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ÚSTAV ANGLISTIKY

DIPLOMOVÁ PRÁCE

VERBAL AGGRESSION IN FACEBOOK COMMENTS

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Ročník: 2.

2021

Declaration

I confirm that this thesis is my own work written using solely the sources and literature properly quoted and acknowledged as works cited.

České Budějovice 10. 5. 2021

.....

Vlastnoruční podpis studentky

Anotace

Tato diplomová práce se zabývá rozdíly mezi jazykem mužů a žen, jejich způsoby vyjadřování názorů a úroveň agrese použitého jazyka při střetu s jinými uživateli jiného názoru. Tato diplomová práce se zabývá jazykem, který nacházíme na různých Facebookových stránkách s aktuálními zprávami a zároveň prezentovat současné genderové lingvistické výzkumy a objevy. Empirická část této diplomové práce obsahuje dále analýzu pečlivě vybraných Facebookových komentářů, jež byly vytvořeny rodilými mluvčími z Anglie, a posléze jejich jména byla změněna, aby bylo ochráněno jejich soukromí. Hlavní zaměření této diplomové práce je poukázat na jevy agresivního jazyka na internetu a vedlejší zaměření je analýza způsobu vyjadřování postojů muži a ženami, v návaznosti na různá témata. Důraz je kladen na spojení teorií předních lingvistů a jednotlivých příkladů ze získaného korpusu. Závěr a výsledek bude vycházet z empirické části, v rámci omezeného shromážděného materiálu, z něhož jsem vycházela.

Klíčová slova: Facebook, genderové rozdíly, řeč mužů a žen, sociální sítě, genderová lingvistika, agresivní jazyk, vyjadřování názorů

Abstract

This diploma thesis is concerned with the differences between male and female speech, their ways of expressing opinions, the level of aggressiveness of their attitudes in relation to others with different opinions. It deals with the language that is to be found specifically on Facebook, in various news-agency posts, as well as presents the current gender-related linguistic research and its discoveries. The empirical part of this thesis includes an analysis of Facebook comments I have carefully selected, which were made by native English speakers, whose names I have altered to preserve their privacy. The primary focus is to point out the means of aggressive language online, while the secondary focus is to analyse the way men and female express their attitudes in relation to various topics. The emphasis is put on connecting the theories of expert linguists and specific examples. The conclusion will be drawn within the limited extent of material that has been gathered.

Key words: Facebook, gender differences, male and female speech, social networks, gender linguistics, aggressive language, expression of opinions

Poděkování

Ráda bych poděkovala vedoucí mé diplomové práce, Mgr. Janě Kozubíkové Šandové Ph.D., jejíž odborná znalost a trpělivost byly naprosto nedocenitelné při jejím psaní. Po celou dobu mi byla Vaše asistence a zpětná vazba pozvedla úroveň této práce, čehož bych bez Vás nedosáhla.

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1. Introduction

The language used by social media users is one of a kind, unique to its individual users and therefore worthy of exploring. This diploma thesis on the topic of *verbal aggression* that is to be found in Facebook comments is concerned with the increased use of social networking sites and its users finding a platform for voicing their opinions. Social networks often impact the users and their attitude towards expressing their opinion, hence this thesis is focused on the differences between the ways of voicing one's opinion in regard to various types of news articles. Like every language, English has developed many systems, that are used both in spoken and written form. Social media is based on a linguistic, more specifically written language base, and it is one of the places dominated by language use. Social networking sites are comprised of many channels of media-based communication and interaction among people with some kind of access to the internet. However, unlike the spoken language, social-media-based language does not follow the typical grammatical, nor structural conventions. It connects groups of people and allows them to participate in a communication among these users. John Naughton describes the internet as follows:

*"The Internet is one of the most remarkable things human beings have ever made. In terms of its impact on society, it ranks with print, the railways, the telegraph, the automobile, electric power and television. [...] Yet it is potentially more powerful [...] because it harnesses the intellectual leverage which print gave to mankind without being hobbled by the one-to-many nature of broadcast television"*¹

A wholly new culture developed alongside the internet. In this process, the language has been undergoing various changes on almost every linguistic level and consequently, a group of linguists, psychologists and sociologists started researching this new phenomenon and critical new field of linguistic brought us the emergence of the internet linguistics, which, similarly to

¹ Naughton, J. A Brief History of the Future: the Origins of the Internet. Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 1999. PDF.

spoken discourse, deal with the texts written in the whole cyber-space and later on investigates the nature of the internet language and its impact on language as such.

The aggressive language on social media networking sites has become a natural part of the subculture that uses the internet on a daily basis, however, having witnessed some interesting discussions in several Facebook posts, I have decided to analyse these comments with a focus on native British speakers who participated in various discussions. What I am trying to achieve is to pinpoint these particular examples of aggressive behaviour displayed by women and men on Facebook, as well as present and analyse the ways of sharing an opinion on Facebook. The anticipated result is that men are less likely to participate in Facebook discussions, while women participate far more and display fewer features of aggressive language. There have been numerous sayings and proverbs about the way men and women use their language and our society accepted them as typical stereotypes, however, with the introduction of technology and several societal changes, even the language we use is altered, as it adjusts to the state of current affairs and reacts to the evolving language needs and habits.

In my view, these language changes and its uses are significant and necessary for us to fully grasp how our society changed and went from the typical “a shy woman in a kitchen” to “assertive and confident lady boss”. Accordingly, the study of gender differences, not only in linguistics, sheds light on the practices that nowadays, we consider mundane.

2. Social media

The term *social media* includes various sites and platforms which have become a part of many people's lives and these sites have been adopted on an enormous scale all around the world. Soon after social media platforms emerged, they evolved into an everyday life platform for accessing information, news and they provided a new paradigm that connected information, users and ideas. Unlike traditional media, the most distinctive and appealing feature of social media is the involvement in discussions. Wider access, anonymity and interdependence is the base of social media, alongside a higher degree of interaction. A crucial distinction from traditional media is the speed of development, as the content evolves and is collectively reacted on, the immense speed is of great value especially to news-agency sites (Seong 2017). The following section is dedicated to Facebook, in order to characterize this social media platform and its features.

2.1 Facebook

For the sake of this thesis and keeping in mind that the potential readers may not fully grasp what this social media platform is or how does it work, I shortly introduce its features and its mechanisms in the following section.

2.1.1 What is Facebook?

Social networking sites (or SNS), to which Facebook belongs, provide their users with online maintenance of social life. Facebook is the most popular of these social networking sites and became entrenched in the use of university students' interactions. It is suggested that about 97% of students use this website on a daily basis (Ellison, Steinfield, & Lampe 2007).

Not only students use this website as a tool to maintain already existing relationships, but also to develop and establish new ones.

2.1.2 How does Facebook work?

To discover what Facebook has to offer, you create an account on the website. The website's terms of use state that members must be over 13 years old and any member between the ages of 13 and 18 must be enrolled in school. Once you've created an account and answered a few questions about where you work, where you went to school and where you live, Facebook will generate a **profile** for you.

When you log into your account, you arrive at your personal Facebook homepage. The basic homepage layout includes a **news feed** that keeps you updated about what your friends and networks are up to. In addition to that, there is a **status update** section containing notices about messages you've received, invitations to events, notices about applications your friends would like you to try and a place where you can tell people how you're feeling or what you're up to.

2.2 Internet language

There have been multiple studies in the field of internet language (e.g., Rowe 2015, Ben-David & Soffer 2018) which all accentuate the similar and different elements of the language across social media platforms. It has been agreed that the internet interaction appears to be shorter and less developed, with fewer exchanges and it is not unusual to end incomplete or unrelieved (Lander 2014). With regard to journalism, the discussion of all the parties participating in creating reader-generated content has been found to be of low argumentation content (Larsson 2017). Despite this low argumentation content, the interaction often

highlights the polarisation of different ideologies, and moreover, in terms of language features, the reactions of the users show a higher level of hostility and conflict among the participants of the discussion (Tagg, Seargeant, Brown 2017). Furthermore, Rowe (2015) claims that Facebook comments are notoriously known for the high level of confrontation – but less aggression.

Tagliamonte and Dennis (2008) surveyed the language of CMC and analysed the corpus of more than a million words of CMC texts. What this research resulted in that the cyber-language is based on the present language and, consequently, the contemporary English language is highly affected by the language of CMC, which they then proceed to call a distinctive new hybrid of language consisting of formal, as well as informal (vernacular) elements. The following Chapter 3 is focused on explaining this term related to internet language, for the reason that it is closely connected with internet language and social media language.

The most striking development in the language on the internet is word-formation. An extensive list of abbreviations, acronyms and initialisms have emerged, replacing common phrases, as well as the phrases that are typically referring to the surroundings of CMC. One of the unmistakably characteristic features of the CMC is the development of paralinguistic features in the written speech, which ultimately makes the interaction resemble a typical encounter in the real “offline” world. According to David Crystal (2008, pp. 7-8), the internet language is a mirror of the informal verbal language that is used on the daily basis and he claims:

Texting has evolved [...] as a highly distinctive graphic style, full of abbreviations and deviant uses of language, used by a young generation that doesn't care about standards. There is [...] a concern that it is fostering a decline in literacy. And some even think it is harming language as a whole...

When we think about language and its uses, in particular about internet linguistics, and, of course, Facebook discourse, we deal with the written discourse that is influenced by the spoken language in terms of formality and vagueness. The most obvious and indisputable distinction from the spoken language is that when it comes to writing, a person has enough time to plan, revise and reconsider the text after it has been written. In spoken discourse, on the contrary, the produced speech is not a pre-prepared flow of conveying information, with a few exceptions, such as public speeches etc. (Leech 1975). In addition to that, Crystal claims that errors in spoken language is unwithdrawable, therefore the speaker has to deal with the consequences. He also argues that reconsidering a statement or rethinking the message a speaker is trying to convey (by, for example, starting again), is considered normal and is often accompanied by overlapping or interruptions.²

If we were to study electronic discourse and compare it with internet linguistics, we would notice the similarities in SMS texting, e-mail writing and social media interactions. These all share unique linguistic features, such as the diversity of abbreviations (e.g. *WTF*, *IMO*, *IDK* are frequently seen in Facebook discussions), extremely popular use of emoticons to express the tone of the message, negligent spelling and use of punctuation. The writing is compressed, adapted to the expected rules and technological requirements of the medium.³ The concern of many linguists and academics is that of traditional language use and literacy. The main threat is that texting is gradually affecting the education of many students, which progressively deteriorates. An evidence to this claim is the students' inability to understand which language is appropriate for the given situation, inability to code-switch and the

² Crystal, D. *Language and the Internet*. 2nd ed., Cambridge University Press, PDF. 2006. pp. 27.

³ Crystal, D. The Scope of Internet Language. Paper given online to the American Association for the Advancement of Science Meeting, February, 2005. [online](#) .

increased use of the non-standard language used online. There is a slowly increasing preference towards non-standard which may be noticed not only in written academic texts, as well as in spoken discourse (e.g., use of *OMG* abbreviation in spoken language).

An important phenomenon in the text-based CMC is graphical emphasis. Due to the fact that the participants in the interaction are unable to express their attitudes through sonic means, they are forced to change the text in a way that suggests such emphases mainly in three ways, using either metaphorical shouting, a pause or the so-called “capitalisation”. This unique phenomenon is widely used across the entire cyber-space, however, in the comment section (in this case, on Facebook), it is one of the most widely used means to convey emotions and attitudes, which a written CMC text lacks. Analogically, where an emphasis by raising one’s voice would be offensive, similarly, it is obvious that written CMC text does not approve of this kind of emphasis either. What is typically known as an emphasis in a written text is the use of uppercase letters (capitalisation). The authors using capitalization are often criticised for such verbal aggression; and capitalization is considered annoying by the majority of users (“How to behave” 2009). In the following part of this thesis, I present the main idea and function of social media and its impact on the language itself.

2.3 Social media language

Social media language is a narrower term for *internet language* because its origins stem from the broader concept of internet language. The users of social media, especially Facebook, consider these platforms very significant and they play a crucial role in millions of people’s lives (Bolander 2017). Through Facebook users practice their linguistic competencies virtually, thereby, it is doubtlessly logical to extract and analyse the various linguistic practices found in the comment section.

The kind of word-formation that is to be seen on the social media networks is typically characterised by the reduction of the unnecessary parts of words, yet they still convey some kind of meaning. This process accordingly makes the interaction swift. The tendency to reduce certain parts of the words is done by two means: abbreviations, acronyms and initialisms, and the second one being the replacement of words by numbers and/or letters (e.g., *gr8*, *too l8*, *b4*, *thx*, *jk*, *lol* etc.) The contribution of the female user Mary: [...] **FYI** *the Queen GIVES the government treasury upwards [...]*, in which *FYI* stands for “for your information” and, in this case, is used as a passive-aggressive behaviour, due to the fact that Mary is criticizing “*the LIARS are on here again*”. The second example of such abbreviation has been used by Rory: **wtf** *has Tees side got to do with it?*. In this case, there is *wtf* (“what the fuck”) and it demonstrates a case in which its full form might be considered offensive, while this particular abbreviation makes the phrase less provoking, in spite of the fact that the majority of internet users know its meaning. The same applies to Kieran’s contribution: **Ffs** *I’m 32*, *ffs* meaning for fuck’s sake. Other instances may be seen in the contribution of Emma: *until 8am lol*, Bernadette: *get us money like wth?!?*, Glenn: **tbh** *does it matter [...]*, or even Daniel’s comment: *4.5 million? LUL.*, which is an altered version of *lol*. This proves that this unconventional way of interacting with one another expresses feelings or attitudes of the user, while the other users often have no difficulties understanding what is meant by this word-formation process.

The second widely used linguistic process is the replacement of a word or a whole word by letters or numbers. This process allows the users to accelerate the interaction, making it more face-to-face-like, and it shortens the time spent typing the particular text. Furthermore, the replacement takes place under certain conditions, which are commonly known to the other internet users, hence they have no difficulties to fathom and make sense

of the replacement (i.e., instead of *you – u, yours – urs* etc.). An example of replacement is obvious in the comments made by Brendan: “so **ur** government is a joke?”, Anthony’s comment: *to make **u** all happy*, Mikah’s: **ya** mean, Mark’s **u** feel the need to comment. These examples are just a few demonstrations of the internet language and how one user may participate in interaction while using shortenings, abbreviations and acronyms and, more often than not, be perfectly well understood. Some of these replacements became so universal that nobody questions their meaning, as they are easy to understand because the individual letters replacing one word are spelt the way the specific word is pronounced (Annie: **r u** a doctor?, Ash: **R** they god. **U** need help, Chris: why **r** they desperate).

However, the distinction between a replacement and an abbreviation is not always clear and evident. These word-formation processes often occur at the same time simultaneously, combining one single abbreviated form of a word. In the following table, I listed the most frequent abbreviations and replacements. Additionally, this also poses a question: how does one understand the connotation of a replacement/abbreviation, if they are not familiar with the author of such text and how does one know whether the author considers such language-neutral, or passive-aggressive? There may be one solution, although it is not as widely used, that may help us understand the intention and tone of messages – emoticons. Nonetheless, due to the fact that the majority of content on social media is not supported by emoticons, and a mere text is not supported by any other non-verbal communicative expressions, most of the time, we must rely on our intuition.

When we think about internet linguistics, and, of course, Facebook discourse, we deal with the written discourse that is influenced by the spoken language in terms of formality and vagueness. The most obvious and indisputable distinction from the spoken language is that when it comes to writing, a person has enough time to plan, revise and reconsider the text

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⁴ Crystal, D. *The Language Revolution*. Cambridge: Polity Press, 2004. PDF. pp. 27.

⁵ Crystal, D. *The Scope of Internet Language*. Paper given online to the American Association for the Advancement of Science Meeting, February, 2005. online

An important phenomenon in the text-based CMC is graphical emphasis. Due to the fact that the participants in the interaction are unable to express their attitudes through sonic means, they are forced to change the text in a way that suggests such emphases mainly in three ways, using either metaphorical shouting, a pause or a capitalisation. This unique phenomenon is widely used across the entire cyber-space, however, in the comment section (in this case, on Facebook), it is one of the most widely used means to convey emotions and attitudes, which a written CMC text lacks. Analogically, where an emphasis by raising one's voice would be offensive, similarly, it is obvious that written CMC text does not approve of this kind of emphasis either. What is typically known as an emphasis in a written text is the use of uppercase letters (capitalisation). The authors using capitalization are often criticised for such verbal aggression; and capitalization is considered annoying by the majority of users ("How to behave" 2009). In the following part of this thesis, I present the main idea and function of social media and its impact on the language itself.

2.4 Emoticons

A fundamental part of Facebook communications are emoticons, also known as emojis, that represent online substitutes for human facial expressions. Emoticons are, according to Crystal, *"a potentially helpful but extremely crude way of capturing some of the basic features of facial expression, but their semantic role is limited"*⁶. Moreover, Crystal suggests that emoticons should be considered an entirely new species of communication, while other researchers debate whether they should be studied as speech acts or linguistic units.

⁶ Crystal, D. *Language and the Internet*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 2001. PDF. pp. 39.

Emoticons are widely thought of as a compensatory element for the lack of facial expressions, gestures and other paralinguistic features that are typical in face-to-face communication.

Emoticons tend to add a certain attitude, emotion or feeling to the text and they also indicate the mood of the author. Over time, certain emoticons gained a sense of negative or positive connotation. The most recognizable example is the winking emoticon “😉”, which could suggest either a flirtatious behaviour, but it has also gained a negative connotation, such as mockery or sarcasm.⁷ This emoticon has been considered by, not only the typical internet users, but also the scientists, as a character that ascribes a sarcastic tone to a message or comment, therefore, *a winky face emoji* may be one of the means to insult a person on the internet and social media sites, and, as a consequence, it can be a tool of aggressive or harmful behaviour.⁸ In the following table, I gathered the most frequently used emoticons and divided them into positive and negative connotation categories. On Facebook, there is yet another set of animated emoticons and gifts which may be added to the text. The basic character used to support the tone of the message is an emoji, however, a newer Facebook feature – insertion of gifs – allow the mood and tone of the message to be cleared, more obvious and as it expresses an attitude, the text reminds a speech which is more colloquial and informal (Provine, Spencer & Mandell 2007). In the following table (Table 1), it can be demonstrated that among all the emoticons appearing in the material I have collected, which was used by women more frequently, than the use of emoticons by men. Furthermore, the laughing emoticon, as well as the thumbs up emoticon, happened to be used equally among all speakers. It is also important to illustrate that their use may be contextually dependant – for example the laughing/crying emoticon may be considered as an emoji with positive

⁷ “😉 Winking Face emoji”. Dictionary.com. 2017. Online. Accessed 10 Apr. 2021.

⁸ “Winky Faces Make Your Texts Sarcastic, Scientists Say”. Mental Floss. 2016. Online. Accessed 15 Apr. 2021.

connotation, however, the opposite is true. It is mostly used as a sarcastic expression to make the comment be more indirectly aggressive. This can be illustrated on the example of Richard’s comment in 10.1.4: *Yeah that's some achievement, being the world's biggest benefit scrounger for so long 😏*. This proves that although some comments appear as positive, they can be also used as a harmful tool.

