to put together a programme about it.

**D:** Yeah true, but— but then— but then it comes down to, like, personal preference and enjoyment. You’re not gonna sit in your living room with all the— with the television off and just sit there reading Twitter. [*Yeah, I guess.*] I’d have the telly on, and then maybe do— do some Twitter as well.

**L:** And then make sure you’re really up to date.