

# THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2101/210112-harry-and-meghan.html>

Reporters are saying the Duke and Duchess of Sussex have abandoned social media. The Duke (formerly Prince Harry) and his wife Meghan have reportedly said goodbye to their social media accounts. They want to focus on their new life together in the USA. The "Sunday Times" newspaper in the UK wrote that the couple have no plans to use social media for their non-profit organisation or for their personal lives. The newspaper said the couple have become sad and tired of all the "hate" they see online. They both decided to step down as active members of the British royal family last year. Since then, many people have attacked and criticised them on their Instagram account.

Harry and Meghans' main social media account was @sussexroyal on Instagram. They have 10.4 million followers on this account but have not posted any new content since March 2020. A source told the "Sunday Times" that the couple were "very unlikely" to use social media again. Meghan has spoken out about the harm social media can do. She was the subject of many attacks after she married into Britain's royal family. She said she experienced "almost unsurvivable" online abuse and cyberbullying. She added that she was the most trolled person in the world in 2019. This news comes as social media companies are in the spotlight for suspending the accounts of US President Donald Trump.

Sources: <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/jan/10/harry-meghan-quit-social-media>  
<https://news.sky.com/story/harry-and-meghan-unlikely-to-return-to-social-media-after-abandoning-instagram-account-12183672>  
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/harry-meghan-sussex-instagram-twitter-facebook-b1784972.html>

# WARM-UPS

**1. SOCIAL MEDIA:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about social media. Change partners often and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

reporters / social media / goodbye / couple / personal / sad / tired / royal family / followers / content / source / harm / attacks / married / abuse / cyberbullying

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

**3. GOOD:** Students A **strongly** believe social media is largely good; Students B **strongly** believe social media is largely bad. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. WHO IS IT GOOD FOR?:** How necessary is social media for these people? Why? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	How Necessary Is It?	Why?
Royals		
Famous people		
Companies		
Old people		
Teenagers		
Teachers		

**5. HATE:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "hate". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

**6. PLATFORMS:** Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Twitter
- Facebook
- Pinterest
- YouTube
- Instagram
- WeChat
- TikTok
- LinkedIn

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

## Paragraph 1

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 1. abandoned  | a. This is what someone said (but might not be true).   |
| 2. formerly   | b. Totally gave up a course of action, a practice, or a way of thinking.  |
| 3. reportedly | c. The center of interest or activity.  |
| 4. focus      | d. Two people who are married, engaged or together.   |
| 5. couple     | e. In the past; in earlier times.   |
| 6. royal      | f. Pointed out the bad things about someone or something.   |
| 7. criticised | g. Having the status of a king or queen (or emperor or empress; sultan or sultana, etc.) or a member of their family. |

## Paragraph 2

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 8. follower    | h. A person who provides information.  |
| 9. source      | i. Followed someone on social media and made non-stop negative comments about them.                        |
| 10. spoken out | j. Someone who joins another person's social media account.  |
| 11. abuse      | k. Talk honestly about your feelings.  |
| 12. trolled    | l. The focus or centre of attention.   |
| 13. spotlight  | m. Terrible and harmful language aimed at someone.   |
| 14. suspending | n. Stopping something or someone from continuing or being in force or effect for a (short) length of time. |



# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2101/210112-harry-and-meghan.html>

**1. TRUE / FALSE:** Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. The Duke of Sussex was once known as Prince William. **T / F**
- b. The Duke and Duchess want to focus on their new life in Canada. **T / F**
- c. The couple will continue their non-profit organisation social media site. **T / F**
- d. The couple stepped down as members of the UK royal family. **T / F**
- e. The couple have over 100 million followers on social media. **T / F**
- f. The last time the couple posted on social media was a month ago. **T / F**
- g. Meghan said she was the most trolled person in the world. **T / F**
- h. Social media is in the spotlight after suspending Donald Trump. **T / F**

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. <b>abandoned</b>   | a. uploaded        |
| 2. <b>goodbye</b>     | b. condemned       |
| 3. <b>focus</b>       | c. public eye      |
| 4. <b>sad</b>         | d. farewell        |
| 5. <b>criticised</b>  | e. damage          |
| 6. <b>posted</b>      | f. depressed       |
| 7. <b>harm</b>        | g. mistreatment    |
| 8. <b>abuse</b>       | h. left            |
| 9. <b>spotlight</b>   | i. putting on hold |
| 10. <b>suspending</b> | j. concentrate     |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- |   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1. reportedly said                      | a. of all the "hate"         |
| 2. They want to focus                   | b. Britain's royal family    |
| 3. the couple have no plans             | c. British royal family      |
| 4. the couple have become sad and tired | d. on their new life         |
| 5. active members of the                | e. spotlight                 |
| 6. They have 10.4 million               | f. goodbye                   |
| 7. Meghan has spoken out                | g. followers on this account |
| 8. she married into                     | h. and cyberbullying         |
| 9. almost unsurvivable" online abuse    | i. to use social media       |
| 10. social media companies are in the   | j. about the harm            |

# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2101/210112-harry-and-meghan.html>

1. What was the Duke of Sussex formerly known as?
2. What do the couple want to focus on?
3. What is the name of the newspaper mentioned in this article?
4. What are the couple sad at seeing online?
5. When did the couple step down as members of the royal family?
6. How many followers do the couple have on Instagram?
7. When was the last time the couple posted content on social media?
8. What did Meghan experience that was "almost unsurvivable"?
9. When was Meghan the world's most trolled person?
10. Whose accounts did social media companies suspend?

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2101/210112-harry-and-meghan.html>

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'social' and 'media'.

social	media

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS:** Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**3. GAP FILL:** In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

**4. VOCABULARY:** Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

**5. 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>• abandoned</li><li>• focus</li><li>• wrote</li><li>• lives</li><li>• both</li><li>• since</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• followers</li><li>• source</li><li>• unlikely</li><li>• subject</li><li>• most</li><li>• spotlight</li></ul>
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## **SOCIAL MEDIA DISCUSSION**

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

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'social'?
3. What do you think of social media?
4. How important is social media to you?
5. What are the good things about social media?
6. What do you know about Meghan and Harry?
7. What hate do you see on social media?
8. What is the best social media platform?
9. What do you think of Meghan and Harry abandoning social media?
10. What advice do you have for Meghan and Harry?

*Harry and Meghan to quit social media – 12th January, 2021*  
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## **SOCIAL MEDIA DISCUSSION**

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

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'media'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What are the bad things about social media?
15. How can we reduce online abuse and cyberbullying?
16. What should happen to Internet trolls?
17. What do you think of Twitter suspending Donald Trump's account?
18. What advice do you have for Donald Trump?
19. What would life be like without social media?
20. What questions would you like to ask Meghan and Harry?