Table 1.: The emoticons and the gender of the speakers that used the particular emoticon the most, as well as which connotation was mainly attributed to the particular emoticons.

Emoticon										
Connotation	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-
Gender	M	M	=	F	F	M	F	F	F	=

2.5 Trolling

On the internet, it is not uncommon to come across hostile and harassing behaviour. This is also known as online aggression (cyberaggression; Gray 2012). The so-called trash-talking and trolling can be defined as threatening and/or insulting texts, often accompanied by profanities and vulgarisms with the intention to hurt or provoke a reaction from someone. On Facebook, over half of 1000 surveyed women claim to have little to no trust in the website’s ability to deal and control online abuse or harassment. About 45% of the women did not report the harassment due to their distrust in the website’s ability to take action.⁹

⁹ “More than half of women who report harassment on Facebook get no response or told it ‘does not violate community guidelines’”. *inews.co.uk*. 2019. 15 Apr. 2021.

Trolling is often described as a form of cyber-bullying and harassment, in which the *troll* behaves in a malicious way and attempts to start a fight by starting aggressive arguments and deliberately provoking other users without any specific goals. Studies show that the impact of trolling is similar to that of cyber bullying (Craker & March 2016). People on the internet, who *troll* others, post “*derogatory or inflammatory comments*” and aim to “*bait other users in order to bait others into responding*”.¹⁰ Trolls post deliberately such comments that provoke a hateful and excessively argumentative debate and often attack other user’s beliefs and personal opinions, which later translates to aggressive behaviour on both sides.

We may notice a few trolls in the comments I have gathered for this thesis. Although in real life it may be quite tricky to spot and point out whether the author of the content is trolling, or whether the author’s aim is to provoke a heated discussion, or if it is a simple troll without any aim. It can be considered a type of trolling, if we look at the comment made by John aimed at Susan: *CCP Propaganda and Believers Handbook Online of answering questions about China. 1) Change the topic to America 2) Abuse the questioner and tell them don’t know anything about China 3) Complain the question is racist or bigot [...]*. In spite of its ambiguity in the matter of seriousness and trolling, we may notice that the author seems to be confident about his claims, while seemingly being quite radical.

Another point that ought to be mentioned is the term “*troll*” as offensive name-calling in the interaction of people with opposing viewpoints. This may be noticed in several comments, such as these: Angela: *[...] Always haters just waiting to talk crap about someone. Get a life trolls.* (10.3.5), Richard: *SADDO,GO AWAY TROLL.* (10.6.6), Alan: *[...] ignore the hatefilled trolls [...]* (10.1.4). However, interestingly, the comment made by Colleen is perfectly

¹⁰ “Troll: What is Troll?”. *Webopedia*. online. 2011. 15 Apr. 2021.

pointing out this tendency to call each other out using the name “troll”. As we may observe in her comment, Colleen is aware of what the actual term stands for, and does not hesitate to enlighten others: *Colleen: the word Troll seems to be used in the wrong place these days. To have a different opinion to someone else doesn't make you a Troll. I take no pleasure from my opinion on Meghan and Harry. I just think it's sad that they think it's their place to speak publicly on this topic* (10.1.5). This can demonstrate that while some social media users are more knowledgeable in terms of online language, some are interpreting these terms according to their own ideas, hence why they use them in the middle of expressing each other’s opinions.

2.6 Interaction based on the type of a post

The influence of CMC on the way people communicate has been indisputable (Greiffenstern 2010). Websites, such as Facebook, have distinctive options and features that allow their users to discuss various topics among large, dispersed groups of people. The defining distinction of Facebook’s discussion is the participatory element. That is, after commenting on a post, users may, but do not have to further interact with those who reacted to his comment. Furthermore, reactions (especially comments) have become the standard and the norm of social media websites (Stroud, Scacco, Curry 2015). This has given rise to a new kind of interpersonal interaction, called *reader-reader* interaction, meaning that the visitor(reader)-generated content is being reacted to by one or more other visitor(reader)-generated contents.

Researchers have claimed that women are consistently and increasingly more liberal than men with possible nuances in the matters of civil liberties issues (Clark & Clark 1996, Stone & Abramowitz 1990, Poole & Zeigler 1985). In addition to that, women are nowadays

equally likely to object to certain matters, as well as involve themselves in protests (Verba, Schlozman & Brady 1995). Socially interdependent women are less likely to engage in a discussion which could potentially lead to a conflict. This explanation might answer the question of why females are less likely to involve themselves in commenting on controversial topics, moreover, it suggests that women's lower levels of discussion engagement may be a result of gender socialisation (Noelle-Neumann 1993, Tannen 1994, Axelrod 1981).

3. Computer Mediated Communication (CMC)

Technology-based interaction, also known as *computer-mediated-communication* (CMC) is the representation of current life changes in our society. It includes all online – cyber communication in which an immensely large number of people participate in. The dynamicity of the information age affects many aspects of life, including the interactions and communications that people have. Nowadays, the transformation of interpersonal interaction is to be seen in the personal relationship of internet users and thanks to the social media networking sites, the majority of interpersonal interaction takes place online, due to the pandemic and safety measures. The most distinctive feature of CMC is the possibility of interactive (mutual) communication with users anywhere in the world. Therefore, in the following section, I briefly introduce the term *CMC* and the language to which it is related.

3.1 What is CMC?

Generally, the term **Computer Mediated Communication** (CMC) can be defined as “*the method of creating, exchanging and perceiving the information, which aids encode, decode and transmit the messages by means of telecommunication network*” (December 1996) and

“includes any human interaction, which are symbolic text-based, directed or facilitated over digitally-based technologies”.¹¹ When it comes to human communication, we often think about language in terms of formality (and informality). Native speakers have the ability and knowledge to use both forms, as they both have the same communicative purpose, however, the difference between them is the level of formality, which depends on the situational context of the interaction. Both formal and informal are usually associated with a particular situation or a place and based on these factors, we choose to use the appropriate form for the situation. Of course, informal language is ultimately used much more often, and *the social media networks* have widened the possibilities to communicate with one another, mostly in an informal way. Written communication has turned into a vital part of people’s daily lives and, unlike illiterate Charlemagne, a crowned emperor ruling an entire empire who could not even sign his own name, we cannot imagine a day without using text messages.¹² The types of basic uses of any language on the internet is the unedited version of a person’s mind.

The social media networking sites provide its users with countless language creativity and understanding the language Facebook posts is different from typical written language forms in its preparation. Internet language is very close to spoken language due to its unpreparedness. It is not as premeditated as, for example, e-mails, articles, essays etc. Facebook written language is the unfiltered, unedited form of the spoken language with a hint of common patterns that are hidden in the language on the internet.¹³ CMC on various platforms, including Facebook, has some common characteristics that impact the behaviour of the people participating in the interaction with other users on the site. One of the most

¹¹ Kumar, Anil, Natarajan, Subhashree, Acharjya, Biswajit. *Computer mediated communication: A pathway to analyze social media communication trajectories*. Man in India. 97. 2017. 195-205.

¹² McCulloch, G. *Because Internet: Understanding the New Rules of Language*, 2019. Print. pp. 9.

¹³ McCulloch, G. *Because Internet: Understanding the New Rules of Language*, 2019. Print. pp. 11.

crucial characteristics is the ***user's anonymity***. The fact that anyone can set up a profile on the website with fake information allows people to be anonymous to the extent they desire themselves, furthermore, the ***self-construction of their online identity (persona)*** may often lead to creating a form of an alter-ego, which allows the user to be anyone they want. Another typical aspect is ***the potential of speed and fast response*** to a Facebook post or a private message may lead to unnecessary arguments or misunderstanding, as the absence of non-verbal and non-textual cues may impact (negatively or positively) the meaning of the message. The participatory websites, such as Facebook, have become the most impactful on people's lives. The topical discussions in dispersed groups with various levels of interactivity allow the users to participate in discussions where all sorts of discussions often end up unfinished or unsolved (Pillar 2014, Lander 2014).

The CMC allows its users a certain level of interactivity and gives them the option to intervene and observe the interaction in real-time. This turns a merely passive user into an active user; however, most internet sites do not allow all users to see the engagement statistics on the particular post. The differences between the activities that male and female users participate in are often ascribed to the typical gender stereotypes – a male user searches for sports, a female user is interested in tabloid media. However, apart from the use of e-mail, which is the main cyber-activity among both genders, the differences in online activities are very negligible.¹⁴

¹⁴ "Adults: Media use and attitudes report 2019". Ofcom.org.uk. 2019. online. Accessed Apr. 2021.

3.2 What is the internet linguistics?

With the arrival of *the internet*, the language was bound to be impacted. Since the emergence of this new field of linguistics, the language has undergone numerous investigations and with that, the term *internet linguistics* has emerged.¹⁵ *Internet linguistics* is a field of linguistics and the main and fundamental researcher in this field is the English linguist, David Crystal. It studies the language that developed from the use of the internet and the social media networks, domains that are accompanied by these new language styles and forms. The perspectives that are key for better understanding and investigating the domain have been identified by Crystal: *the sociolinguistic, the educational, the stylistic and the applied perspective*.¹⁶ These perspectives are connected and affect each other. In this thesis, I shall discuss and point out comments, while considering these perspectives, and further examine the comments through the common and interconnected themes in regard to various types of Facebook posts.

The internet and its social networking platforms are characterized by the shared content of each individual user, which is self-generated, as well as by the social interactions between its users. The human discourse that is taking place on these platforms can be via text messages, videos, emojis and images – be it the so-called *memes* or *gifs* that are typical for social networks. Before the internet, informal language was to be found in letters, postcards or notes in diaries, however, the advantage of the internet is its permanence – what has been posted on the internet once, will stay in the virtual space forever – which may be a surprise to

^{15,16} Crystal, D. *The Scope of Internet Linguistics* (PDF). Paper Presented at the American Association for the Advancement of Science Meeting. 2005. Archived from the original (PDF) on 2020-07-26.

many people who skip reading *the terms and services* of the given platform,¹⁷ therefore, this domain carries with it the dangerous potential of possible exploitation (e.g., cyber-bullying, terrorism, misinformation, abuse).¹⁸

The idea of a certain person online may be arguably the most problematic aspect of internet society. According to Paul Ricoeur (1992), the *persona* that the internet users create is a crucial aspect of recognizing the self-constructed image of who a person is. Ricoeur claims that we are unable to access our real 'selves' through a mere introspection because we self-construct our persona through the development of our 'own' unique behaviour, the way we act, dress or choose our hobbies etc. By constructing this persona, we may portrait ourselves as more interesting, brave, strong or anything we would aspire to be. We project our own ideas into this persona and unlike in real life, the internet provides a space where it is extremely difficult to judge one's character and the 'realness' of the user's persona.

The relationship between the persona (the identity) of an internet user and their language choice is often affected by the existing practices in the environment they live in, some of them either easily changeable and temporal (e.g., hobbies, group of friends) and some of them more static and long lasting (age, nationality etc.).¹⁹ People tend to act a certain way in a particular environment and soon after, for instance, relocate and act a completely different, or opposite, way. This does not mean that the person is "fake" or pretending to be someone else. The various self-presentation under diverse circumstances depends on the social situation. The Social Impact Theory (Bibb Latané 1981) explains that a person's

¹⁷ Brown D. "Can You Really Delete Your Internet History?" 3.10.2017. *HowStuffWorks.com*. [online](#).

¹⁸ "Social Networks and Cyber---bullying among Teenagers". *Ofcom.org.uk*. European Commission. Joint Research Centre. Institute for the Protection and the Security of the Citizen, 2013.

¹⁹ Seargeant P., Tagg C. *The Language of Social Media Identity & Community on the Internet*. pp. 91

behaviour is impacted by three factors: *strength* (power), *immediacy* (time period) and *number* (of people around). A person's behaviour is therefore altered multiple times a day, the biggest and far-reaching change being when a person goes from being alone to having the company of one or more people. Paying attention to these factors allow us to observe the self-presentations of each user in social media, such as Facebook.

The most frequent characteristic of Facebook language (as well as of other social networks) is the basic user's informal communication. Informal writing can be described in terms of efficiency, as short words contribute less information to a sentence, longer words provide more information. However, longer words are not as frequent as short words and the written language on social media takes the form of informal and rushed spoken discourse. An example of this would be the formal phrase "*I do not know*", which is the proper and correct version, and on the other hand, there is the informal and shortened "*I dunno*" or "*idk*", which we can find in Facebook posts more often than the former.²⁰ The shortened phrases and acronyms have come into use especially in Facebook discussions, an example would be "*btw*" (by the way) or "*omg*" (oh my god). These shortened versions of phrases are now generally understood among most internet users, and due to the resemblance of written and spoken discourse, these originally internet phrases made their way into the daily vocabulary of spoken discourse.

²⁰ McCulloch, G. *Because Internet: Understanding the New Rules of Language*. 2019. Print. pp. 20.

4. Spoken and written discourse

To fully comprehend the concept of spoken and written discourse, one must search for the principles of both types of communication. While some linguists consider spoken discourse superior to written discourse, such as Saussure, Vachek (1976) promotes written language and considers it to be superior, especially when it comes to the more extensive texts, such as books. Additionally, the emergence of social media had a significant effect on the language, bringing together the form of written and spoken text and forming a unique form of language which resembles spoken discourse, while also preserving features of written discourse. In order to shed some light upon the social media comments that are to be analysed further in this thesis, now I shall disclose the basic features and distinctions between spoken and written discourse.

4.1 Differences between spoken and written language

It is obvious that the principles of spoken and written discourse vary on different levels and the connection between them has been a subject of many studies. According to De Saussure (1916), written language and language itself are two separate systems of signs, moreover, writing being a mere representation of language as such. He considered spoken discourse to be superior to written discourse. Vachek (1976, pp. 414) focused on distinguishing these two forms of language and came up with the basic definition:

*“The spoken norm of language is a **system of phonically manifestable language elements** whose function is **to react to a given stimulus** (which, as a rule, **is an urgent one**) in a dynamic way... expressing not only the purely communicative but also the emotional aspect of the approach of the reacting language user.”*

*“The written norm of language is **a system of graphically manifestable language elements** whose function is to react to a given stimulus (which, as a rule, **is not an urgent one**), in a static*

way, i. e., in a preservable and easily surveyable manner, concentrating particularly on the purely communicative aspect of the approach of the reacting language user."

Crystal (2001) presented criteria applied to spoken discourse (e.g., time-bound, spontaneous, face-to-face etc.) and written discourse (e.g., visually decontextualized, elaborately structured, space-bound etc.)²¹. Apart from these characteristics and criteria, the differences were also defined by Chafe as sense-based, therefore speech is dependent on sounds, whereas writing depends on sight.²² Thus, internet language heavily depends on sight due to the fact that most discussions and social networking sites are often consequently dismissing simple utterances and, instead, employing various graphically rich features, compensating for the lack of prosody.

On the other hand, the durability of the written discourse allows us to read a certain text repeatedly. The written text enables the author to communicate information and facts, as well as rephrase or revise the structure of the text, which makes writing extremely organized and comprehensible. In addition to that, the contrast can be illustrated by some of the typical features to be found in spoken discourse, such as filler words, hesitation sounds or the failure to produce a correct and complete sentence (Leech 2002). These features are characteristic of spoken language, therefore their appearance in written discourse is rare and if they do appear, their use is intentional and serves an expressive purpose. What the written language also lacks is the expression of one's emotion (Vachek 1973), even if writing can be enriched by graphics (e.g., capitalisation, punctuation, emoticons etc.), instead of prosody. That being said, apart from the use of emoticons and punctuation, the reader of the text is able to interpret the tone or urgency merely based on its structure. Therefore, while interruptions in

²¹ Crystal, D. *Language and the Internet*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 2001. PDF. pp. 26-28

²² Chafe, W. L. *Discourse, consciousness, and time: The flow and displacement of conscious experience in speaking and writing*. University of Chicago Press. 1994. Print. pp. 42

spoken discourse may impact the outcome of the speech, whereas in writing itself, they are not reflected in the text, nor in its outcome.

4.2 Online language vs real-life speech

According to Crystal, online language stands on the borderline between spoken and written discourse. Crystal draws the attention to the differences between the four CMC communication units (virtual words communication, chat groups, e-mail and web).²³ Online discussions are an asynchronous messaging system; therefore, instant response and presence of the communicating users is not required. Unlike real-life speech, the discussion can be revisited by all the users, nevertheless, the time gap between a comment and its response is unlimited – it may take seconds, minutes, or even years (Crystal 2001). Furthermore, it is claimed that online language is visually decontextualised, however, this entry may be considered irrelevant in the constant updates of social media – nowadays, Facebook allows its users to attach an emoticon, a GIF or a photo to their comments, which makes the text supported by a form of visual or graphic materials. These attachments produce some sort of visual context, so the messages acquire a context within the texts themselves.

Studies suggest that there is a tendency to use a language of higher formality while discussing topics such as economics; and on the contrary, a lower degree of formality in texts related to politics, sports etc., and neutral language while discussing religion.²⁴ Undoubtedly, this criterion does not apply to every single post in the cyber-space, however, this is the most commonly used structure. Tetreault and Pablick have also argued that the degree of formality

²³ Crystal, D. *Language and the Internet*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 2001. PDF. pp. 42-43

^{24,25} Pavlick E., Tetreault J. *An Empirical Analysis of Formality in Online Communication*. Transactions of the Association for Computational Linguistics 2016; 4 61–74.

depends on the closeness of the interacting participants. They also point out that *“informality is an important way of expressing closeness with someone and thus formality should be higher when speakers dislike one another”*.²⁵ The vast majority of people using social media tend to use colloquial language, with the exceptions of businesses aiming to preserve the professional image, even on social media, to attract customers. Tannen (2013) implies that informal behaviour is more frequent in internet linguistics, which can be noticed, for instance, on replacing regular letters with numbers and/or characters that resemble the original form, or on using emojis. Nevertheless, Tannen neglects the use of vulgarisms as explicit language in CMC, while Crystal (2004) or Paolillo (1999) consider explicit language an important part of CMC. Additionally, Paolillo ascribes such language to rudeness, which is stereotypically related to masculinity and toughness.

Leech observes the distinctions between spoken and written discourse, for example, as people are writing a text in CMC, they usually have time to plan the content of the text, revise and edit it even after it has been written. In comparison spoken discourse does not allow the speaker to think about the air speech too much because did text the speaker tries to convey must be produced as the speech flows what the exception of public speeches which had been prepared in advance (i.e., presidential, ceremonial etc.). Leech (1975), along with Vachek (1973) argues that written and spoken discourse is equally important.

5. Language and gender

The belief in gender differences has been the focus of many researchers, including linguists. Over time, innumerable researchers have helped to create a consensus that differences in language among different genders are inconceivable. Linguists such as Lakoff (1975), Thorne (1983), Zimmerman (1985) and many others studied these differences and the core of the problematics is a matter of debates, as many scientists hold on to the data that dispel stereotypes (Hyde 1994), offer alterations to the typical feminist dogma (Eagly 1994), others believe that the term “gender differences” is a conceptual element existing outside knowledge framework and searching for the truths is of no real value. However, now I shall present the basic differences stated by linguists who do believe that clarifying the distinctions and variants in the male and female speech is a fundamental key to fully comprehend this phenomenon.

