



# Twitter Helps Stop California Suicide

Hollywood actress Demi Moore has used Twitter to stop a woman committing suicide. The suicidal woman, known only by her Twitter username "Sandieguy", sent Demi Moore a tweet. Her Twitter message outlined how she intended to take her own life. She wrote: "Getting a knife, a big one that is sharp. Going to cut my arm down the whole arm so it doesn't waste time. Goodbye. Gonna kill myself now." Moore saw the message on her Twitter page and immediately posted the reply: "I hope you are joking". Some of the 370,000 subscribers to Moore's page also sprung into action. They looked at Sandieguy's profile to find her location. They alerted police in San Jose, California, who found her and took her to get medical help.

San Jose Police Department Public Information Officer Jermaine Thomas told America's ABC news network how Twitter helped in saving the woman's life. He said he could see many uses for Twitter in helping the police in the future. He told ABC: "This Twitter concept is so new. This is the first time it's led us to what could have been a very real crime. [Twitter] could be yet another tool to find out what's going on out there." Demi Moore was very thankful her social networking site helped save a life. She posted a message to say thank you, which read: "Thanks everyone for reaching out to the San Jose PD...I am inspired by the enormous response of humanity...Through the collective efforts here, action was taken to provide help."

## Warm UPs

**1. MESSAGES:** Walk around the class and talk to other students about messages. Change partners often. Sit with your first partner(s) and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

*actresses / committing suicide / usernames / wasting time / subscribers / profile / police / saving lives / crime-fighting tools / being thankful / collective effort / help*

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

**3. WEBSITES:** Can you live without websites? Complete the table. Talk about what you wrote with your partner(s). Change partners and share what you found out.

Website	Usefulness to me	How they improve my social life
Google		
Facebook		
Twitter		
YouTube		
iTunes		
English site		

**4. PROFILES:** Students A **strongly** believe all Internet users should belong to a social-networking site (Facebook, Twitter...); Students B **strongly** believe social-networking sites are very dangerous. Change partners again and talk about your conversations. **6. USERNAME:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'username'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

## Activities

**1. TRUE / FALSE:** Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

- a. A Hollywood actress saved someone's life using the website Twitter. T / F
- b. A Twitter message is known as a tweet. T / F
- c. The woman who planned to commit suicide used her real name online. T / F
- d. Over a quarter of a million people subscribe to Demi Moore's site T / F
- e. A policeman told the BBC about how Twitter saved someone's life T / F
- f. The policeman said Twitter could be a useful crime-fighting tool. T / F
- g. Demi Moore mailed people a letter of thanks in a real envelope. T / F
- h. Moore said she was inspired by how everyone worked together to help. T / F

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** Match the following synonyms from the article:

- |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. stop        | a. happening    |
| 2. intended    | b. straightaway |
| 3. sprung      | c. energized    |
| 4. immediately | d. planned      |
| 5. alerted     | e. related      |
| 6. told        | f. shared       |
| 7. uses        | g. prevent      |
| 8. going on    | h. applications |
| 9. inspired    | i. leapt        |
| 10. collective | j. warned       |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** Match the following phrases from the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- |                                       |                       |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. stop a woman committing            | a. her own life       |
| 2. known only by her Twitter username | b. to the San Jose PD |
| 3. how she intended to take           | c. action             |
| 4. I hope you are                     | d. woman's life       |
| 5. sprung into                        | e. "Sandieguy"        |
| 6. Twitter helped in saving the       | f. to provide help    |
| 7. He said he could see many          | g. suicide            |
| 8. another tool to find out what's    | h. uses for Twitter   |
| 9. Thanks everyone for reaching out   | i. joking             |
| 10. action was taken                  | j. going on out there |

## Fill in the Gaps

Hollywood actress Demi Moore has used Twitter to stop a woman committing \_\_\_\_\_. The suicidal woman, known only by her Twitter \_\_\_\_\_ "Sandieguy", sent Demi Moore a tweet. Her Twitter message outlined how she intended to \_\_\_\_\_ her own life. She wrote: "Getting a knife, a big one that is sharp. Going to cut my arm down the \_\_\_\_\_ arm so it doesn't waste time. Goodbye. Gonna kill myself now." Moore saw the message on her Twitter page and immediately \_\_\_\_\_ the reply: "I hope you are joking". Some of the 370,000 subscribers to Moore's page also sprung into \_\_\_\_\_. They looked at Sandieguy's \_\_\_\_\_ to find her location. They \_\_\_\_\_ police in San Jose, California, who found her and took her to get medical help.

*action*  
*take*  
*suicide*  
*posted*  
*alerted*  
*username*  
*whole*  
*profile*

San Jose Police Department Public Information Officer Jermaine Thomas told America's ABC news \_\_\_\_\_ how Twitter helped in saving the woman's life. He said he could see many \_\_\_\_\_ for Twitter in helping the police in the future. He told ABC: "This Twitter \_\_\_\_\_ is so new. This is the first time it's led us to what could have been a very real \_\_\_\_\_. [Twitter] could be yet another \_\_\_\_\_ to find out what's going on out there." Demi Moore was very thankful her social networking site helped \_\_\_\_\_ a life. She posted a message to say thank you, which \_\_\_\_\_: "Thanks everyone for reaching out to the San Jose PD...I am inspired by the enormous response of humanity...Through the collective \_\_\_\_\_ here, action was taken to provide help."

