



TWITTER GLOSSARY



@

The @ sign is used to call out usernames in Tweets, like this: Hello @Twitter! When a username is preceded by the @ sign, it becomes a link to a Twitter profile. See also Replies and Mentions.

Direct Message

Also called a DM and most recently called simply a "message," these Tweets are private between the sender and recipient. Tweets sent over SMS become DMs when they begin with "d username" to specify who the message is for.

FF

#FF stands for "Follow Friday." Twitter users often suggest who others should follow on Fridays by tweeting with the hashtag #FF.

Follow

To follow someone on Twitter is to subscribe to their Tweets or updates on the site.

Follower

A follower is another Twitter user who has followed you.

Geolocation / Geotagging

The use of location data in Tweets to tell us where you are in real time. Is also called "Tweet With Your Location."

Hashtag

The # symbol is used to mark keywords or topics in a Tweet. It was created organically by Twitter users.

Lists

Curated groups of other Twitter users. Used to tie specific individuals into a group on your Twitter account.

Mention

Mentioning another user in your Tweet by including the @ sign followed directly by their username is called a "mention". Also refers to Tweets in which your username was included.

MT

Similar to RT, an abbreviation for "Modified Tweet." Placed before the retweeted text when users manually retweet a message with modifications, for example shortening a Tweet.

Profile Picture

Also called your Avatar (or Avi). The personal image uploaded to your Twitter profile in the Settings tab of your account.

Reply

A Tweet posted in reply to another user's message, usually posted by clicking the "reply" button next to their Tweet in your timeline. Always begins with @username.

Retweet (verb)

(RT) To retweet, retweeting, retweeted. The act of forwarding another user's Tweet to all of your followers.

Timeline

A real-time list of Tweets on Twitter. See also Home Timeline.

Top Tweets

Tweets determined by a Twitter algorithm to be the most popular or resonant on Twitter at any given time.

Trends

A subject algorithmically determined to be one of the most popular on Twitter at the moment.

Tweet (verb)

Tweet, tweeting, tweeted. The act of posting a message, often called a "Tweet", on Twitter.

Tweet (noun)

A message posted via Twitter containing 140 characters or fewer.

Unfollow

To cease following another Twitter user. Their Tweets no longer show up in your home timeline.

Username

Also known as a Twitter Handle. Must be unique and contain fewer than 15 characters. Is used to identify you on Twitter for replies and mentions.

Verification

A process whereby a user's Twitter account is stamped to show that a legitimate source is authoring the account's Tweets. Sometimes used for accounts who experience identity confusion on Twitter.