5.1 Introduction to gender and language

The differences between men and women communicating and their self-expressions have been the focus of many studies in the past years. Books dedicated to this topic (e.g., *Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus* 1992, *Language and Woman’s Place* 1975 etc.) confirm that when it comes to language, there are vast gender differences in using language. The linguistic theories regarding these differences are mostly similar and they come to the same conclusion – there are more differences than similarities or overlaps²⁶. The approaches (or theories) include the deficit approach (Lakoff, *Language and Woman’s Place*), which claims

²⁶ Crawford, M. *Talking Difference: On Gender and Language*. London: SAGE Publications Ltd, 1997. SAGE Knowledge, 16 Apr 2021, doi: <http://www.doi.org/10.4135/9781446250594>. pp. 1.

that women's language is – in comparison to men's language – deficient (further discussed in section 5.3); then there is the dominance approach, stating that women are the oppressed gender and the conducted studies focus on portraying the male dominance in terms of language; the difference approach, claiming that no gender should be considered dominant/subordinate and women's speech is examined outside of the stereotypes of powerlessness; and the social constructionist approach, also called dynamic, which is prevalent in recent studies, considering gender identity a social construct.²⁷ Due to the variability of CMC, the language innovates, and the vocabulary grows exponentially. Language profoundly affects the online interaction and experience on the internet.

A reason for the enthusiastic increase of studies in regard to the internet is the modern format of the content, and in terms of linguistics, the style of the messages and the distinctive features of language used by men in contrast to women. Messages on the internet acquired a relaxed style of writing. Internet language is, as proposed by Crystal, far closer to spoken language than any other form of a text. Furthermore, internet language often resembles spoken discourse with minute changes.²⁸ It is no wonder that with the rise of women's power in this society, their language became the focus of many studies. The differences between men's and women's style of internet language use have been proven by one of the main linguists, who contributed to this field in great extent, Herring (1994), who also claims that women have different communicative ethics than men.

²⁷ Coates, J. *Women, Men and Language: A Sociolinguistic Account of Gender Differences in Language*. pp. 5.

²⁸ Shea, V. *Core rules of netiquette. Netiquette*. San Francisco: Albion Books. PDF. 1994. pp. 35.

5.2 Gender differences in online interaction

Language is unique in many respects. Not only are there geographical differences, but also gender differences, age differences and many others. It is presumed that each person expresses themselves in a particular and unique manner. A large number of studies have demonstrated that gender truly does have an impact both on the interaction in the online-world, and the interaction in the offline-world. On the internet, the users can contribute and engage in reacting to the post and interact with other users. This has raised concerns over several aspects of its language: salient conflict, polarised argumentation, lack of formality, politeness and the complexity of the interaction between the users commenting on the particular post. As Carli (1989) presented in her article, women usually display a greater amount of agreement, as well as other positive social behaviours (i.e., relieving tension or showing solidarity), while men exhibit a greater number of disagreements.²⁹ The reason behind these differences is that male figures often have higher status than women (Meeker & Weitzel-O'Neill 1977), which consequently leads to more favourable traits than those of women (Vogel, Broverman, Clarkson, & Rosenkrantz 1972).

The extreme variability of computer-mediated communication is caused by a number of variables – technological or situational – which influence the context of the situation in which the interaction takes place.³⁰ Herring argues that the technological variables are related to the degree of anonymity, synchronicity or the persistence of transcript. On the other hand, situational variables include are to be found in the structure, purpose, topic, norm, tone and

²⁹ Carli, L. "Gender differences in interaction style and influence". *Journal of Personality & Social Psychology* 1989.56 [4]. online. 1989. pp. 565–576.

^{21,22} Herring, S. *Computer-mediated discourse analysis: an approach to researching online communities*. Designing for Virtual Communities in the Service of Learning. 2004. 316-338. pp. 67

characteristic demography of the participants.³¹ The interaction in the cyber space is typically a public asynchronous system and the user-generated contents are permanent (unless deleted by the author of the content).

5.3 Features of men's and women's speech

As has been mentioned earlier, males exhibit higher status as group members, they are considered more competent, independent and they receive more opportunities to contribute to the discussion (Berger, Fisek 1974). It is more acceptable for men to be competing for this higher status in a group (or a discussion), but for women, on the contrary, it is illegitimate for women and other lower status participants and/or members. In the internet language, people can control which gender-related attributes they decide to hide or emphasize. There is no need to attempt to meet gender-based social expectations and the way people behave is not infected by the traditional stereotypes, furthermore, the inequality between men and women is reduced.³²

Additionally, the feminist linguist Robin Lakoff has enriched the linguistic field of gender studies and came up with a linguistic gender theory claiming that women's language differs on several levels. Before she presented her work in mid-70s, the language differences between men and women were limited to grammatical features. Several feminist linguists with Lakoff in the lead raised several fundamental questions in regard to these differences: *Is men's vocabulary wider than that of women's? What kind of adjectives do they use? Do they form complete sentences? Do they use more expletives?* These questions gave the studies the

³² Eisenchlas, S. A. "Gender Roles and Expectations: Any Changes Online?" SAGE Open, Jan. 2013, online. doi:10.1177/2158244013506446.

main base and helped with observing language from a female perspective and ultimately discovered the possible answers. Susan Herring (1994) asserts that the differences between men and women in the online language are indisputable. Next, I will present some distinguishing features of female and male speech that will be taken into consideration in the analysis further in this thesis.

5.3.1 *Amount of talk and cooperativeness*

There is a worldwide belief that women are much more talkative than man, engaging in gossiping conversations and having silly over-emotional interaction. However, this has been questioned and considered a mere stereotype which does not have an evidence-based claim. What has been discovered though, in relation to the amount of talk of both genders, is that talkativeness is often related to the environment of the speaker. Cameron and Coates (1985) claim that the amount of talk is influenced by the surroundings and particular situation: who we are with, what is the occasion, what we are doing. Furthermore, they state that if we were to aggregate an extensive study, it will demonstrate that there is little to no difference between the amount of females' and males' talk.

Stenström (1994) claims that spoken discourse is characterised by an increased degree of cooperativeness and harmony in female's talk and back-channelling (i.e., *yes, oh, really* etc.) occurs as a sign of cooperation and attention. Lexical items such as *sort of, kind of, you know, I mean* contribute to the smooth flow of the interaction in spoken discourse. Deborah Tannen (1990) argues that men typically tend to use more silent pauses, due to the reason that they look for the solution to a problem and they think about it, while, on the other hand, women show their empathy and attention in a different way - they talk more which helps create a pleasant atmosphere and it is common in informal situations of spoken discourse (referred to

as phatic talk). In the study I conducted based on the materials I have gathered, it is noticeable and undoubtful that in fact, male and female commenters are more or less balanced, as it obviously depends on the topic. In the methodology section of this thesis, I present the comparison in the count of male and female speech.

5.3.2 *Turn-taking*

Turn-taking is an important element of a conversation, and as Stenström (1994) suggests "*Questions and answers could be considered as the backbone of conversation...*". this means that speakers take turns and typically, they wait for each speaker to finish their talk before they smoothly continue with the interaction; or they overlap with the other speaker's speech (unsmooth speaker shift). Research in this area of language and gender use two models – the model of dominance and of the difference. While the first is associated with Dale Spender (1980) or Pamela Fishman (1980), the second one is associated with Deborah Tannen (1984). dominance can be proven in mixed-sex conversations in which men are more likely to interact than women. Tannen (1990) summarizes the difference theory in series of six contrasts.

- a) status versus support: due to the fact that men are more competitive and that they grow up in a world in which they consider interactions a competition – they aim to achieve the dominance and/or prevent others from achieving dominance, they see the world as a place where people must gain status and keep it; women, on the contrary, participate in a conversation in which they are seeking confirmation and support for their ideas, will you help us damn to connect and establish consensus
- b) independence versus intimacy: it is a known fact that women often think in terms of closeness and support and try to maintain intimacy; men are more focused on independence and status

- c) advise versus understanding: Tannen argues that men are more likely than women to search for a solution to a complaint, and they are focused on what they can do in terms of reacting to the complaint, whereas women usually seek sympathy³³
- d) information versus feelings: historically men's concerns are seen as more valid and more important than those of women, however, nowadays this may be disputable
- e) orders versus proposals: women tend to use indirect commands and requests (e.g., a command or a request to close the window: *Isn't it cold here?*), furthermore, Lakoff (1975) claims that women suggest things to do indirectly by using "let's", "why don't we?", or "wouldn't it be good, if we...?", and men, on the contrary, use and prefer more direct imperatives and orders;

5.3.3 Standardisation

Trudgill (1972) demonstrated in his study, that women use forms associated with more prestigious standard, over language than that of men, he also discovered that men place a higher value on the non-standard type of speech. He explained this phenomenon by several claims: women often have the subordinate position in many societies, which makes it more necessary for them to secure their status via their speech, while men, on the other hand, can be rated socially by how and what they do, whereas women are rated primarily based on how they appear to be, what they look like, how they behave – which places higher importance on their language and their expressions which makes their speech more important

³³ Tracy, K. "Discourse - Deborah Tannen, Conversational Style: Analyzing Talk among Friends. Norwood, N.J.: Ablex, 1984. Pp. Xix 188. PDF. doi:10.1017/S0047404500011830.

5.3.4 Assertion, directness

Women are described as much more likely to apologise or pose several questions, because they seek personal orientation, and they offer support to the other participant(s) of the interaction. Men, on the other hand, are characterised as assertive, authoritative and confident. They use strong assertions (e.g., in section 10.1.2, Daniel reacting to Rebecca's comment, saying: *you can give up having kids if you believe that, but don't tell others how to live their lives.*; in 10.2.6, Ben: *What a joke of society we live in when you can't do that! But you let 16 non-professional muppets go and Chase wolves round in football game*, or in 10.3.1, Peter's reaction to Becky - *it's because idiots think that having money makes up for everything. It doesn't.*), humour and they are more likely to challenge the other participant(s) of the interaction. These particular examples of directiveness are intriguing in many ways. For example, Ben used an exclamation mark to emphasize his statement, which proves that he considers his opinion to be adequate, strong and assertive, therefore the exclamation mark assigns an urgency to his comment. On the other hand, Daniel's comment is not that assertive in its structure, nor in its vocabulary, but what is undoubtedly significant is the unassertive form. Although there is no strong word in his comment, the whole attitude shows his opposing opinion than that of Rebecca, which he expresses via the end half of his comment "don't tell others how to live their lives".

In this sense, the women's speech is quite distinctive from men's language habits. As was already mentioned before in Chapter 5.2. e), Lakoff describes the typical features of female language:

- hedges (i.e., sort of, kind of etc.)
- polite and super-polite forms (i.e., would you mind, could you please etc.)
- tag questions (i.e., aren't you?, was he? etc.)

- empty adjectives (i.e., divine, lovely etc.)
- hypercorrect grammar and pronunciation
- exact quoting (men paraphrase)
- use of special lexical items (i.e., name of the colour mauve versus men use special lexical items related to sports, cars etc.)
- frequent question intonation (even in declarative statements, indicates uncertainty)
- use of “wh-“ imperatives (i.e., *Why don't you close the window?*)
- frequent qualifiers (i.e., *I think that...*)
- frequent apologies (i.e., *I'm sorry but...*)
- modal constructions (i.e., could, should, would etc.)
- avoiding expletives and swear words
- frequent intensifiers (i.e., very, oh so etc.)
- scarce use of humour and jokes

6. Verbal aggression

Social media has become an effective tool for all sorts of communication and public life. It became a primary medium over which the users develop their identities, consume and create content. However, as the impact and importance of social media has been growing, it became a powerful tool for social control, manipulation, spreading of all variations of opinions and thanks to social media, anyone can now participate in discussions and express their views freely, without limits – even if it means morally questionable behaviour. Consequently, the following chapters are concerned with ways of verbal aggression on social media and its main

forms. Generally, verbal aggression is considered to be a threat to public discourse.³⁴ But what *exactly* verbal aggression on the internet is and what does it look like?

Almost all the studies conducted on violence and the media have concerned physical aggression, such as shootings or stabbings, with a few examining verbal aggression (e.g., Potter et al. 1995). However, a different type of aggression exists, one that has been found to be as harmful and damaging as some types of physical aggression (e.g., Paquette & Underwood 1999). This has been given three different names: indirect (Lagerspetz et al. 1988), relational (Crick & Grotpeter 1995), and social (Cairns, et al. 1989) aggression. This form of aggression causes harm through using others, by spreading rumours, by gossiping, excluding the victim from the group, or ignoring others. Although very similar in definition, the three terms are slightly different (Archer 2001). Indirect aggression involves “behind-the-back” aggression, in which the aggressor may remain unidentified. Relational aggression can be either overt or covert, focussing on aggression within relationships and friendships. The less commonly used term, social aggression, involves both covert and overt forms within social groups. Several manipulative aggressive behaviours can be described by more than one.

6.1 *What is an aggressive or abusive language?*

The most important characteristics of cyber-abuse are those, that are closely linked to the designated criteria: intention to abuse or harm another user, creating aggressive content (i.e., messages, comments etc.) and, undeniably, technologies. Verbal aggression on social media sites has many forms, it consists of cyber abuse, bullying, harassment and violence. Verbal

³⁴ Hamilton M. *Verbal aggression: understanding the psychological antecedents and social consequences*. Journal of Language & Social Psychology 2012; 31:5–12.

aggression on the internet is often accompanied by harassment, hence the ever-involving speech policies on various social media networks. As a result of the lack of body-language, gestures and other para-linguistic expressions that accompany face-to-face interaction, the text that is posted online is subjected to individual and diverse interpretations. It is not uncommon to misinterpret a message on the internet as an attack, hence the user opts for defensive behaviour, causing a cyber-altercation.

In the light of the fact that people are unique beings, each interpretation of a message aimed at their person may be varied and what may seem like aggressive behaviour to some, may ultimately be only the misinterpretation of one person. That being said, the way we let the messages affect our personal mood is affected by our current mental state. I am personally convinced that any interpretation is valid and ought to be accepted as such, however, I believe that more often than not, the online discussion often takes a wrong turn and from what was a mere misinterpretation turns into an argument. This is, in my personal opinion, not the right approach – just as the users have the option to take the content personally, they may turn the conversation into a constructive, objective discussion. However, in the following section of this thesis, I focus on the verbal aggression that, in fact, takes place in several instances in the Facebook discussions.

6.2 *Verbal aggression on Facebook and its impact*

An issue of aggression on Facebook involves intentional communication tendencies for creating, sending and possibly receiving various verbally aggressive reactions with the opinions and feelings of the author about the original post. The core of verbal aggression is related to tendencies to attack the concept of 'self' of someone else and its intention may be to inflict emotional pain (Infante & Wigley 1986). Furthermore, a verbally aggressive message

may lead to a domino effect and result in other verbally aggressive reactions. This could potentially send messages that such aggressive behaviour (e.g., mocking or attacking another user etc.) can be accepted in society – both online and offline. It is not uncommon for these aggressive reactions to desensitise people on the internet to the damaging and destructive impact of such reactions.

Verbally aggressive messages may lead to psychological hurt (e.g., humiliation, embarrassment etc.) which then further have an impact on the recipient's behaviour in a way that the negativity will be further spread. Harmful behaviours, online and offline, can take various forms. The term used for harmful online behaviour is *cyber aggression* and describes the undesirable behaviour on social media and other networking sites that allow the readers to carry out a certain behaviour and react to the content. The victims of cyberbullying are likely to experience psychological distress (Bauman & Baldsare 2015) and/or engage in substance abuse (Selkie, Kota, Chan & Moreno 2015) or otherwise harm other internet users in the comments.

Online aggression is a phenomenon that occurs mainly as a consequence of the anonymity provided by social media. Users, therefore, are likely to behave in such a way that is unusual and contradicts normative behaviour in a cyber-interaction in which they do not identify with a specific opinion or discussion as such. Social media offers the possibility of leaving the discussion (Eastwick & Gardner 2009), while also having the freedom to make any kind of statement and log-off, hence the online interaction allows us options that are not available for a face-to-face interaction.

6.3 Sexist language

The study of sexism was established as a consequence of the imbalance and inequality between men and women. Sexism is not concerned only with the disparity of access, control and decision-making between these two genders, it is also connected to the mindset, but also to the language that is stereotypically being used. Nneka (2012) claims that *“any language that is supposed to include all people, but unintentionally (or not) excludes a gender (either male or female)”*. This is also supported by the studies involved in feminism, as it is conservatively representing females as subordinate, passive, and trivial, whereas males are considered more powerful, dominant and aggressive (Lakoff 2004, Spender 1980, Mills 2008).

In linguistic terms, the language of English is said to be one of the most sexist languages due to the frequency and favouring of the masculine gender (Nneka 2012). Furthermore, feminist studies have noticed that the language also contains several linguistic features that are insulting to females, excluding them or trivialising them. Researchers have noted that sexism may be explicitly expressed (e.g., using linguistic features that refer to both genders via the third person pronoun ‘he’ etc.). On the other hand, indirect sexism is a more subtle form of contextualised sexism (e.g., humour-based subtype, presupposition etc.). It is far more difficult to identify this kind of sexism due to its wrapped and furnished form, accompanied by humour and irony. Sexist language may be used by both genders, though it is often more ascribed to men than women. An example from the Facebook comments may be noticed in section 10.6.5, regarding the blocking of women’s hygiene products at Tesco: *“Paula: If I have a choice after all this is over I will not buy from ANY supermarket that has done this, how absurd, must have been a male that made that decision!!”*. This particular case is an example of a female user using sexism as a reason of the misstep of the Tesco supermarket, emphasizing the trivialisation of men in charge of decisions regarding essential products. The

displays of sexist language are often disregarded, as some of the typical topics related to women are considered taboo, even in the modern and developed countries. Similar occurrences are to be found in the comments reacting to this one: *Vicki: Paula - yes the over privileged white men that sit in government*, which is quite intriguing not only in relation to sexism, but also racism and stereotypes (white men in government). Unlike insults and other aggressive expressions, sexism may be based on a true events and/or facts (it is indeed more than common that men represent the majority of all politicians in government).

6.4 Sarcasm

Although sarcasm became a widely used type of humorous banter or criticism, it remains to this day a subject rarely studied, despite appearing even in several literary treasures (i.e., Oscar Wilde suggests that sarcasm is a low form of wit, unworthy of deeper study). Nonetheless, from the scarce studies of sarcasm in the context of linguistics, sarcasm has been defined as a form of indirect and not always apparent verbal aggression. While sarcasm can be hurtful, it may also provide merely an affirmative context in which the main structure of the text can be undermined by another, alternative discourse. Sarcastic comments may be a form of satire, mockery and criticism, it may also be considered a double-coding, which twists and reverses facts to foster critical thinking, questioning and reconsideration of the given content (Moreale 2009).

The Oxford English Dictionary defines sarcastic speech as “*mocking or conveying contempt through the use of irony*”, which is related to a particular kind of humour with the intent to make fun of a specific subject and pointing out any absurd actions taking place publicly. Unlike irony, sarcasm is predominantly used with some degree of premeditation, which, as a type of verbal aggression, is a tool of ridicule, which can be highly offensive, while remaining civil in

its form (Haiman 1998). Sarcasm may be viewed as a crude mean of expression of one's opinion, however, undoubtedly, it requires a very complex a carefully composed sequence of skills that detect and recognise sarcasm as a kind of wit (Adam 2005).