*concept*  
*save*  
*network*  
*efforts*  
*crime*  
*uses*  
*read*  
*tool*

**TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• stop</li> <li>• known</li> <li>• take</li> <li>• waste</li> <li>• reply</li> <li>• medical</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• information</li> <li>• uses</li> <li>• concept</li> <li>• tool</li> <li>• reaching</li> <li>• efforts</li> </ul>
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## Websites Discussion

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'website'?
- c) What's your favourite website?
- d) What do you think of sites like Facebook and Twitter?
- e) Do you think social networking sites are dangerous?
- f) Do you think social networking sites should search for terms like "suicide"?
- g) Are you surprised an actor as famous as Demi Moore replied to the tweet?
- h) What do you know about Twitter, twittering and tweets?
- i) When was the last time you sprang into action?
- j) Do you know any more stories of websites helping to save lives?

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STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) What website do you recommend for learning English?
- c) What uses can you think of for Twitter to help us?
- d) Would you use Twitter or another site to report on people behaving strangely around you?
- e) When was the last time you felt very thankful?
- f) When was the last time a story inspired you?
- g) What kind of website would you like to make?
- h) What do you think life would be like without the Internet?
- i) How do you decide on a username when you join a website?
- j) What questions would you ask Demi Moore?

## Cloze Test

Hollywood actress Demi Moore has used Twitter to stop a woman committing (1) \_\_\_\_\_. The suicidal woman, known only by her Twitter username "Sandieguy", sent Demi Moore a tweet. Her Twitter message (2) \_\_\_\_\_ how she intended to take her own (3) \_\_\_\_\_. She wrote: "Getting a knife, a big one that is sharp. Going to cut my arm down the whole arm so it doesn't (4) \_\_\_\_\_ time. Goodbye. Gonna kill myself now." Moore saw the message on her Twitter page and immediately posted the reply: "I hope you are joking". Some of the 370,000 subscribers to Moore's page also sprung (5) \_\_\_\_\_ action. They looked at Sandieguy's profile to find her location. They alerted police in San Jose, California, who found her and took her to get (6) \_\_\_\_\_ help.

San Jose Police Department Public Information Officer Jermaine Thomas told America's ABC news network how Twitter helped (7) \_\_\_\_\_ saving the woman's life. He said he could (8) \_\_\_\_\_ many uses for Twitter in helping the police in the future. He told ABC: "This Twitter concept is so new. This is the first time it's led us to what could have been a very (9) \_\_\_\_\_ crime. [Twitter] could be yet another tool to find out what's going (10) \_\_\_\_\_ out there." Demi Moore was very thankful her social networking site helped save a life. She posted a message to say thank you, which read: "Thanks everyone for reaching (11) \_\_\_\_\_ to the San Jose PD...I am inspired by the enormous response of (12) \_\_\_\_\_ ...Through the collective efforts here, action was taken to provide help."

**Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.**

- |     |               |              |              |                  |
|-----|---------------|--------------|--------------|------------------|
| 1.  | (a) suicide   | (b) suicides | (c) suicidal | (d) suicide pact |
| 2.  | (a) outlining | (b) outlines | (c) outlined | (d) outline      |
| 3.  | (a) living    | (b) live     | (c) alive    | (d) life         |
| 4.  | (a) wastes    | (b) waste    | (c) wasted   | (d) waster       |
| 5.  | (a) unto      | (b) onto     | (c) up to    | (d) into         |
| 6.  | (a) medicine  | (b) medics   | (c) medical  | (d) medic        |
| 7.  | (a) on        | (b) in       | (c) an       | (d) at           |
| 8.  | (a) see       | (b) look     | (c) stare    | (d) watch        |
| 9.  | (a) real      | (b) really   | (c) realize  | (d) reality      |
| 10. | (a) out       | (b) in       | (c) on       | (d) off          |
| 11. | (a) with      | (b) in       | (c) at       | (d) out          |
| 12. | (a) human     | (b) humanity | (c) humane   | (d) humanize     |

## Writing

Write about **websites** for 10 minutes.

## Homework

**1. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find out more about the social networking / mini-blogging site Twitter. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**2. MY SITES:** Make a poster about your three favourite sites. What's so good about them? Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**3. PROFILE:** Write a magazine article about the personal information people put in their profiles on sites like Facebook and Twitter. Include imaginary interviews with a policeman who thinks people must write true information, and with someone who thinks it's OK to put false information.

## Only for teachers

### TRUE / FALSE:

- a. T      b. F      c. F      d. T      e. F      f. T      g. F      h. T

### SYNONYM MATCH:

- |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. stop        | a. prevent      |
| 2. intended    | b. planned      |
| 3. sprung      | c. leapt        |
| 4. immediately | d. straightaway |
| 5. alerted     | e. warned       |
| 6. told        | f. related      |
| 7. uses        | g. applications |
| 8. going on    | h. happening    |
| 9. inspired    | i. energized    |
| 10. collective | j. shared       |

### PHRASE MATCH:

- |                                       |                       |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. stop a woman committing            | a. suicide            |
| 2. known only by her Twitter username | b. "Sandieguy"        |
| 3. how she intended to take           | c. her own life       |
| 4. I hope you are                     | d. joking             |
| 5. sprung into                        | e. action             |
| 6. Twitter helped in saving the       | f. woman's life       |
| 7. He said he could see many          | g. uses for Twitter   |
| 8. another tool to find out what's    | h. going on out there |
| 9. Thanks everyone for reaching out   | i. to the San Jose PD |
| 10. action was taken                  | j. to provide help    |

### GAP FILL:

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### Cloze Test

- 1 - a    2 - c    3 - d    4 - b    5 - d    6 - c    7 - b    8 - a    9 - a    10 - c    11 - d    12 - b

