

## 3 It's my sister's birthday

## 2 READING

Read the text about Twitter on page 14 of the Student's Book and check your answers to exercise 1 there. Then read more about Twitter below and find out what 'lurk' means.

# Hashtags and Twitter Chats

On Twitter, a hashtag is a word or name which has # before it. For example, #goodbooks.

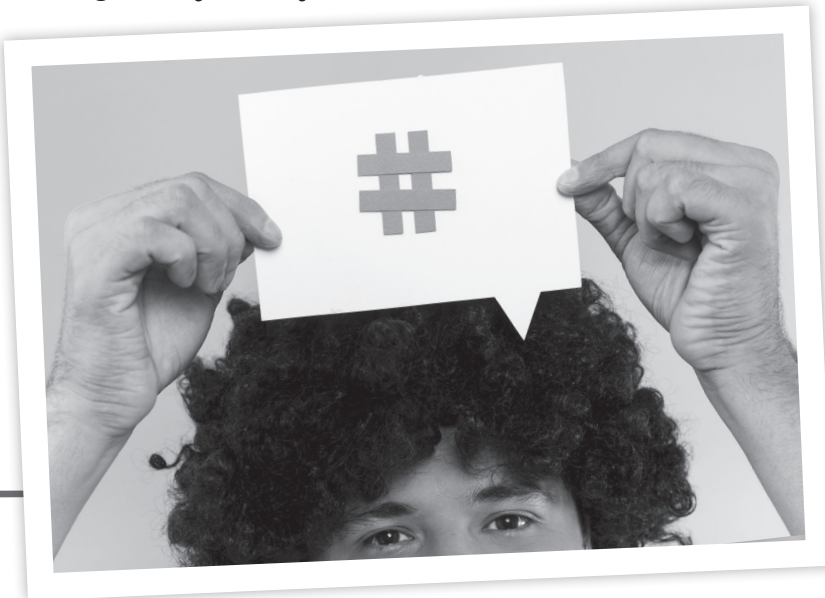
Why are hashtags useful? There are lots and lots of tweets on Twitter. When you use a hashtag, you 'tag' your tweet with the topic to help others find it. So when you tweet, just add a hashtag to the end of your message. Then anyone who has the same interest as you gets your message. And you can join a

hashtag community – people who are interested in the same thing.

Hashtags often have 'meeting times' when you can chat. So at a chosen time and day you can 'meet and tweet'. It's OK to 'lurk' at first at a Twitter Chat. This means that you read other people's messages, but don't send any. It's a good way to find out about Twitter Chats. And soon you can join the conversation.

Some Twitter Chats are very fast and can be hard to follow. Don't worry about this. You can always search for messages with a particular hashtag later. Do an Internet search for the chat hashtag and 'archives'.

How can you find useful hashtags? On the Twitter homepage there is a 'trending' list. This shows topics which are popular at the moment.



### Check out these hashtags:

#howto Here you can learn to cook or make your own toothpaste!  
#didyouknow Here people all over the world share amazing facts. For example, you use more calories when you are sleeping than when you are watching TV!

Now look at the photos and read the tweets A–F on page 14 of the Student's Book. Which message is ...?

Anna's   Luke's   Rosie's   Bill's   Teresa's   Simon's

### 3 AFTER READING

Give short answers to the questions about the tweets A–F on page 14.

1 *What is Rosie's favourite band?*

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2 *What is You Can Get It Right about?*

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3 *Who doesn't know his lines?*

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4 *Whose birthday is it?*

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5 *Where is Bill's boss?*

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6 *Whose dog is called Goldie?*

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Now answer these questions about *Hashtags and Twitter Chats*.

1 *Why is it good to 'tag' your tweet?*

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2 *What happens when you add a hashtag to the end of your message?*

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3 *What is positive about 'lurking'?*

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4 *Paragraph 4: 'Don't worry about this.' What?*

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5 *What can you do if you miss something on a Twitter Chat?*

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6 *What is a 'trending list'?*

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7 *What hashtag can you go to if you want to learn a new skill?*

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Now look at *Your response* on page 15 of the Student's Book.