6.5 Hate speech

Cyber-harassment, including hate speech, is often carried out against a specific group of victims and, ultimately, may result in real life harassment. Expressing one's hatred, judgement or prejudice towards an individual person or group of people based on their race, beliefs, nationality, gender and much more. Fostering hate against specific users and causing them emotional harm has been an adopted tactic by many people on the internet, especially with the rise of social media networking and its degree of anonymity. Though there is a privacy policy and protection regulations, some user accounts continue to share this type of extreme cyber-aggression.

Hate speech in the United Kingdom can have the form of racial and religious injustice, homophobic comments, as well as discrimination of people with disabilities. It can be investigated by the police, however, most hate speech on the internet is disregarded and overlooked. Hate speech is often challenged in relation to *free speech* and its contradictory claims by those who support a regulation of hate speech, but on the other hand, argue that people in progressive countries need free speech in order to express themselves. While free speech is indeed an important tool for the development of our society, there is a necessity for prescription as to where the line between hate speech and free speech is. Free speech may be exploited by some people, however, the consensus about its limits ought to be clearly distinguishable. The participation in a discussion has unstated, but presumed rules, the participants of the interaction are obligated to use free speech to challenge the opinions that

we do not agree with, in a polite and civil manner, rather than exploiting this freedom by insulting something or someone.

An example of hate speech may be considered a direct insult (e.g., Jamie: *Did I mention anything about all lives matter black lives matter white lives matter or no lives matter you pair of fuckwhits* (10.3.6), Matthew: *You sound like your surname. All Cock...* 🤦🤦🤦🤦🤦🤦 (10.5.3). These are examples of aggressive language, as well as using expletives. This type of speech tends to be associated mainly with men, however, in section 8.1, I shall be discussing and analysing similar comments made by women.

7. Methodology

In the following section of this diploma thesis, I will state the criteria for the analysis of verbal aggression that appeared in the individual Facebook comments on various topics. The comments have been carefully selected to be relevant, to the point and which are of great value to the topic of this diploma thesis. I have omitted those that would be of no use to this analysis and carefully selected those, that I considered being noteworthy and significant for this topic.

7.1 Subjects of the analysis

The study I conducted and report on in this thesis is aimed at describing, emphasizing and pointing out examples of verbal aggression and the means of conveying one's opinion. The subjects (participants) of this study were chosen based on their origin within the confines of the United Kingdom. The age group is not specified, neither is the level of education or correctness of the comment. The only premise that I aimed to maintain was to omit comments

by users whose profiles were created merely for trolling, spamming or scamming (e.g., the profiles did not contain any information about gender, origins etc.). The names of all the subjects were altered, due to the preservation of their privacy.

7.2 *Corpus description*

The corpus of this analysis was gathered from 36 Facebook posts by pages concerned with news and current world affairs. The data collected are derived from the comment section in its original form at the time of them being collected, including emoticons and other non-verbal expressions (i.e., gifs, capitalisation, interpunction etc.). It must be prefaced to summarise the corpus as a whole. The number of all comments that I have gathered is 1421 individual comments, from those were 696 composed by men, and 725 of those composed by women. The form of these comments has not been immensely distinguishing, as the speech of women and men is often very similar and the written contents of these two genders look alike.

7.3 *Research questions*

Verbal aggression is a complex social behaviour with various consequences and forms. While some aggression can be direct, verbal aggression is more often indirect and its aim is to inflict harm on the addressee (e.g., to insult them, spread rumours about them, provoke them etc.). It is expected that men tend to be more aggressive than women, however, the aggression levels of female's speech indicate that women also engage in aggressive behaviour. The aim of the analytical part is to indicate verbal aggression and means of conveying one's attitudes. It is expected that a man will exhibit more aggressive behaviour and show direct anger more frequently, whereas women are predicted to behave verbally aggressive with the intention to hurt or harm someone else. This study is limited to the sample of data that was

involved, which is not too large, and as it consisted of 36 Facebook posts with comments selected based on the origins of the user and chosen for their relevance to this topic. In addition, the analysis has not been focusing on each aggressive feature individually, as it was dealing with the means of expressing attitudes as such.

The imposed questions used for analysing the language in the following part are: the amount of female and male aggressive expressions, as well as sarcastic expressions which is expected to result in finding but male speakers tend to be more aggressive than female speakers, use more forceful language and stand behind their opinion at all costs (in agreement with the study of Eagly and Steffen in 1986); the amount of female and male supportive behaviour, which is expected to lead to the fact that women are more empathic and understanding than men (in agreement with theories of Lakoff); willingness of male and female speakers to offer solution to a particular problem, which I anticipate outcome of male being less willing to offer solution, but when they do in fact offer a solution, it will be of great use, while women offer more support than a solution to a problem (Lakoff); and finally, the amount of confrontational responses to a particular post, which I predict to be within the same levels between male and female users, assuming that women tend to comment more often posts with feminine content and vice versa.

8. Analytical part

This section is devoted to the analysis of the data in terms of research questions that are based on the most important salient features adopted by internet users. The hypotheses that I have been working with and conclusions that I have predicted are based on the premise that women tend to comment in greater amount and with less direct and less aggressive

vocabulary. This premise has proven to be questionable, as in the analysis, there are several of the female comments that attack either another commenter(s), or they express their conflicted, bashful opinions, attitudes and animosity in general. Comments made by men, on the other hand, suggest that their aggression is mainly towards other men with only a few exceptions. In these following sub-sections, I shall pose six research questions that confirm, demonstrate or contradict and invalidate the expected outcomes.

8.1 Amount of female vs male aggressive and sarcastic expressions

It has been not long ago, that female aggression as a phenomenon began to be studied. Undoubtedly, the aggressive language varies across cultures, as well as across different stages of life and the environment (Burbank 1987). Frodi, Macaulay and Thome (1977) reviewed gender research of differences in terms of aggression have been mainly concerned with male aggression – about 54% and only 8% female experiments were conducted. This proves the relatively small number of materials that could be used as a base for the purposes of this thesis, due to the relatively recent development of social media.

Additionally, aggressive language and aggressive expressions my various forms. It can include sarcasm, insults, implied expressions and so on. In the material I have gathered, there are to be seen many of these types of aggression, however, sarcasm tends to be used more often, than straightforward insults. As previously mentioned in section 6.4, sarcasm is often used either as an irony to express a certain attitude to silly comments, or as a reaction to the actual content of the post, which they found silly, useless etc. A selection of some sarcastic comments can be found in Table 2.

We can find several types of aggressive language in the analysed material, and it may appear mainly between participants of the discussion, that do not share the same opinion. It

is not too rare that some users use this type of language because they know that they cannot offer proper, rational arguments. This can be demonstrated on these comments like that from Roger: *Really? Because we dont want to celebrate the ridiculous notion that one inbred, dysfunctional, obscenely privileqed, and wealthy, family should be our head of state?*, Rory: *nope, TOURISTS contributed £595M not the Windsor hut scroungers*, Diane: *Joe - from the standard of your comments it is obvious you would lose an IQ contest with an amoeba.* or Joshua: *honestly, she sucks* (10.3.2) and Peter: *Her attitude to this Pandemic is almost as bad as her Music!!!!* (10.3.2). The underlined parts of the comments are those, that may be interpreted as an attack towards others – either another commenter or the post itself. Usually, name-calling is not present in these comments, however, there is a negative sense to the whole expression that may be considered hurtful, as well as insensitive towards the feelings of others.

It is important to bear in mind, that these comments may be interpreted according to one’s attitude. Furthermore, the context of the discussion or interaction gives the individual statements the intended connotation. While expletives are directly aggressive and harmful, comments like those mentioned do not belong to the same category, due to the lack of insults. These particular comments merely depict the users’ character, as well as their moral code and critical-thinking abilities. Having said that, the examples mentioned above are to be perceived as impolite expressions of opinions, rather than direct harmful behaviour.

Table 2.: Examples of several sarcastic comments by male and female speakers.

MALE	FEMALE
John: Shock horror! (10.1.1)	Terry: Ann - Yes, all that waving really takes it out of one. (10.1.4)
Richard: Yeah that's some achievement, being the world's biggest benefit scrounger for so long 🤪 (10.1.4)	Andrea: [...] sorry I didn't realise you were personal friends! [...] (10.1.5)

Ben: I'm sure all those in retail and hospitality will appreciate the weekend off 👍 oh, wait... (10.1.4)	Elaine: Christine - I bet it really troubles Meghan knowing you can't stand her. 🤔🤔🤔 Harry is no stooge. (10.1.5)
Kyle: I have tried to hide the kryptonite as deep as possible but they still found it! (10.4.1)	Simone: Gosh!!!! I can barely contain my indifference!!! I thought he was much more famous for being a PREACHY HYPOCRITE - entirely irrespective of COLOUR!!!! (10.5.1)
Jon: Sue - I agree. We need to burn more fossil fuels, scrap recycling & cut more of the rainforest down. It's all lies spread by lizard people. (10.4.2)	Haley: wow u r all so bright hey. what a shame you are not in the research team, bet everyone would be stunned by your intelligence. (10.6.3)

8.2 Amount of female vs male supportive expressions

Supportive expressions and supporting behaviour is often assigned to female's speech, as it is related to the stereotype that women express their feelings far more often. Lakoff claims that the number of supportive messages signed by males is less frequent and the material that I've gathered proves just that. In section 10.1.2, the original post being about a photo celebrating the anniversary of Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh, show several female users supporting the Queen and although there are some male users expressing their support (e.g., Chris, Monty, Greg), the dominating gender is that of female speakers. The reason behind the dominance of female commenters, in this particular case, is that this specific topic, The Queen – according to IPSOS, the interest in the Royal Family is significantly higher among women (58%) than among men (44%).

On the other hand, in section 10.5, we may notice much far greater participation of men supporting either each other or in 10.5.2, in regard to passing away of a Football star, men express their admiration, support and affection. That being said, in this particular topic there are nude many female users participating in the discussion, therefore, in this case, there is a relatively steady balance between supportive male and female users across all the topics combined - it merely depends on the topic, and whether it is close to the user (i.e., whether it

is their hobby). On the other hand, the post about footballer Rashford (10.5.4), we may notice a greater number of comments by female users (Marilyn: *What an inspiring young man he is. His parents should be very very proud of him*; Caroline: *Well done. I'm not a football fan and hadn't heard of him until this. What an inspiration.* etc.).

Lakoff in her book *Language & Woman's place* argues that supportive behaviour is typically goal-oriented, the goal being friendliness and making the addressee of the statement like the author of the expression. There may be conventional and real supportiveness, however, the distinction between these two is not always easy to determine. Thus, the interpretation is therefore tricky and may cause misunderstanding, followed by an argument. An example can be seen in section 10.5.3, in the interaction between Dan and Mike:

Mike: Anyone who says Ronaldo or Messi are the greatest of all time have clearly never heard of Emile Heskey. [...]

Dan: Mike, do you really hate Heskey so much that you brought his name into a totally unrelated post just to try and mock him. [...]

Mike: Dan - I'm not sure how good your English is, Sir Snowflake, but if you read the post I'm saying he's the greatest of all time

Dan: Mike, sorry. I misinterpreted it as sarcasm. I'm a big fan of Emile. [...]

This instance proves that on the internet, it is very common and not rare to misinterpret, misunderstand or simply misread any text. While one person may be expressing their supportiveness and appreciation towards the initial object/person in the original post (in this case, Heskey), another user may consider their comment sarcastic and, thus, create an unnecessary confrontation. On the other hand, there can be found some comments from female users, who are more likely to negatively judge a football player (i.e., Messi), due to the fact that women and men have different interests and what one may find interesting or important, the other one may find it silly, trivial and irrelevant. While one gender may be praising one particular topic (i.e., the Royal Family, in which there were mainly female commenters, in the gathered material, and on the other hand, discussions about footballers).

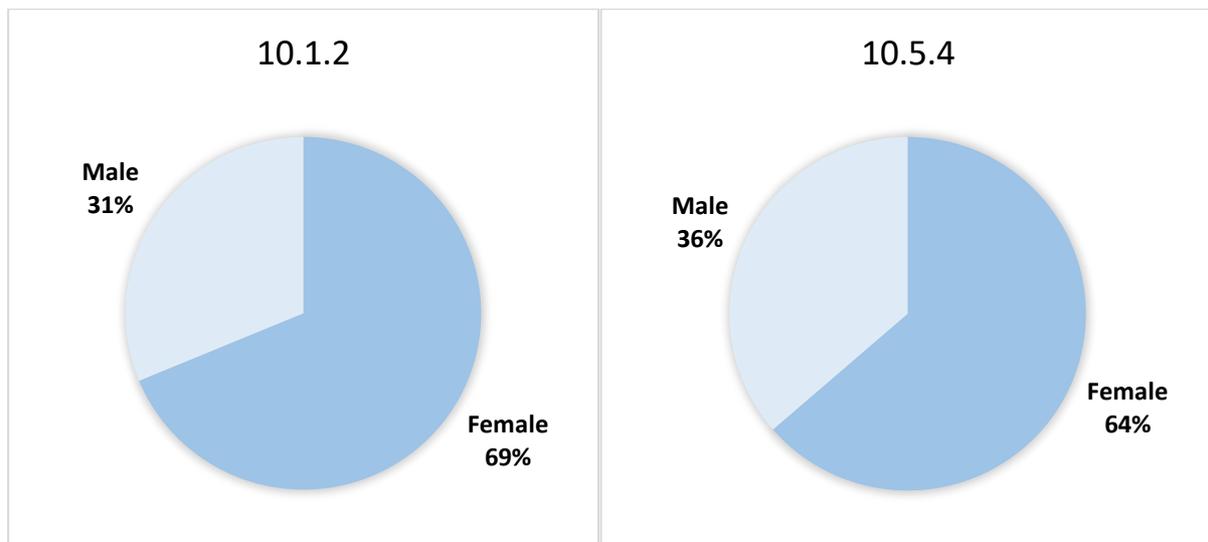
In the middle between supportive and judgemental comments, there is a grey area, in which the commenters openly do not care. The motives behind spending time writing a comment about a topic that they just do not care about are questionable, but not uncommon, i.e., Roy: *No one cares* (10.3.1), Mike: *Who cares? Far as I am concerned, the whole family is just a bunch of non entities of absolutely no consequence.* [...]. 10.3.5. Interestingly, there were no female users that would belong to this category. One possible interpretation which explains this pattern of expressing one's opinion is that the female users spend more time considering the nature and quality of their contributions, carefully choosing whether their opinion is relevant or of no use.

On the contrary, there have been comments that would be considered very polite, supportive and feminine. Examples of such comments would be that of Emma: *I can't believe some of the comments on here about the the lady who's been our queen for over 65 years no matter what's gone on in the past I salute 🙏🏻 🤖 her magesty longest 1 yet ❤️❤️❤️*, from section 10.1.3, Annet: *And why not? If we can't celebrate this wonderful lady's devotion to the service of our country then we need to take a long hard look at ourselves..* These comments prove that women tend to be more supportive of other men, as well as other women and they are not hesitant to exhibit their emotions and sympathies. Women are often called “the gentler gender”, however, I have pointed out examples in section 7.3.1 or 7.3.2, that would be considered inappropriate and nasty in nature. In addition to that, we may notice examples that would prove the ambiguous nature of some comments, such as that of Stacey (10.3.5): *The necklace is pretty but she is starting to look like Michael Jackson with the plastic surgery. They we so much prettier when they were natural. She has erased all the beauty of her ethnicity right off her face.* From this particular comment, we cannot fully grasp, or get a full understanding of the female user attitude, whether she is criticising the object of the post

(Kim Kardashian), or whether she compliments them for being naturally pretty. Furthermore, the exchange between Alexis (female): *Suggested alternative article title: "absolute nobody, famous for no reason, spends millions on jewelry while society crumbles into disorder with the help of her mentally ill husband"* and Elliott (male): *Absolutely nobody makes hateful comment about someone they envy, and diagnose their husband as mentally ill. [...] She's actually been working on criminal justice reform. What have you done lately to help society?.* This specific exchange demonstrates that, according to the basic stereotype, the roles can be "reversed" and a male can be more supportive and polite than a female speaker.

As it was already mentioned in this thesis earlier, as a result of men's competitiveness, their goal is to achieve some type of dominance, therefore we may wonder whether their increased indifference, they try to create a place in which they would be superior to others, who, on the contrary, either express their support or do not participate in a discussion at all.

Table 3. A pie chart comparing the amount of supportive comments made by male users and female users in section 10.1.2 versus in section 10.5.4 (in terms of reaction to the original post)



From this chart we may assume that no matter the topic, men are participating less in a supporting discussion, while women seem to be more emotionally equipped, men are more likely participate in a discussion in which they can express their opinions on a certain topic,

and on the contrary, a topic with which they do not agree in the slightest, therefore they interact with those who have opposing opinions, and either attempt to explain their point of view or they simply confront the other user (7.3.4)

8.3 Male vs female willingness to help or provide a solution

Deborah Tannen argues that, to most males, any kind of a complaint is an impulse and a challenge to find a solution. She claims that most men consider themselves “problem solvers”,³⁵ therefore while women tend to offer emotional support, men actually attempt to solve the problem. Although there has been no life advice in my collected material, the indirect attempt to help others has been mainly a part of women’s comments.

The following comments from section 10.4.3 support this theory:

Rachel: Absolutely. Everything about them and their honey, their propolis, pollen is all beneficial to human kind. Without bees and their amazing pollination technique we will not be.

Always look after the bees. ❤️

Jeffree: Rachel - plant a pollinator garden to attract them and provide food. Bees are an example of why we need to protect and take care of nature.

In this example, we witness a man (Jeffree) providing a solution to the bee-extinction problem, while the woman (Rachel) mainly emotionally and morally “supports” bees. It is an intriguing exchange, due to its clear distinction between the male and female tasks. Attuned to the metamessage of personal contact, we cannot judge whether any gender prefers giving or receiving help, as it became a very individual personal trait, thanks to the development of feminism and its impact on the female lives, who gained independence and it became socially acceptable for women to receive, as well as give help. Tannen admits that the interpretation

³⁵ Tannen, D. You Just Don't Understand: Women and Men in Conversation. New York: Ballantine, 1991. Print. pp.25.

of metamessages of status and connection in terms of offering help, as well as other speech acts, depends on how things are done and said (e.g., atmosphere, vocabulary, gestures and in CMC emoticons, etc.).³⁶

Similarly, in section 10.3.6, Mat attempts to enlighten some users about the problematics of racism. While some people may find this comment irrelevant and unhelpful, the essential notion is that enlightening other people is a service, a type of help. Mat: *black people aren't killed by the police here in England? [...] And typical with the Tory party, they no longer take stats on ethnic makeup of deaths in custody involving force, but for the last two years, the figure has been 30% of deaths in custody being of blacks. Hope that helps.* Similarly, the comment made by Rebecca: *The world needs to stop having kids for a while. [...] Humans encroach on lands and disrupt the eco system.,* and Sarah's response: *surely your "logic" should mean not having your pet dog as that's a terrible drain on the worlds resources and unlike a child who may grow up and find a solution to food production or a cure for cancer, a pet dog just consumes resources. [...].* (10.2.1). This particular exchange is an example of Rebecca, attempting to offer her opinion and solution, and Sarah, judging her and confronting her opinion. This brings me to the next research question, dealing with confrontation and alternation.

