

# What is Twitter?

Twitter is an information network. Millions of people, organizations, and businesses use it to discover and share new information.



## Twitter Glossary

Twitter users have developed short-form syntax to make the most of 140 characters. Here are the fundamentals.

- **Mention**

Once you've signed up and chosen a Twitter username, you and others can mention an account in your Tweets by preceding it with the @ symbol, eg: "Glad your shipment arrived @[janesmith!](#)"

- **Retweet**

When you see a Tweet by another user that you want to share, click Retweet below it to forward it to your followers instantly.

- **Message**

If you want to privately Tweet to a particular user who's already following you, start your Tweet with **DM** or **D** to direct-message them, eg: "DM @[joesmith234](#) what is your order number?"

- **Hashtag**

Users often prepend # to words in their Tweets to categorize them for others eg: "Check out our new products for the Fall <http://t.co/link2> #fallsale" Think of hashtags as the theme of your Tweet. Users can then click on a hashtag to see other similarly-themed tweets and find yours in search.