Twitter

Twitter is a social networking service that allows users to express their thoughts and opinions with 140 character posts known as 'tweets'. Twitter allows you to follow other public users and post publically or privately to others.

Tweets are usually **public to everyone**

Used for discussing **popular topics** worldwide

Profile
Each user has a unique profile that consists of their name, username, following/followers list as well as a collection of the users tweets. Account usernames are used to directly 'mention' someone within a tweet. By default Twitter profiles are public, and therefore everyone has access to the content within them.

Hashtags
One of Twitters main features is the use of the hashtag. The hashtag or '#' is used within tweets in order to relate the tweet to a certain topic. This feature allows people to follow specific events or discussions as well as being able to join in with their thoughts.

Privacy
Users have the ability to make their tweets public or private. Only approved followers can view private tweets, whereas everyone has the ability to view tweets that are public. By default accounts are made public, however this as well as many other settings such as 'tweet location' can be configured within the user's account settings.

Tweets
A tweet is a 140 character post that appears on your followers timelines. Users can respond to tweets in three different manners; retweet, like or reply. Retweeting shares that tweet onto your own tweet timeline, liking a tweet shows appreciation and replying allows users to respond to the tweet directly.

Search
Twitter's search function allows users to search for other users as well the ability to search through the contents of tweets. Being able to search for specific words and phrases allows users to find tweets relevant to their interests. This is commonly used alongside the hashtag feature, to allow users to follow certain topics.