8.4 Amount of confrontation and alternation exchanges

As a result of the presumed gender differences in a discussion, predicted for the same-gender participants, it is no wonder that the differences are also noticeable in influence. In

³⁶ Tannen, D. *You Just Don't Understand: Women and Men in Conversation*. New York: Ballantine, 1991. Print. pp.15.

only-female discussion, women are more likely to agree with each other, as well as engage in a more positive and polite behaviour, with a rare occurrence of disagreement. On the other hand, male-discussion are more likely to disagree with one another, behave in such way that positive behaviour is, therefore, less prominent. That being said, in a mixed-gender discussion, every speaker is expected to behave in a similar way, hence gender differences are suppressed. This can be seen in the comment thread 10.5.3, regarding Lionel Messi. The alternation between the male speakers is more disagreeing than any female comment thread in the collected material. While the discussion may seem polite and civil, the following parts of the discussion prove otherwise. Although there are no strong expletives or insults, the actual content is to be considered confrontative, including the exchange of opinions, however, its goal is not to persuade other users to change their opinions. The goal is merely to express one's opposing attitude while attempting to belittle the opinion of other users.

Tom: you sound like a 5 year old in a playground

Bard: Only his half brain fanboys will say this.

Ag Ag: Maurice - butt hurt , innit ?!

Andrew: [...] Can you just keep it to yourself?No one is asking your opinion

Alternation is a term related to the acknowledgement of the existing opposing attitudes and viewpoints and the ability to switch turns between the users who express different opinions and confront the opposite side. The alternation exchanges and opposing opinions may be observed when the users express support to other participants of the discussion or confront them, resulting in two camps of attitudes emerged from the discussion. Obviously, when several users find themselves in a discussion, there is an almost unavoidable conflict of interests and opinions. The material I have gathered showed a balanced mixture of confrontation and agreement among the users involved in the discussion. This results in the coexistence of various opinions and the intertwined uses of confrontation and supportive

exchanges. Nonetheless, we need to bear in mind that the confrontation and supportive comment may be interpreted subjectively.

Therefore, we may find several exchanges of both opposing and agreeing viewpoints. The exchange between Paula and Michael in section 10.2.5 can be categorised as that of a high level of agreement: Paula: *So basically they're starting to get their excuses ready for when people realise that the vaccine is useless, they can blame it on the fact that they may have had a drink, we're expected to believe that a vaccine so strong that it can tame a highly deadly and intelligent virus, can be damaged by alcohol, that doesn't affect the immune system against the common cold or other viruses, how stupid do they think people are?!*, and Michael's response: *I agree, the next warnings will be try not to breathe. I won't be having the vaccine and we can all make decisions for ourselves as more and more comes to light. Nice little earner for BG & his cronies.* However, in the very same thread of comments, we can see that Paula, Summer and Wayne:

Summer: no, like with any medication, mixing alcohol is not only bad but it's dangerous. The amount of alcoholics in the comments disgusts me.

Paula: Summer - utter rubbish, I've known more healthy people that drink and have lived into their 90's than people that don't who end up on antidepressants or die of strokes and heart attacks through stress, one of our doctors recommends a glass of red wine a day to help reduce stress and lower cholesterol [...] I drink regularly but gave it up for a month when I was going in for operations, wasn't a problem, but I drink again now.

[...] and whiskey is also good for you, so is stout and Guinness, I was the only woman on my maternity ward that didn't need iron tablets because I was a regular Guinness drinker before I became pregnant, and even though I hadn't drank any alcohol whilst pregnant the iron had stayed in my bloodstream, I catch far less colds as well especially since I started drinking whiskey, I have found very little evidence that alcohol in moderation is bad for you, only if drank to excess.

Wayne: 🤔🤔🤔 highly deadly and intelligent. What planet you been living on?

In this exchange we may see three phenomena: Paula, who is indirectly, passive aggressively forcing others to believe her claims. The words that we would consider aggressive

are *blame, highly deadly and intelligent virus*, which makes the comment appear believable and strongly forcing other users reading this comment to feel as if Paula knew these data that make it believable. Unfortunately, it is not always the case that expressing one’s opinion using strong persuasive language does not guarantee acceptance of such opinion.

8.5 Development of interaction (incl. branches of exchanges)

There has been a stereotype based on women’s talkativeness – it is often thought that women are more likely to participate in a discussion, gossip far more than men and seek support from others. This is difficult to pinpoint in CMC, however, Facebook posts allow users to see how many replies a particular comment has. Nonetheless, although we cannot find a specific move order that can be applied to the entire collected material, there were several observed patterns, such as: incomplete exchange (one of the users never returned back to the discussion; e.g., 10.1.4 Roger and Dave or Elaine and James, who leaves the conversation, in 10.1.5), initiating exchange that was not replied to (e.g., 10.3.1, Lisa reacting to Andrew’s comment and not getting any response or acknowledgement) and, lastly, unresolved exchange, such as confronting moves that were ignored (e.g., 10.3.4., Emily confronts Chantelle for her shallow perception of the singer Adele).

Table 4. Seven posts with the most comments in the original post, and three kinds of development of interaction from the collected comments:

Post	Comments	Incomplete exchanges	Initiating exchanges	Confrontative exchanges
10.1.2	13K	∅	M: 4; F: 11	∅
10.2.3	11K	M: 3; F:5	M: 1; F: 3	M:1; F: 5
10.1.3	8.1K	∅	M: 19; F: 6	∅
10.3.2	6.2K	M: 0; F: 8	M: 3; F: 3	M: 0; F: 6
10.5.6	5.6K	M: 15; F: 4	M: 2; F: 0	M: 6; F: 1
10.3.6	5.5K	M: 14; F: 9	M: 1; F: 2	M: 19; F:14

10.6.6	4.7K	M: 9; F: 7	M: 2; F: 0	M: 7; F: 4
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8.6 Appraisal language

The collected data revealed that appraisal language was used very rarely, far less than supportive language. Obviously, as shown in Table 3, men are less likely to show admiration and/or use appraisal language, especially in Facebook comments. It would be complicated to judge whether comments in section 10.5.2 are just those expressing sympathy, or whether actual appraisal is expressed (i.e., Neil: *Rip Nobby, my outstanding moment was watching him skip round Wembley with the trophy in his hand with the biggest grin on his face. when footballers were footballers.*). This particular post includes several intriguing comments, mostly because we can see the range of various opinions being expressed:

Appraisal: *Dying breed and not many left, great footballer, great character and provided some entertaining moments, RIP Nobby* (Mick)

Neutral: *RIP Nobby, great player for United and England. Will always remember him dancing round Wembley in 1966.* (Baker)

Negative: *RIP, condolences to his family, although ive never been a fan and I absolutely despised this bloke* (Rick)

Meanwhile, apart from this particular post, the dominating expressions of opinion took place through judgment. Appreciation type of appraisal was produced mostly in the whole section 10.5 and 10.4 in similar frequency. The most salient feature in the appraisal-type of comments consisted of items such as: *legend, hero*, and on the other side of the spectrum was the judgment-type of comments, consisting of lexical items such as: *so so actress, scroungers, moron* etc. Another example of a vile expression is a comment by Taylor aiming at Sue (10.4.2): Taylor: *completely wrong take. You make geologists laugh. You are **an abomination of a***

teacher. Although Taylor has not used any expletives or insults, she judges Sue based on her initial comment and shames her profession by calling her an abomination. While the current pandemic is a heavy topic, some people have not lost their sense of humour and manage to make others laugh (10.4.5) and the ones amused by a humorous comment react to it very positively, praising the original comment's author for their sense of humour: *Im in kinks here 🤪👩 So happy that people still have good humour in these strange times 🤪👍👩 (Kelly), I'm a grandmother and about to pee myself laughing 🤪🤪 (Tracy), I am in my 60s and it's the funniest thing I have read in quite a while 😄 (Pauline).*

Moreover, there are other types of appraisal, for example in section 10.1.2, there is a large number of comments expressing admiration and deep respect towards the Royal Family. Similarly in section 10.2.4, where Laura, Mark and Phil praise the development of the covid-vaccine, however, in this particular section, we may also notice a distrust (Terry and Karen), which ultimately results in other users reading these comments to start doubting the vaccine. Unlike the positive appraisal comments, which tend to affect people less, the negative attitudes appear to be more resilient, and they often are remembered more than an appraisal. This is the reason why internet users ought to behave carefully and be hesitant to create a content that could, eventually, have a negative impact on other users' attitudes. If we were to look at section 10.1.2, the majority of the users express their appraisal, alongside with heart emojis, while on the contrary, section 10.1.5., where we may find a lot of criticism and negative attitudes towards Meghan and Harry.

9. Conclusion

Despite the limited amount of the data that had been gathered, I have presented the most common and frequent traits that appeared in the comments. Undoubtedly, the results of this analysis are limited only to the extent of the content available to me. An analysis of a larger scale would require more data, and even then, it might be difficult to categorise every linguistic aspect of the material and create an extensive criterion for each category, therefore the extent of this study is not as broad as those studies conducted by fundamental and influential linguists (i.e., Lakoff, Crystal, Tannen etc.). We may draw conclusions based on the most prevalent and typical elements of the Facebook users' language forms, however, we must be mindful of this narrow corpus, as we cannot make generalisations merely based on this study.

Based on all the comments I have analysed; we can draw a conclusion that there are several fundamental distinctions between male's and female's expressions of opinions. Each Facebook user is unique in nature, and each speaker has their own distinctive way of conveying their attitudes. As I mentioned in several other chapters of this thesis, women and their place in the world has been developing and expanding, which has resulted in feminism, female liberation and most importantly, the majority of women these days have the option to speak up and bring into any conversation their own attitudes. The excerpts I have presented in this thesis are a proof of women's freedom - their speech has been resembling that of males in a higher degree than I have anticipated.

The most frequent and reoccurring phenomenon has definitely been the willingness to confront strangers on the internet. Interestingly, a lot of features were aligned with the theories of Deborah Tannen and Robin Lakoff. Of those, the most prominent feature of both women and men speech was confrontation without any frequent insults. Furthermore, they

all showed a similar level of appraisal, supportiveness and sarcasm. Taking into consideration the typical stereotypes related to both women and men, the results were intriguing and unexpected, due to this surprisingly common display of women calling out other users. What I found thought-provoking is that the reoccurring aggression is not limited to men only, as women proved to be capable of the same level of aggression. On the other hand, men did not show the same level of supportiveness as women did. A remarkable finding has also been that men tend to participate more in a male-to-male discussions, and they hesitate to join an interaction where the majority of participants are women. This has not been shown in the opposite case – women had no problem or difficulty joining a discussion in which the majority of participants were men.

taking into consideration the limited size of this analysis and research, it is impossible to generalise and draw conclusions merely based on these findings and assume how men and women might react or express their attitudes to other or opposing opinions. We cannot consider the results to be always true for other cases of Facebook aggression, as they will not be as accurate as a more extensive study would be. The analysis that I presented in this paper may be considered as a base-ground for Facebook interaction, however, the likeliness of nuances in each discussion will, undoubtedly, be unavoidable.

10. Appendix

In this chapter, there are six categories: *The Royal Family*, *Corona virus*, *Politics*, *Sports* and *Tabloid gossip news*. Each of these categories represent six related Facebook posts with its most popular comments. I selected the most relevant to this thesis and useful for the purpose of analysing the language. The names are fictional for the purpose of staying anonymous, I

assured of names clearly determining the gender of the author (female names, male names).

In the analysis, I often employ comment reactions that are interesting, relevant or unique.

All these posts Facebook posts were retyped, numbered and supported by the number of reactions and comments to present the popularity of the post. The comments that follow this initial Facebook post were also retyped, with the exception of the comments that were irrelevant to this thesis, that contained advertisements or that were unusable. The structure of the comments is “Name¹: Text”; or, in case of a comment response, “Name²: Name¹ (of the person that is being replied to) – Text”. Oftentimes, there is also a number of reactions to the particular comment in the form of a ‘*reaction button*’ that denote the non-verbal affirmative reaction of another user.

10.1 The Royal Family

10.1.1 The Independent. It took the Queen ‘all of two seconds’ to make the decision, according to reports. Queen ‘personally intervened’ to ban Prince Harry from Remembrance service. It took the Queen ‘all of two seconds’ to make the decision, according to reports

13K Reactions

2.1K Comments

Helen: I honestly don’t care how long the queen took to make her mind up what she had for breakfast, never mind this, why is this even news? It’s a rich family who have their own problems, there are infinitely more poor families who have more difficult decisions to make by the minute never mind on Remembrance Day.

1.4K

Chris: seems very childish coming from those who set themselves so far above us.

794

Marge: How awful. Meanwhile she acts as if Andrew is as pure as the driven snow.

1.8K

Sue: FFS you lot getting upset. No one knows what she said or didn't say. What he wanted or didn't want. He commemorated somewhere else, and I doubt very much he wanted to leave his family during a global pandemic

640

Gem: Why is this even news? He chose to remove himself from the Royal Institution end of 🙄

1.4K

Jane: none of this is important, it's just a bizarre exploitative fairy tale theme park exclusive club holding the country back from embracing equality and diversity.

1.1K

Sam: If she, the queen, did do this then I'm very very disappointed in her. It shows why Harry wanted leave. It seems compassion is lacking greatly.

1.5K

Lee: how bitter she is that Harry just wanted a normal life, very petty

1.2K

Pete: Not what a caring grandmother would do.

407

Crysti: I'm sure Harry is fine. He's with his wife and son, which are his main priorities. Best to he and his wife and son. Looks like he's living his best life

1.1K

Jeff: Watching 'the crown' at the moment, no wonder he wanted to 'escape' that family.

1.2K

Gill: Seeing as he actually served maybe he had more right to be there than some others.

389

John: Shock horror! Billionaire who has been waited on hand and foot her whole life and has always been told her opinion is always right can be a bit mean sometimes.

1.3K

Sue: Gone down in my estimation if this is true. I though she had more grace than that.

434

Mark: Lmao wow. If this is the sorta thing that effects you personally. You are the problem...Outdated, unwanted and just another example of the elite, making out like we should care. Well done Harry for wanting to step aside from the obviously archaic way of royalties & just want to help were he can.

131

10.1.2 The Royal Family. This new image has been released to mark the 73rd wedding anniversary of The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh tomorrow. In the photograph Her Majesty and His Royal Highness are seen looking at an anniversary card made by Prince George, Princess Charlotte and Prince Louis, alongside other cards and letters sent by well-wishers. The photograph was taken in the Oak Room at Windsor Castle earlier this week. Taken by Chris Jackson/Getty images.

268K Reactions

13K Comments

Lily: Happy anniversary to this amazing couple. Long live 

829

69

Gloria: Happy anniversary Your Majesty and Your Royal Highness! Many congratulations 


Chris: My goodness. Don't they both look fabulous for their age. Congratulations on reaching this wonderful anniversary.

388

Angie: Beautiful photo and a fabulous celebratory event. Congratulations to them.

116

Heather: What a beautiful, natural photo. Happy Anniversary to them both.

Jan: 73 years How amazing. A very Happy Anniversary to you both. Thank you both for your extraordinary service to the Commonwealth. Bless you both.

117

Monty: A Very Happy Anniversary. My parents were married on 20th November, 1941 here in Sandringham, Melbourne.

Lewis: Congratulations to you both on this your wedding Anniversary, well done and enjoy your time together at the moment.

95

Anne: What a beautiful photo and how well they look for their ages. I'm sure they have enjoyed the lockdown being in each others company. Looks like a lovely card from their great grandchildren

Lew: What another amazing accomplishment your Majesty.

Greg: 73rd wedding anniversary is pretty spectacular... congratulations to them

Rita: That is the most precious card of them all. I can see they enjoy their efforts. Happy Anniversary! 

151

70

Christi: I love this picture, as a Grandmother of 5 any card made by them is the very best. His Royal Highness looks delighted with their cards. ❤️

63

Sally: Very Happy Anniversary to Her Majesty and His Royal Highness on such a special occasion!

Doe: Irrespective of who they are ,to get to this is an anniversary well worth celebrating

Kristi: Wow...73 years. No matter if you are a royalist or not (I am), you have to give credit to these two who have done their duty to the country and to each other all these years.

124

10.1.3 BBC News. "The time has come to fully leave our colonial past behind," its government said. Barbados to remove Queen Elizabeth as head of state.

69K Reactions

8.1K Comments

Niell: Countries in the Commonwealth, at this point in time, are very much capable of running as democracies instead of constitutional monarchies. But for now, in my opinion, they should wait until the Queen retires as a symbol honour and respect to her decades of service. But the big question is, will she retire? 😞

567

Peter: Time for Canada to do the same. She's a sweet lady and I actually have great respect for her (her kids are a different story!). But time to move on. Maybe get rid of the GG and the senate at the same time?

1.1K

71

Justin: The same people that think this is wrong of them probably voted for brexit and fail to see the irony with self rule...

1.2K

Lawrence: Hopefully the British queen will not be replaced by dictatorship like we have seen in most countries in African continent

751

Tim: Nothing against the Queen personally, but it's an outdated colonial relic that has to go.

625

Vincent: They could have had the common decency to wait until Her Majesty has completed her reign ...

2K

Kev: the economy is affecting everyone..now our queen is out of a job 🤔🤔🤔🤔

319

Kyle: Good. New Zealand should follow IMO. Might take a little longer in Aus,Canada.

198

James: They still retain their commonwealth status however. Interestingly we all know who the head of the commonwealth is.

Tay: What about all the Barbadian people who really on Commonwealth membership for their employment, including alot of service personnel?

259

Helen: The commonwealth will go after the Queen dies. She commands a lot of respect worldwide but when shes gone I feel so will the commonwealth eventually.

271

Felix: This is what should have done since centuries ago

72

Ben: Can we leave the monarchy behind? Harry had the right idea to get out

141

Gill: Personally I don't have any issues with it. Barbados is an independent country, it has every right to elect its own head of state. I bet the Palace has known about this for years.

Charles: Getting rid of the monarchy comes with advantages and disadvantages and these are not always obvious. Rhodesia was an example of how getting rid of the U.K. was probably a bad thing as it left politicians with too much outright power with no checks and balances so reform was harder (both with black and white politicians as it was a disaster as Zimbabwe too). India didn't need the U.K. but it is much larger and more sophisticated with greater resources to draw on. She has been a very good queen, never interfering with things she shouldn't but providing the protection and access to help when the island needs it... I don't feel inferior to her, just lucky to have her. God save The Queen I'd say! 🙏

Emma: I can't believe some of the comments on here about the the lady who's been our queen for over 65 years no matter what's gone on in the past I salute 🙏 🙏 her majesty longest 1 yet ❤️ ❤️ ❤️

71

Mel: Personally I adore and love the British mornach and empire.

158

Lisa: It's literally impossible for them to leave their colonoal past behind. The whole world is entrenched in it.

