

# Twitter

## Gap fill

Listen to the story and fill in the blanks.

Why are tweets limited to 140 \_\_\_\_\_ ? There are 2 reasons.

In the beginning, Twitter was \_\_\_\_\_ work on cell phones. When Twitter started in 2006, cell phones were popular. Smartphones were uncommon. The iPhone didn't even \_\_\_\_\_ .

Cell phone messages \_\_\_\_\_ short because of a 160 character limit. If you sent a message longer than that, the phone company might have cut it up and sent two or three \_\_\_\_\_ messages.

The 160 character limit came from a man named Friedhelm Hillebrand. In 1985, he \_\_\_\_\_ many kinds of messages. He said the \_\_\_\_\_ message was 160 characters or less.

That was good news for \_\_\_\_\_ companies. 160 characters was about the most they could send in a \_\_\_\_\_ message with their technology. So, phone companies picked 160 characters as the \_\_\_\_\_ standard for the short messaging \_\_\_\_\_ , or SMS.

Why did Twitter limit messages to only 140 characters? Twitter said each tweet 20 \_\_\_\_\_ characters for the user's name. The \_\_\_\_\_ 140 were needed for the information in the message. Another reason was \_\_\_\_\_ . Twitter wanted people to send \_\_\_\_\_ messages that would not be cut up into smaller \_\_\_\_\_ by the phone companies.

Back to the \_\_\_\_\_ question, why are tweets 140 characters? History and style. Tweets were \_\_\_\_\_ 10 years ago for cell phones. Today's technology has \_\_\_\_\_ a lot compared to the past, but nobody can think of a good reason to \_\_\_\_\_ the 140 limit.

Short tweets are here to \_\_\_\_\_ .

## Synonym match

Match the words or phrases.

- |             |                        |
|-------------|------------------------|
| 1. uncommon | a. design              |
| 2. separate | b. mean                |
| 3. average  | c. few and far between |
| 4. standard | d. rule                |
| 5. style    | e. individual          |

## True or false

Choose the correct answer.

1. Twitter was online before the iPhone was invented. T or F
2. The standard length of SMS messages was 160 characters. T or F
3. Twitter uses about 20 characters for message data. T or F
4. Twitter was designed to work on smartphones. T or F
5. Friedhelm Hillebrand invented Twitter. T or F

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## Anagrams

Move letters. Make a new word.

GNRLAOIH

\_\_\_\_\_

SGINDEDE

\_\_\_\_\_

DTLEIIM

\_\_\_\_\_

NOCMMONU

\_\_\_\_\_

ANSDDRAT

\_\_\_\_\_

PTEREASA

\_\_\_\_\_

## ESL discussion questions

Talk about the story

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1. What kind of story is this?
  2. When was Twitter launched?
  3. Why aren't tweets 160 characters?
  4. How did style influence the design of tweets?
  5. Are tweets limited to 140 characters today?
  6. Do you use Twitter?
- 

## Writing practice

Put the words in the correct order.

1. for / 10 / phones / tweets / cell / were / years / ago / designed
- 

2. even / exist / the / didn't / iPhone
- 

3. here / stay / tweets / to / short / are
- 

4. was / or / he / less / said / characters / 160 / the / message / average
- 

5. 20 / the / name / required / Twitter / each / user's / tweet / characters / said / for
-