Pat: Why do so many wish to break ties with the UK in one way or another.. I say reform the Great British Empire again

88

73

James: We as the UK just needs to get rid of this ridiculous anachronism now.

David: Kings and queens are really needed in the XXI century? Why can any citizen be the head of the state if we choose him or her? Are we treated as childish citizens?

93

Luke: Thing is, the "empire" finished years ago. Her role as head of state for Barbados and other countries, including the UK is purely symbolic and traditional. She and the other members of the royal family have very little interest in exercising the role a monarch.

129

Matt: Oceans rise, empires fall. They won't be back.

88

Nigel: Great decision! The UK created a lot of mess in Eritrea. They do not deserve it.

Dave: The Crown defends the democratic system we bequeathed Barbados. I wonder if they will turn away our money? And they will live to regret this break when their President is a corrupt Politician

127

Yas: Funniest comments I've read here are those along the lines of 'They could have waited until the Queen completed her reign' 😂😂😂

Tara: Long overdue. Hope other countries follow. Monachy is an outdated idea. We have no need for kings and queens

158

10.1.4 BBC: A "once-in-a-generation show" over a four-day bank holiday weekend in the UK will mark the Queen's 70-year reign in 2022. Queen's Platinum Jubilee to include extra bank holiday.

42K Reactions

3.6K Comments

Jen: How wonderful! Something very very special to celebrate! Families, friends, neighbours... hopefully we can all come together again by then .

201

Roger: Really? Because we dont want to celebrate the ridiculous notion that one inbred, dysfunctional, obscenely privileged, and wealthy, family should be our head of state?

Jeni: Sadly many will see it as another obscene waste of money when we are told the uk is broke.....

Anne: Some people are happiest when moaning. This lady has given so much, She shows how to respect and value everyone. She must have bad days like the rest of us but never shows it.

Roger: 'Given so much' You mean in return for £50,000,000 a year.

Thomas: yet they bring in at least 2 billion a year in tourism so money well spent better than those freeloaders in Westminster

Lin: Roger - you couldn't do her job Mr Grumpy. It requires patience, tolerance, tact, diplomacy, dignity, dedication. She doesn't waste her days pointlessly moaning on social media like we do. Sounds like she's a good match for the job.

Jeni: who really gives a toss? 😞

Mary: Roger - Yes - £50 million a year OUT OF the £300,000,000+ she GIVES the treasury in the first place! Basically the government is returning her own money!

Mary: Helen, Any people working that day (which includes ALL emergency services) either receive extra pay or extra days off at another time. Unless you own the shop, of course, but that`s another story.

Roger: Lin - So you can be on social media, providing you are a sycophantic monarchist them?

Roger: Thomas - So tourists actually spend money to see the Queen then. Tell us all where and on what this imaginary amount is spent?

Helen: Mary - wrong!! Only emergency (NHS police etc.) workers get a day in lieu or extra pay! I used to be a nurse now I work in retail.

Dave: Thomas - historic buildings bring in the money - NOT THE ROYAL FAMILY!!! The same in Paris where their royal sites actually make more money than London WITHOUT KINGS, QUEENS OR ANY OTHER ROYAL PONCES!!! 😊

Fiona: Well civilised people do and that`s fair enough, but a lot of people just use it as an excuse to get drunk and annoy the hell out of their neighbours. They aren`t thinking about the Queen or any one in particular.

1.1K

Annet: And why not? If we can't celebrate this wonderful lady's devotion to the service of our country then we need to take a long hard look at ourselves.

1.2K

Steven: Lois, you are ignoramus, anybody that doesn't know what they are talking about as the royal family have given more to the public than they have taken. 'Overall, in 2018, the British royals contributed £595m via tourism, merchandise and the arts, while costing £165m.'

Tony: Obviously there is one or two arrogant lazy, loonie left snowflake so and so's on here who disagree. Take a look at some of them on there Facebook page, a bloody good wash and hair cut wouldn't go a miss!!

Alan: Great Post, ignore the hatefilled trolls, it's a well known fact these horrible people are just angry that their lives are so crap and horrible , that the Internet is their way of venting their disappointment at being failures 😊

Rory: nope, TOURISTS contributed £595M not the Windsor hut scroungers

Rory: Annette - what splurge so many millions on events when we struggled to supply our frontline workers with proper ppe? Celebrating a defunct organisation should be the last thing on our minds

Jason - Annette - service of our country = securing trade and profit margins for the oligarchy. Get a grip!

Louis: Steven - my original point is there to read. Paedophilia and benefit scrounging. You went on to talk about tourism income because you can't face facts. Your queen condones child trafficking and touching wee boys

David: Louis - why don't you just stop your trolling and shut up...long live the queen who has given endlessly of her life and if you have hard evidence of paedophilia then put it where it can be dealt with or as I said...shut up!

Louis: Steven - and that excuses paedophilia????? Are you for real?

Steven: Louis - your original point has no point as it's pure speculation.

Katherine: Steven - Armed forces, civil servants, emergency services etc are paid from the public purse. Remember that the Queen, Prince Andrew, Prince Philip, Prince William and Prince Harry gave served in HM Armed Forces.

Richard: Yeah that's some achievement, being the world's biggest benefit scrounger for so long 😁

62

Wez: Richard - You can scoff but privilege aside, she's worked to a global public schedule for 30 years longer than you'll be expected to work and probably 20 years longer than you'll live.

59

Mary: I notice the LIARS are on here again. Richard - FYI the Queen GIVES the government treasury upwards of £300,000,000 every year, on top of the amount they generate through commerce (royal tours plus visiting dignitaries). FYI King George 1 had an ENGLISH mother - granddaughter of King James. She was due to take the throne but died, which is why it passed to him. The Royal family have, through marriages, relatives all over Europe - not just Germany. The Queen`s ENGLISH bloodline has been traced back to the first recognised king of England - King Alfred.

Steven: Louis - Ah I see you can't argue my point so therefore divert from it.

Steven: Rory - yeah no benefit scroungers in tee-side right.

Rory: Steven - wtf has Tees side got to do with it?

Steven: Rory - biggest scroungers there are.

Rory: Steven - maybe so but why single out Teeside? Was it meant to offend me?



Jack: thats because she doesnt have the stress her loyal subjects are placed under, im sure if i was a multi billionaire with an army of servants for my every whim and the best healthcare tax money can buy id surely live well in to my 100s as well

78

Jack: really??? Love to know where you get your arrogant presumptuous attitude from!!!

Jayne: We WD all live to that age if we had her uber privileged lifestyle and the best doctors money can buy. Wake up. The sheeples on here are too funny.

Anne: Richard - Benefit scroungers don't work. no one can say that of the queen. I suspect you have never looked at what she really does. easier to spout what others say.

Annet: Mary - don't bother arguing with them. They are not worth it! Just let them argue amongst themselves.

Rachael: worked...being driven around by chauffeur...and flying in personal jets...staying in the most lavish hotels...and then meeting and greeting people..is hardly what I would call work

Mary: Richard - Laughing at the FACTS I have written merely proves your ignorance. You are either a fool or a troll.

Rachael: Jayne - savile was very good friends with prince Charles and the royal family...such good friends they keep.

Wez: she hasn't worked a day in her life

Ted: Tony - bless, resorting to childish insults !!! grow up

Richard: Mary - neither. But you are most definitely a Daily Fail sheep who laps up all the bs that the prehistoric criminal dictator tory feeds them 😂 no wonder they take the mickey 😂 at least I use my brain. And you call me a fool 🤡

Jason: Anne, tell us what she does then? I mean apart from sitting on a golden chair in a gilded room once a year, telling the under classes to tighten their belts? Illuminate me!

Sandra: Let's look forward to 2022 and enjoy the Queens Platinum Jubilee may she also remain in good health she has had more than her fair share of ups and downs during her reign !

238

Ted: Sandra maybe she will actually have done a days work by then !!!

Patricia: Sandra - how can you compare her pathetic ups and downs to those with real issues like hunger and trying to keep a roof over their kids heads. Shes brought uo two embarassments as sons, the disgusting antics of tampon charlie and randy andy

Kristy: It's 2022, so hopefully the Pandemic will be manageable by then. There are people who have worked all the way through who may appreciate the time off. I just hope they don't make her stand out in the rain for hours, like they did last time.

Sarah: Kristy - ironically it is very unlikely those people will get a extra day off. They may get time and a half or double pay if they are lucky tho. I'm a key worker and if my rota just happens to land on a bank hoilday I have to work it. It's a non social 24/7 business never closes sort of thing. I cant even book Aleave for bank hoildays.

Emma: Kristy - there won't/can't be an extra day off for most of the people who have worked through the pandemic. For example, I'm a care assistant... who is going to look after our residents if we don't? Lol. Same for drs and nurses that work in hospitals, or emergency services workers. If I have to work that extra bank holiday, I will get time and a half from midnight until 8am lol

Ben: I'm sure all those in retail and hospitality will appreciate the weekend off 👍 oh, wait...

395

Nadi: right! Working in retail/hospitality and complaining about working over holidays is like being a police officer and complaining about night shifts. It's a job that makes

most of its money when other people are off work. That's evenings, weekends and holidays. Suck it up, buttercup.

Donna: Ben - Shops do not shut on Bank Holidays, only two a year. Easter Sunday and Christmas day. So silly comment!

Chan: Ben - funnily enough other places won't get that either ya know people in the NHS and police force. We all chose our jobs quit moaning

Lucy: my place of work only shuts Christmas 🤔😭

Justine: Ben - do you seriously think shops will close 😞

Dave: Donna - By then most of them will be shut , cos they will be bankrupt.

Dave: Justine - Like I said , most will already be bankrupt.

Paul: They made their choice in employment. Kinda tough luck.As will be for all those who shift fall on this day

Julie: Stuart - what hospitality is left you mean? The hospitality that has been obliterated this year? I hope they get a chance to profit from this.

Ann: This lady has shown such devotion to her duty and deserves this day, although I heard she was stepping down! But even if she isn't Queen then she deserves this day. Sadly I think she is a very hard act to follow and not sure anybody can come in any way close to her service to duty and she has certainly done that 100%

307

Tina: she is a beneficiary of empire colonial thuggeries and horrors. justice should be served before she hangs her boots

Ann: Tina - Yes I do understand the history of the Royal family and it was so wrong but history from all parts of the world has been the same nobody is without fault and I

would hope the treasure that have come by this way should be given back. But the Queen has been a brilliant avocate for peace and union

Chris: Ann - pay me £35 million a year and i'd show you devotion



Mary: Chris - That money comes OUT OF the £300,000,000+ she gives the treasury every year. Plus there are the many £millions from the commerce generated through royal tours and visiting dignitaries, which most people don't even think about.

Sara: Chris - £35 million a year to have your entire life mapped out for you with something or someone to meet virtually every day of that life, whether you feel like it or not. Really? People currently don't like being asked to wear a mask or stay at home!!

Andrew: Ann - devotion to her duty? Gets paid well for it though.

Louise: Andrew - funny how people don't complain about footballers in the same way. The millions they earn just to kick a stupid ball around a field.

Alison: Andrew - wouldn't have wanted her life. She's amazing and lived an honourable devoted life to country and commonwealth.

Ann: Louis - if you are referring to Andrew I cannot comment because I don't know the facts but if he is guilty he should face tbe justice system like anybody else

Anthea: Ann - they clearly are. Andrew is an adult and should take responsibility for his own actions. We are not privy to the Queens views or private conversations she may have had. We are therefore in no position to judge

Simon: Ann - she will NEVER abdicate.

Shirley: Louise - and they don't generate any income for the country to offset their extravagant 'salary'.

Terry: Ann - Yes, all that waving really takes it out of one.

Kathryn: Cannot believe the disrespect for her. I am not a royalist and never have been but that woman has given everything to this country. Good, bad and ugly. I challenge anyone to do what she has done. The money, which is a privilege that the majority of the people do not have.

Christine: I doubt that you would want to work every day of your life, be mean and be civil to people you don't like or don't agree the way they treat their 'subjects' because I know I wouldn't. She has worked hard, and is working still in her 90's.

Stuart: Whether you agree with it or not, not many monarchs celebrate a Platinum Jubilee. No British monarch has. I just hope she's still around by then.

Karin: obviously you know zilch about the role of monarchy. She has been on the job for 68 years. Reads the government briefing everyday for 68 years. Attends all functions as dictated by the government and all charities that she supports.

James: They're planning a bit far ahead aren't they. Unless they know something we don't. I knew it the queen is immortal now, she will live forever. 😊

Monica: I am not a royalist but I want her to live long and well to keep that dreadful couple off the throne. How can he be head of the church of England with their track record

Hallie: well just be out of lockdown no: 32 in time, then back in lockdown no:33 2 weeks after as we all spread Covid again as they allowed us out...

Sheila: her mother died at 104 years old. She's quite likely to be around for almost if not the same length of time

Jameela: The Queen Mother was 101 when she died - NOT 104. If you're going to comment, at least get your facts right.

Ben: so what, don't plan & just assume she's going to be dead? Nice 😊

Joanne: Maybe not immortal but she is still going strong and healthier than many 50 year olds. Many of us won't see Christmas this year but we're all still making plans and buying gifts. At what age do you think we should just give up on life?

Wendy: much easier to cancel plans made ahead than trying to last minute dot com everything. Don't be a killjoy let people have something positive to look forward to.

Steven: A wee bit premature to plan it just now. Some of us can't even plan two weeks or two months ahead just now, let alone two years.

Malcolm don't forget her & her mother stood in the way of him marrying camilla before diana was ever heard of

Patrizia: it's not about how many wives but the appalling betrayal and emotional abuse of a 19 year old by the future king and his mistress.

10.1.5 Metro. The royal couple appear ever so relaxed in the new photo. Meghan wears Diana's watch as she poses with Harry in new official picture. Meghan wears Diana's watch as she poses with Harry in new official picture. The royal couple appeared relaxed in a new photo released to coincide with a Time100 talk they will host.

3.3K Reactions

1.2K Comments

Christine: I think Diana would be happy if Harry was happy and that leaving the 'establishment' as she called it made him happy that's all that would matter. How ever I believe we would have seen a lot more of Archie. Diana is the missing piece that would have seen all her children, grandchildren and daughter in laws all that more special as a royal family. But sadly on Diana's passing to me she was the royal family and if she were here now I believe we would

see more positivity and happiness for Harry and William she would definitely have guided them as a royal.

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Elaine: Christine - why do people always say if Diana was still alive it would be this, that or the other. Nobody knows what things would have been like and it is absolutely ridiculous speculating on something that could never happen. She is dead and we will never know.

Al: Craig - He's surely happy. It was you who's not happy.

Helen: Christine - they are grown men they don't need Diana's guidance !

David: Christine - should of kept her pins shut then

Valerie: we don't see much of Archie because he is a private citizen and not public property.

Helen: Elaine - Prince William and Kate have three children and they certainly are not public property...! what a strange thing to say !

Elaine: Helen - William and Kate and their children are not private citizens. Archie is a private citizen as that is what Harry and Meghan want him to be and why he doesn't have a title. The public therefore shouldn't expect or demand photos of him.

Valerie: Elaine - No human being is public property. 😊

Bernadette: What a bunch of parasites. Her lack of any kindness to the people whatsoever... Diana was spoiled and entitled like the rest of them, and supported by OUR TAXES. Better to spend our money on the people who really need it – not this bunch of parasites. It would do us all a favour if we just cut off their heads – the publicity would attract tourists – more than their allegedly stunning wedding that was supposed to get US money like wth?!?

Colleen: Bernadette - it's nothing to do with tourism, although it's an added boost to the economy in normal times. As for your suggestion of cutting off their heads, you need to know the difference between the Royals at the time in France and our Royal family. For a start, people are not starving to make the Royals rich, like they were in France. Before you say off with their heads, get yourself an education on the real reason for a Monarchy and it's preference in THIS country to a Republic.

Helen: Elaine - well if M&H are private citizens why are they spouting off on the media every day of the week lecturing us all ? and if they hate the RF that much they shouldn't use those titles !

Christine: Maybe so for some but she would be more my historic member of the royal family of my time. I don't see why I can't remember her as the people's princess from what ever walk of life you come from. Many people historically have been remembered and for me she's one of them. Maybe you are right and maybe your wrong in speculating your own feeling of her but I'm to aloud to can only believe who she would have been. Whether it's 20yrs or not why shouldn't she be remembered for her kindness to the people.

Colleen: Bernadette - parasites!! It's the price of a cup of coffee per year to the tax payer. There's millions more that costs more than that every month to the tax payer.

Ruth: Valerie - public figures seems more apt as they want their titles. They still get public money all the time the duchey of Cornwall keeps giving it to them.

Denise: Ruth - duchy of Cornwall money is not public money if by that you mean it is from our taxes.

Valerie: Bernadette - What a hateful thing to say , does this mean you are volunteering to do the chopping,

Bernadette - Valerie - Of course I'm being ironic! But I do support dismantling the monarchy and using the profits to help the 4 million children in the UK currently living in poverty. I want to be a citizen not a subject!

Lesle: Bernadette - there would be no money. The Queen and Charles etc would pay less tax as the properties would become stately homes. You would have to employ a figure head of state, so a president need somewhere to live and a salary and the cost of elections. The crown properties belong to the Queen to be past to her heirs which is not the general public, she is not allowed to sell them or give them away. 75% or there snouts from the revenue the Queen gets from various sources and not the public purse, at the moment are given to HM government as income tax. The rest is what is deemed the Sovereign grant. Which is spent on entertaining dignities frequently from abroad at her governments request. Maintaining Crown property and expenses incurred for Royal visits by the Queen and her representatives. So just where are you going to save money.

Margaret: Craig - and what makes you think he is not happy. He is enjoying the time of his life!! Free radical.. 🤔🤔🤔

Helen: Margaret - he looks sad constantly now !

Christine: I must do to that's why I always take the photos because I never like the ones people take unless I'm smiling and the camera hasn't snapped it to late 🙄

James: Craig - It's how you feel that matters , Hopefully the true story about the family rift will come out one day, I suspect it's something to do with HARRY'S paternity

Helen: Elaine - what are you on about... ? you're living in cloud cuckoo land !
🤔😄🤔😄

Elaine: Ruth - except they don't. My goodness you haters should really start to keep up before spewing lies and bile .

Elaine: Helen - They are not lecturing anybody. Are you being forced to listen to anything they say or do you listen to it so that you can spew bile? You don't even have to read about them on Metro pages but you do because you just cannot resist.

Elaine: Bernadette - you live in the UK and you seriously believe that by getting rid of the Monarchy, taxpayers money would be given to children in poverty? Come on! As if the Government cares about anybody in poverty - it is the Government who causes poverty not the Monarchy. It costs every taxpaying citizen £1.10 per year to the Treasury for the Monarchy. I wonder how much of taxpayers money goes to the Government to keep the Ministers happy! I expect you don't care about the wage increase the MPs have just accepted.

Elaine: James - stop being ridiculous. Harry was born 1984. Diana and Hewitt met 1986 - FACT.

James: Elaine - They are both two peas in a pod, Charlie boy might have a few strays wandering as well, wish people would stop trying to paint Royalty as squeaky clean

Elaine: James - no they are not. Harry is actually the spitting image of his grandfather the Duke of Edinburgh. He also shares the Spencer looks. Such a shame that people believe lies told by tabloids to be factual.

Cheryl: Helen - well they don't before Harry met Meghan he was stepping aside and gonna go to Africa with Queen's blessing, but he settled down n got married big deal if he went else where he's paid back for property over here

Melody: It's Diana's watch, she would love Meghan just as Harry loves her. Diana was the epitome of selfless love and she extended this to all human beings regardless of race colour creed and illness.

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Anne: Diana would not have liked the way Megan uses Harry.

Lorna: Anne - how does she use him? It's all in your head.

John: Melody - she would have driven a wedge between Harry and Diana just like she did with William and the rest of the family

Clare: You and all the other sweetie wives need to get a life Anne. Every time there's an article people are quick to spew their vile. You know nothing about their relationship.

Andrea: Clare - I totally agree ! Some people are just way beyond me... they are happy .. he made a decision for himself and his family !and the end of the day this is his life nobody else's .

Christina: Here we go again with the haters. Tell me truthfully, what exactly is it about Meghan that you dislike so much? She has done nothing wrong.

Andrea: Anne – information without facts... how does she use him? 😬

Alexandra: Colleen - I'm struggling to understand what she's gaining! They have left the royal family!! So what is she really gaining, apart from all you trolls tearing her apart!

Colleen: Andrea - PROFILE! Where would an actress, especially a so so one, be without it. She's playing her biggest part yet, and is milking it for all it's worth

Andrea: Your comment doesn't make sense! What's a so so one mean? She's not playing any part why should she need to!! She was ok in her own right before she met him !

Colleen: Alexandra - the word Troll seems to be used in the wrong place these days. To have a different opinion to someone else doesn't make you a Troll. I take no pleasure from my opinion on Meghan and Harry. I just think it's sad that they think it's their place to speak publicly on this topic.

Daphne: Anne - what rubbish Diana herself was not happy in the royal family so she would be happy for them she was treated like badly herself by them

Nikki: John - you believe everything you read how about how they treated her there always two side to the story

Colleen: Andrea - a so so actress means average. She wasn't OK in her own right, that's why she married wealthy husbands. Social climbers don't look back at the trail they leave behind. I admire anyone with ambition as long as they don't throw away the people that helped them to achieve that ambition. You know the saying, be kind to people on the way up, because you may need them on the way down.

Andrea: How is she average?and you seem to be forgetting all the work she does for charity!! As for her relationships .sorry I didn't realise you were personal friends! And for your information her first marriage ended on a no fault divorce and the the only other relationship she was in before she met Harry ended after almost 2 years ! Marriages and relationships end every day for different reasons to everyone your just making assumptions !!! She had a good education and was financially stable before she met Harry..so tell me what exactly does she need him for ? Oh yes that's right absolutely nothing!!

Kitty: Lol everyone here gives opinions as if they are best friends with Meghan and Harry! Thank goodness you have the bad old press to tell you what's going on with them or you wouldn't know them at all

Rebecca: Why are you people so interested in other people's marriage. Mind your own business

Josh: This couple represents the modern day normal. Love or hate them, they are very likeable and they have the power to move people, hence, the media can't stop haunting them. They are money making couple and relevant.

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Gerry: These young are so great and well worth the money. I wonder if they will give any tips on choosing costumes for fancy dress parties?

Gemma: Great picture of a young couple. No idea why they're any more influential than Dennis who collects trolleys at Tesco. I mean just because they have money, doesn't mean they have any more life experience, knowledge or advice than good old Dennis

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Mel: Gemma - Dennis isn't famous. he doesn't have a famous mother that died at the hands of the paparazzi. Dennis isn't a member of the royal family. This is a hell of a stupid analogy.

Christine: Gemma - you're right , they have no idea what everyday people's lives are. Can't stand her and he's turned into her stooge , not interested in their opinion whatsoever

Gemma: Mel I mean you don't know him. Money buys you anything but I'd rather listen to him than a couple preaching to those less fortunate than them and instructing them how to make their lives better.....

Aria: Gemma - dennis probably has mote and he writes his own lines

Mel: Christine - everyone can't be famous though? It's such a non conversation it's hilarious.

Elaine: Christine - I bet it really troubles Meghan knowing you can't stand her.

 Harry is no stooge.

Mikala: No worries, you don't need to think they are. Some do, some don't. They do represent and donate to charities etc. but merely because of the status they have. Either way, being wealthy or not, doesn't mean you can't make urself be where and what you wanna be.

Gemma: Agreed! Doesn't mean we all need it in ours faces though eh? Have a great weekend 

Michelle: Diana would love Megan and be happy Harry found a good woman. Happy he given this to the right woman.

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Christine: Michelle - she is a nightmare. She has split up the family. Apparently the Queen is waiting till she comes to this UK to speak to her about things and causing family problems. So no I don't think Diana would have liked her, think she would've stopped the marriage.

66

Tricia: Christine - Diana wouldn't of liked her at all, but I know Diana would of loved Kate

Claire: Tricia - Did you know Diana personally then? How the hell do people know who she would and wouldnt like  behave yourself !!

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Juanita: Michelle - you don't know anything about these people other than what the media tell you.

Margaret: Michelle - that woman is a night mate, never like her from the beginning, love princess diana and Kate Middleton two beautiful women, I have load ofr books of princess Diana she is the kindest woman ever

Dennis: Michelle - he is a lap dog

Sheila: Christine - I think she would have had serious words with him ,he's left William to cope with it all on his own ,I bet it won't last between them x

Elaine: Christine - what a load of nonsense. She hasn't split the family at all. Only moronic people believe this.

Louise: Karen - Fullstop after a sentence, practice what you preach. 😬

Amanda: What a charming and kind bunch you all are.

Mark: Michelle - Yes, she would have enjoyed watching her son being took to the cleaners ... Which is happening 😏

Jon: Michelle - As you seem to be something of a visionary (gifted at least) could you possibly think of 6 numbers between 1-49 please. 😊

Elaine: Mary - what truth? All the trash that you lot spout? You think that what you have read in the tabloids is the truth? What a load of sad jokers you all are.

Mary: Michelle - he thinks he as found love but I don't think so .Is life with her will be very troubled. And he he will need to come back 😞😞😞😞

Margaret: Mary - U two jutta and chantle u can laugh away u like, but u2 are just laughing at urself 🤡🤡🤡🤡

Nik: Michelle - dont think she is but only time will tell in my humble opinion

Elaine: Margaret - and her being the kindest woman ever is the reason she would have loved Meghan. What a pity you didn't take a leaf out of Diana's book and be more like her.

Elaine: Mary - what a load of absolute nonsense. Harry loves Meghan and you haters just can't stand it.

Sheila - maybe William should have thought of that before shooting his mouth off and treating Meghan with contempt. Catherine was quite disgusting at the Commonwealth Day Service - and her a future Queen Consort too!

Sheila: Elaine - the had already fallen out by then any way do we really need them the amount they cost us every year we don't need a pushy American that's for sure let them stay there x

Mary: Amanda - if you don't like other. People having a opinion then don't join in SIMPLE. 👍

Elaine: Sheila - How much they cost us? How much are they costing us exactly? A pushy American eh? Mmm! Interesting!

Nauli: Families ain't perfect.. Diana was accused of splitting up the family now is Harry and most importantly Meghan turn....If you ask me every family has this characters could be you or i. Someone will always be blamed, the problem i have with all this criticism is that, its planted by the tabloids then the goats (unruly) takes the bait and start to comment negatively as if they know them , they sadly do not know the full story but blindly trust what they read but would never trust the BIBLE. WE are from families too and we have this sets up, some we torelate some we do not, some are divisive etc its pot and kettle stuff here, hypocrisy from the hateful public throwing stones

Andrea: Christine - how is she a nightmare? or split up the family? Gosh you must be good friends with the royal family if you are privy to all this information 😁😁 Harry has his own mind and Diana would of loved her and how could she of stopped the marriage if she was still here ...erm he's an adult remember once you turn 18 nobody can stop you marrying not even the queen!! 🙄

Amanda: Mary - oh I see so I'm. It allowed an opinion but u are right 👍

Christine: Andrea - shows what you know. Members of the Royal Family have to get permission from the Queen to marry. She had to give permission for William to marry Catherine.

Anita: Thought they wanted out of the spotlight

67

Metro: No, they didn't want unsolicited paparazzi hanging around outside their home trying to get photos of their son. Big difference.

97

Kellie: I can see she is really working on maintaining her privacy.

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Davi: Kellie - by "private life" they meant living as non- royals, and not being hounded by tabloids. Also allows them to air their views. Meghan has always done that.

Kellie: Davi - I disagree, she sued newspapers to protect her privacy, however, she continues to be everywhere with a comment on everything from her 12 million dollar mansion. If they truly wanted a private life they should be private.

Anita: Kellie - ahem they run a global charity that's their job...

Zee: Kellie - Kate did the same thing before becoming pregnant. Mmm... What's the difference between the two? I wonder? 🤔

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Davi: Zee - Kate studied History of the Arts, Meghan Political Science, then worked in that field while building up a career in tv, making her own money. Her mum used to be a social worker. Meghan spoke on tv already as a child, criticizing obsolete gender patterns as in tv adverts. She is the partner H. needed, strong minded, insightful like his mother. Kate's parents dealt with partying decoration, bought a posh abode in London for their two daughters. Same figuring in London nightlife, chasing investment bankers and princes, while working part-time in party decoration. Her charity engagement came with the prince. Meghan left her royal job, because it forbade to ever take sides and to spend life in a fish bowl, observed by ill-meaning, ever present media; the ones causing Diana's death.

Zee: Davi - that's nice to know. But I think my point when a bit a bit whoosh over you.

Kellie: Davi - the only charity she is worried about is her own wallet. If she believed in her causes she would sell the mansion and give that money to her causes. If she had not married Harry, she would still be a 2nd rate actress running around Toronto.

Kellie: Davi - bs. Meghan's father played a huge part in her getting into acting, he was a very accomplished camera man. As always she used him as well and dumped him. wake up to the reality she is a self involved narcissist

Paul: Picture is fantastic. People been jealous, and leave them alone.

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Sandra: Why people think Harry isn't a Royal is beyond me. He was born into it, just because he wanted to step back from the many royal duties does not mean he is not Royal. He's a prince, was born a prince and will always be a prince. With some of the comments on here I'm not surprised he left.

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Marc: Sandra - no hes not a prince because we all know charles isnt his dad

Elaine: Angela - not well said at all as it is ridiculous people who try and make out that a child born in 1984 was fathered by a man his mother met in 1986. Just proves how many stupid people there are about.

Maureen: Marc - oh dont start all that nonsense.! Do the maths !!

Margarida: Marc - its you? Do you know who is your dad? Maybe you do not look like him the way harry looks like charles when young. Shame on you to afirm such stupidity without any proof

Thomas: Sandra - yes a still like all the rest of the family ,but not as bad ,like the others ,inheritance of being a royal parasite ,as they all are .!?

Elaine: Thomas - so sorry but your comment isn't making sense.

Thomas: Elaine - the royal family are all parasites and leaches to the British taxpayer. They cost the taxpayer £3 million pound plus ,to pay for there wedding and homeless people were moved on to make sure ,roads were cleared for the event,so in all they have been parasitic and still are to this day

Sandra: We all know nothing actually. Funny how when people guess they convince themselves it's true.

Marc: Helen - who cares about seeing archie

Marc: Wierdos

Marc: Helen - wow wierdo

Marc: Deluded royalist goons, you are all morons

James: Thomas - Andrew's daughters weddings cost a few bob as well and there husbands are filthy rich

Thomas: James - that's true mate and the taxpayer had to pay for there weddings etc, just bloodsucking parasites to the taxpayer

Sophie: Elizabeth - who cares though? And they have media coverage because that's what the media does. They didn't lie about anything 😂 fml you'd think they'd insulted you personally. Their life has absolute 0 impact on you and absolutely nothing to do with you

10.1.6 BBC. Prince Harry repays £2.4m cottage renovation cost. Prince Harry has paid back the £2.4m of taxpayers' money spent on renovating his UK home at Frogmore Cottage, Windsor.

31K Reactions

4.2K Comments

Darci: Complain they use tax money. Complain they don't make their own money. Complain when they left. Complain they get a paying job. Complain they paid it back. Complain. Complain. Complain. No wonder he left!

1.4K

Colette: Darci - exactly. A country of constant complainers. Many leave UK to get away from it

Kali: Darci - No wonder it's always raining in England because even the rain is always confused about the complaining... 😂😂

Abby: Darci - exactly! He can't do right for doing wrong! 😞

Linda: Darci - and they will keep complaining that's what most of them are good at.

Kani: Darci - I do wonder what the actual issue is 😞 why all the hate

Harry: Darci - So happy thay both left. Please don't come back! Ever....

Tamara: Darci - especially that Morgan Piers who hates Meghan

Paul: Darci - stop moaning you silly woman!

Bill: That is typical British, and they passed the unfortunate behaviour to every country they colonized years ago!

Marion: Colette - Ad many are still desperately trying to move here!

Marvin: Darci - you said more than a mouthful 🙄 you're among the few on here that have common sense. Why don't they complain about Prince Andrew.

Sean: Leave the Sussexes alone. They've played their cards. The real horror show of the Mountbatten-Windsors is Andrew (not Megan or Harry). If the Royal Family is smart, it will not place any demands on the Sussexes (letting them get on with their own thing in the US); and will absolutely, without equivocation, make it impossible for the Yorks to enjoy their previous perks.

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Hayriye: Sean - tbh the media is using the young Royals as a distraction from Andrew's shame.

67

Heather: Hayriye - The media are using The Sussex's as their meal ticket pure and simple. And by inciting hatred for them, it earns them even more.

Potsy: You're all privy to their private lives? You assume Harry doesn't have a mind if his own

Lorraine: its is also claimed Andrew took part in orgies on Epstein's island where the girls were trafficked and aged much younger. Also thd 17 year old was being trafficked. There is far more to this than a sex scandal She was being forced into prostitution. Epstein and Maxwell were secretly recording these things and using the footage to

blackmail in return for influence and favour. They were working for Mossad and other agencies. Yes and she should be tried to I agree. The two incidents are separate. The main connection they have is the total misuse of privilege.

Robin: Hayriye - So he shagged a 17 year old. Big deal. Hardly a crime. What about the American woman who caused the death of a young man . What about all the ministers and men of the Cloth rapping underage children

Lorraine: Yes its shocking I was devastated that child abuse is so institutionalised but he didnt get away with it in plain sight for no reason. I was around in the 70s as a teenager. Believe me things were different, but what Jimmy saville was doing was rape of children and even necrophilia. He was abusing vulnerable children in hospital and patients in Broadmoor. This was on an epic scale & to believe that it was ok in the 70s is a gross misrepresentation. Sexism was worse for sure but these acts were beyond the pale.

Jade: give it a rest, you aren't Harry and likely will never know him personally. Why aren't you more outraged with Andrew? Do you support his pedophilia?

Vera: Vivienne (comment was deleted) - you just stop. Because I won't agree with you I'm wrong in your eyes. I follow the "innocent until proven guilty" way of thinking and as the FBI don't want to arrest him then he's not guilty. As for Meghan the social climber her intention was never to stay here. Before Harry she was a z list actress who couldn't make it in Hollywood so had to get work in Canada but now having a Prince as her husband every door is open to her in Hollywood. Read how she treated her ex husband and close friends, they were useful to her and helped her get acting jobs and introduced her to influential people in the business then she dropped them. Lovely friend to have I think not!!!

Lorraine: Robin - No That is not right. its is also claimed he took part in orgies on Epstein's island where the girls were trafficked and aged much younger. Also thd 17 year old was being trafficked. There is far more to this than a sex scandal She was being forced into prostitution. Epstein and Maxwell were secretly recording these things and using the footage to blackmail in return for influence and favour. They were working for Mossad and other agencies. Yes and she should be tried to I agree. The two incidents are seperate. The main connection they have is the total misuse of privilege. As for the Church they are an organised crime syndicate of epic proportions that should be brought down.

Marie: Robin - yes it IS a crime to have sex with an underage person. There's no need to bring other crimes into the picture and decide that because other crimes might be/seem worse, this one should be ignored. Theft is a crime; it's not as bad as murder but if it was your stuff that got stolen you'd want the thief behind bars, wouldn't you?

Vera: there are plenty of customs officials and police at the airport she could've told. If a girl goes willingly with a man why would he ask her if she was forced to be there? From what I remember of the photo Andrew wasn't old and there are plenty of young women who are willing to sleep with rich old men, some even go on and marry them.

Vivienne: Vera - and if they split up Harry will be just like Margaret, Anne, Charles, Andrew and Peter. William has already had an affair - you put them on a pedestal - ridiculous

Vera: Julie - to be honest I don't think he would stay there either. He's very much a fish out of water and looks uncomfortable and sad at times. The Queen definitely wouldn't like her great grandson being brought us so far away and not being able to see him

very often, if at all, because I can't see Meghan allowing Archie to come to the UK.

That was proven when she left Archie in Canada after their so called Christmas break.

John: Sean - yes. The nation still waits to know if there was really any girly action.. no vids on twitter, sooh

Robin: Lorraine - I agree. But I know a DS that worked in the metropolitan police that was transferred to the Isle of Wight . Found a lot of young girls being used by people of influence . When he wrote up his report it was ignored by senior officers including the Chief Constable. He was then transferred to another force. But he is going to go public on this issue. Read about it on one of my post

Mark: Sean - They are not Sussexes for much longer the Queen gave them that title so they could work for the country and commonwealth now they are working for Netflix they will lose the title let them stay in woke land we don't want them

Marie: Sean - I partly agree but wouldn't tar all the Yorks with the same brush. Andrew's daughters needn't be punished for what their father has done. Surely the shame they feel for his actions should be enough to bear.

Pamela: Julie - your biggest problem love is the Orange trumper get rid of that disgusting creature with his continuous lies and appalling behaviour then people might be willing to listen to you but I very much doubt it.

Vera: there's no proof that he knew the girls were trafficked. Why didn't she tell him that she didn't want to be there? She travelled from the USA to London for this party and had plenty of opportunity to get help if she wanted.

Vera: Marie - she was 17 therefore not underage in UK.

David: Can't fully agree.....his wife and girls do not deserve any of the opprobrium being dealt out to Andrew.... rightly or wrongly.....

David: Hm! Why are so many women (I repeat: women) so vitriolic about Megan . Duchess of Sussex? Is it the green eyed monster, as it was with the Duke's mother? Jealousy/envy. As for men ... the majority of those I have spoken to about it have worn their racism on their sleeves. Being anti royalist does not come into it in my book. I will not bow my head to anyone unless they earn my respect. I fthat is the case I'll bow to Joe BLoggs who lives down the road.

Mike: Sean - by the way they are no longer the Sussexess that title were removed from them she is ju st plain old devorce Megan Markel not Dutchess not Princess or if you like Mrs Windsor, Harry retains his HRH Prince but is not allowed to use it in any businesses same has Megan is not allowed to use Dutchess

Sharon: Vera - wow I hope you don't have any daughters. Or sons for that matter. Look up definition of grooming.

Vera: Mike - Their titles of Duke and Duchess have not been taken away and they can and are using them. Their HRH title hasn't been taken either they just can't use it. So for now she is Meghan the Duchess of Sussex. She will never be a Princess, that title is only given if you are born into the RF or if your husband is the Prince of Wales.

Vivienne: Robin - the girl was a victim of trafficking you turd 🤔

Vivienne: Vera - what problem was she? He doesn't want to stay, he's wanted to leave the RF for years. If she was a social climber she'd have stayed there. Probably didn't want there child around a paedophile too...

10.2 Corona virus

10.2.1 BBC. WHO to investigate virus origins in China's Wuhan. *"It's really not about finding a guilty country... it's about trying to understand what happened and then see if, based on those data, we can try to reduce the risk in the future."*

6.4K

2.3K Comments

Rebecca: Pretty simple. The world needs to stop having kids for a while. There are too many people and not enough resources. Humans encroach on lands and disrupt the eco system.

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Sara: Rebecca - surely your "logic" should mean not having your pet dog as that's a terrible drain on the worlds resources and unlike a child who may grow up and find a solution to food production or a cure for cancer, a pet dog just consumes resources. So really, you want to use up whatever resources you like to maintain your chosen lifestyle while trying to dictate that other people shouldn't have a family. (And before anyone reacts to my comment I don't have children myself but do have much loved pets, including dogs. I'm not anti dogs I'm just anti population control preachers.

Jameela: Rebecca - i disagree. There's enough resources for all humans to subside on but the problems are greed and food waste.

Daniel: Rebecca - you can give up having kids if you believe that, but don't tell others how to live their lives.

Daniel: Sara - you are completely right, I hate it when people believe that having children is a strain on our world. If she feels like that maybe she should start with her dog.

Barbara: Daniel - Why do people have get personal and nasty...this is a simple discussion! No wonder humans cannot find solutions to their problems!

Ed: Jameela - not true, the issue was heavily studied in the 90s and were already past sustainable carrying capacity

Daniel: Barbara - because suggesting people not have children is personal, you know how many people are trying to have a child.

Henry: Rebecca - yeah ur right if science all this great it won't be to dangerous to this planet

Rob: Rebecca – Ffs... Who told you that?

Jamie: Wow let's all sing that song by carol decker (China in our hands) ...everyone knows who's caused this..hope they have good insurance companies 👍😂🤔

Steve: Yeah, right! As if the Chinese are going to allow any type of investigation where they, the Chinese, don't control the who, what, when, where, and why.

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Simon: They've already destroyed all of the evidence a long long time ago. As well as the whistle-blowers conveniently disappearing or being silenced for fear of their entire family being sent to "re-education" camps.

Naka: Simon - You are definitely obsessed with fake news and imagination, right?

Chun: Naka - do you live in china?

Naka: Chun - Are you blind to see my profile? It literally states that half of my family is Chinese, the other half British. It is literally in my profile picture.

Chun: Naka - not interested

Naka: Chun - And is it logically associated with my point? Improve your logic first and learn to ask questions properly.

Chun: Naka - you talking logic with me? 😏

Naka: Chun - Yep. I know it's funny because the question you asked shows your logical fallacy, but apparently you can't realize it. Dare you show your academic background?

Chun: Naka - you are reading my profile, I suppose you must be interested in me

Naka: Chun - LMAO! Asking you a question = reading your profile = getting interested in you in your head? As your flawed thoughts go, you must be interested in me, for you asked me a question. Again, improve your logic first

Susan: While we exploit animals in the way we are doing we can only point the blame at animal agriculture. it's a pandemic disaster area and the blame is on everyone's shoulders if your still consuming meat.

Liam: Susan - only? We should point the blame wherever the science directs, not wherever your sentiment does

Susan: Liam - Industrial agriculture is making us sick. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC), World Health Organization (WHO), nutritional scientists, and medical professionals warn against the health risks of concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs). There is a near consensus among experts that overuse of antibiotics, crowded and unsanitary livestock conditions, unnatural feed diets, and a lack of diversification are responsible for some serious global health risks.

Jack: Susan - i completely agree. Until we start to respect the plants and animals of this planet and farm responsibly, we re destined for endless cycles of pandemics.

John: Susan - Get over yourself! Most people will not give up eating meat no matter what your vegan views or what ever you are trying to promote!

Susan: John - compassion 😞

Andrew: Susan - as soon as I read your comment I thought this one is a vegan. I went on your profile then yes you are a vegan. Stop blaming animal eaters for this. Only a vegan would say that

John: Susan - CCP Propaganda and Believers Handbook Online of answering questions about China. 1) Change the topic to America 2) Abuse the questioner and tell them don't know anything about China 3) Complain the question is racist or bigot 4) Copy all the points made by the questioner and reply with the West is ' brainwashed and full of propaganda ' 5) Click laughing emoji on questions that expose the truth about China 6) Go silent and hide. Watch out for the trolls!! Young people fired with patriotic zeal are known in China as the "Little Pink", as "xiaofenhong" in Chinese. Along with the "50 cent gang" – internet commentators paid to sing the praises of the CCP government – the Little Pink are regularly seen online trying to guard China against even the remotest hint of criticism.

Julie: Susan - the way you talk I thought you lived in the US, well I guess you just know your stuff! Thank goodness UK livestock isn't produced like the way you have mentioned.

Susan: Julie - most livestock is intensely farmed here no better, so easy to dismiss issues because it's not on my back yard.. factory farming is a world problem. We can't produce enough sustainable meat to feed the population and the process of trying to supply everyone's needs IS killing the world. The .. I only buy local and organic.. quote isn't viable world wide it's just a comfort blanket to hide under.

Julie: Susan - Sorry you are wrong. Regarding red meat - no sheep are intensively farmed here! There are over 9 million beef cattle in the UK and there are 12 mega farms with just over 700 head of cattle. I agree that chicken is raised too quickly but

the demand increases every year. Don't compare Netflix documentaries to the rest of the world and don't blame meat eaters 😬

Susan: Andrew - change the word vegan to lover of animals then of course we should all say that. Animal agriculture is a money making commodity business as much as oil. Think outside the brainwashed blindfolded box about what your actually eating.. compassion for animals isn't taught it's unlearned...

Kristy: Julie - Well if the demand for chicken is rising every year, wouldn't the blame be on meat eaters? Supply and demand? 90% of pork and chicken is battery farmed in the UK. Not only is it cruel, it is a breeding ground for viruses. Some we have already contracted like Swine Flu.

Kristy: John - But you cannot deny that mass-producing livestock is the initial cause of all these viruses. Swine flu, bird flu, mad cow disease ... 90% of pork and chicken are from battery farms. This is a breeding ground for viruses. People won't give up eating meat, you are right. And viruses will just continue to spread.

Kristy: Andrew - You're angry at her for offering a very direct solution. Maybe take a look at yourself.

Julie: Kristy - Sorry you are so wrong. Pork production is NOT done in a battery farm 🐔 Chicken for meat is also not done in a battery farm. Battery cages were for egg laying hens. Do not blame this virus on meat eaters.

Quinton: Susan - what shall humans eat instead hmmm the offspring of hippies?



Sheridan: Susan - go and eat some tofu will you. No need to ram your ideologies down everyones throat.

Anthony: Julie - your right. The blame can't just be shoved on meat eaters. (At least we eat 'normal' meats) I googled Chinese meat market.. roasted rat and bat on a stick! Whole dog carcasses! Yes! Wuhan SHOULD be blamed for this and a proper investigation started, because this Covid BS is where it bloody started!! Simple as!!

Anthony: respect the plants and animals of this planet?? Ok then... if we do that, what do you suggest we eat in the mean time? Fresh air pie?! I'm not knocking veggies or vegans, but I'm also not knocking meat eaters either, because I'm one of them. Humans have consumed meat for over a millennia, but in that time we have learned what meats to eat and what not to eat..(well, most civilised countries anyway) = we don't eat what scurries around eating other dead things etc.

Julie: Anthony - yes I agree. I can't understand why China isn't being made to change its ways. They need to hugely improve their animal welfare and should not be eating any wild animals or using them for medicinal reasons.

John: Susan - vegans are like Jihads, they promote their ideology and anyone who disagrees is an infidel

Susan: John - apart from its not us that promotes the murder bit. 👍

John: Susan - plants are living things, you murder them.

Susan: John - original.. 😬

Susan: Anthony - China eats,. What scurries around... because they can't produce enough farmed food to feed their population.. they have no choice.. the same way supermarkets pretend to their market all their animals are red tractor and happily farmed.. look at viva.hogwood, that is the norm not a one off. It's easier to live in their lies than try to change when actually it's easier than people could ever imagine to eat

cruelty free. Mass slaughter of Billions of animals on a yearly basis isn't something we've consumed over a millennia it's now become unprincipled and unsustainable.

Kristy: Susan - She liked her own comment. Says it all really. She doesn't care about how her meat is handled.

Anthony: Susan - are you serious right now? 🙄 Your only stating your facts from the stand point of a vegan. The dental records of caveman from over a million years ago proves they ate meat then..(granted, NOT as much as modern day man). China has more than enough 'normal' meat to consume.. but choose to eat 'exotic' types of meat as well.. and these 'exotic' meats are where the problem lays and THERE is where the problems start. BECAUSE the 'things that scurry around' eat anything and everything dead or alive that are or could possible contain contaminants of some sort or another.. (they aren't breeding them, they are catching them) so.. they get caught, cooked and consumed by unwitting bystanders in china's meat markets.... then that 'contaminated' meat takes effect on that consumer. (The Black Death wasn't passed round by humans, it was passed round by fleas on the black rats.. fleas bite the rat.. jump off onto a human and bite him/her, one dead human. See any food hygiene guys in those Chinese (huh!) 'meat' markets do you?! I've seen videos of Chinese and the way they treat animals before they have even killed them but yet are STILL preparing them outwardly with blown torches and scrapers. Disgusting !! (By the way... even chimpanzees EAT MEAT) 🤢 Don't believe it..? Utube it..

Susan: Anthony - hopefully as we evolve we become more compassionate society our ancestors did alot of things I'm certainly not proud of and I don't relate to a chimpanzee 😞.. just because we always have doesn't mean we now should

Anthony: Susan - very true.. (and I threw the chimpanzee thing in just as a reference.. not to offend) also.. my missus is a veggie.. so I do understand points that are made.. heck, I don't eat red meat of any kind and that's been for as long as I can remember. Turning 'veggie' for me will be the next transition, it's just a matter of time.. as I still enjoy fish and white meat at the moment.

Mark: Julie - you're so fecking wrong it's unbelievable. Meat eaters are so ignorant and arrogant.

Sarnia: Hmm let's see, could it possibly be a repeat offender who still hasn't learnt from their mistakes, a country who see fit to eat any animal on the endangered species list, who boil dogs alive and chomp on live bats and insects? A country with no regard for any lifeforms. A country who treat not only their fellow countrymen with total disdain but the whole planet? Could it possibly be that countries fault? Nah course not

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Hope: Theres a line in that report suggesting it came from outside China. We need to work together to prevent things like this happening again and not have countries blaming one another.

Tian: Who is WHO? Ethically they are wrong. Not sure if you can blame them for everything. This pandemic helps us to realize how incapable we are to deal with virus. So many people are so ignorant and don't care about others.

Rosemary: A investigation should have started when people started dying from the virus, not nearly a year later.

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Matt: Well it's really though they didn't let the inspectors in some officials covered it their government said just don't know how high up it goes and how is it that the virus has given them the economic edge something isn't right

Patricia: what has taken them this long. Please don't let it happen ever again.

Ray: Interesting that the military games were held there in October

Connelly: Right, so let me get this straight: the WHO, receiving the highest donations from Bill Gates (used to be the US), is going to "investigate" the origins of COVID-19. Well then, let's just set aside any evidence-based theories about filthy rich people who dabbled in virology in Wuhan, China during 2019. 😬

Shaun: Interesting that most of the world's economies have been damaged except the Chinese one.

10.2.2 BBC. Reinfections remain rare and the man has now recovered - but the study raises questions about how much immunity can be built up to the virus and how long it may last.

6.1K Reactions

1.9K Comments

Paula: Funny because other news agencies have said they didn't confirm a second Covid diagnosis. Plus there will always be those who get it twice. Some get/got measles twice. Others got chicken pox twice. Take a breath!!!! He's still LIVING!!!!!! Ffs!!!

Fiona: To put a bit of perspective on this, everyone's immune systems react differently to differing amounts of viral load. There will always be people who can get the same virus twice or three times, and those who never seem to get it at all. Even those who have been vaccinated against a particular disease can go on to get it because they are non responders to

the vaccine. I am one of the bizarre ones myself. Vaccinated for measles as a baby, then had a very serious case of measles a few years later. Never had chickenpox my whole life, was vaccinated against it when I started my nursing career, then went on to have very serious and complicated chickenpox in my 30's. The only times I've had flu in recent years were the years in which I had the flu jab. There will always be individual anomalies, as the human body does not always respond in the same way.

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Paul: The point of the stats are to make collection repeatable so it's not somebody's judgement if they count. The "underlying cause of death" is similar a judgement call, did pneumonia kill the patient or did COVID. Doesn't really matter if you look at the "excess deaths" ie this year's deaths compared to the last 5 years deaths. Do that and you can see that COVID is having a massive effect. I'm sorry it's closed your restaurant (/whatever way has caused a bias in you) but it's a fact, and if u can't see that then..a shame.

Marie: it doesn't sound like dismissal ..sounds like facts of life to me..fear can grab a person by the uh..ears and not let go..maybe you have been grabbed.

Chrissy: Fiona - add to that the elderly do not respond as well to vaccines as younger patients. as a health professional I had 6 vaccinations for hep b in my 40s and did not respond to any.

Martina: Paul - if you look at the breakdown of the death rate over the last 5 years you will clearly see that 2020 month by month has had significantly lower deaths compared to the previous 5 years (excluding April 2020) total deaths so far this year are no where near the total of the previous 5.

Douglas: Fiona - The reality is that if people don't have a healthy immune system, then they will struggle to beat common colds, flu or COVID 19. [...] Chasing herd immunity, when in truth our Immune Systems already achieves this each time they are exposed to crown like viruses.

Globally 99.8 % of people start to recover from COVID 19, after 3 to 5 days. Herd Immunity 99.8%.

Martina: Paul - I feel the virus is dying out based on hospital admissions and the fatality rate. Yes the numbers are on the rise but more people are being tested albeit by a test that was never designed as a diagnostic tool and is flawed. It's picking up dead viruses, cold & other strains of the flu as it cannot differentiate between the two. It was inevitable the numbers would rise significantly as we are now in flu season. We flattened the curve back in may the new curve is cases not deaths. It's all fear inducing tactics designed for a much bigger agenda - just my opinion! I am no more scared of covid 19 as I would be with the flu, we need to learn to live with it, it's not going away. The flu doesn't go away and that's with a vaccine!

Annie: Anders - have you got any medical experience r u a doctor or a nurse

Anders: Annie - do you have to be a doctor or nurse to be able to read??

Nick: Only 5 people have had covid twice, this can happen with many things, apparently you can only get chicken pox once but some people get it twice, this was discussed this morning and if everybody could get covid again then thousands would have had it, 5 people shows its not a major issue, stop trying to scare everyone.

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Daniel: they are just telling the news stop being so extreme.

Nick: Daniel - not about being extreme, most people are pretty fed up and the media are yet again trying to make out people can get it again and it will never end but the reality is very few will get it twice so soon.

Coralie: Nick - my daughter had chicken pox three times, at each stage pf her schooling; once at nursery school, once at junior school and once at senior school!

Fiona: Nick - I am one of those prime examples. I never had chickenpox as a child, despite coming into contact with it on many occasions. I was vaccinated against it when I started my nursing career. And then went on to have very serious chickenpox in my 30's!! Was vaccinated against measles as a baby, was then almost hospitalised with measles when I was about 3 years old. I am potentially someone whose immune system doesn't always respond all that well to vaccines. Incidentally my son has had chickenpox twice. There will always be anomalies as the human body doesn't always responds in exactly the same way.

Kenny: Nick – omg... It's 5 people in the space of 7 months. I assume most folk who get chicken pox twice get it a second time years after they get it the first time. There's a possibility still that many of the folk who have experienced COVID-19 already may well get it at some point again, and maybe even again after that.

Lisa: Nick - you're right but I for one would rather have the truth than not have this information simply because there are folk saying "stop scaring people" it's just information, factual information. Yeah, it can be scary but if people reading this are jumping to the conclusion that everyone can get covid more than once then that's an issue elsewhere, not with the information which for once doesn't have a click bait scary title

Jonathan: You can get the cold twice or the flu twice. Why would this virus be any different?

Serious question

Nathan: Jeez, 1 man in 40 million cases. The whole of the BBC must have shot their collective bolts at this!!! Keep the fear coming Auntie ☹️

82

Chidi: As if that's not what we expect to happen. It's a horrible virus which weakens the immune system, so if it comes back the second time to a slightly weakened immune system, it could be more severe. Its not rocket science.

Jason: Viruses mutate. The more people that are infected the more mutation, and therefore the easier it is to be reinfected. Lower infection rates mean lower amounts of the virus and less mutant variants.

Kate: Why is it that when someone relays a fact ,it's scaremongering but it's fine to break the rules and not care about anyone else but yourself. Perhaps we need an equivalent term for these kinds of people.

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10.2.3 BBC. Tom Cruise 'shouts at film crew' over Covid safety. A recording has emerged of Tom Cruise apparently shouting at two crew members threatening to fire them if they broke Covid-19 guidelines.

78K Reactions

11K Comments

Deborah: Very good. Nice one

1.1K

Antonio: Deborah - Have you listened to his rant because I'm sure if someone spoke to you like that your opinion who he one of complaint.

Ben: Antonio - i did listen and I felt like it was deserved.

83

Annie: Ben - the set has shut down three times because of Covid. Tom was right, they are working in a bubble another shut down might destroy them. He is concerned about the financial well being of the crew as he mentioned the loss of their homes as well as health.

85

Ellen: He is responsible for the safety of all his staff, cast and crew. It's a stressful situation on top of a stressful situation. So, possibly he went overboard, but the situation is an extraordinary one. But I would say breaking covid safety rules is a major health and safety issue and could possibly be gross misconduct which would result in them being sacked. So perhaps that rant just saved their jobs.

Julie: when you have spent out 500,000 to provide cast and crew with a safe environment , its the least they could do , keep their distance when its needed .

Carol: Still no need to talk like that.

Andy: Carol - people speak to shop workers worse than that.

Carol: Andy - I dont, terrible way to speak to others.

Liz: Carol - go back to your troll farm

Felix: Deborah - I like Tom when he shows the real him 🤪🤪🤪🤪🤪🤪🤪

Joan: Carol - I'm sure the sweet talk wasn't working. Sometimes you have to get into people's faces in order to make your point. He is trying to save their jobs. How stupid can they be, and you want him to be nicer?

Bonnie: they were shut down 3 times and it was probably the same ones not doing the safety thing,i would have just fired them and found someone who wanted and respected the job

Andy: Carol - i'm glad you don't but unfortunately i have witnessed awful behaviour from people. such a shame.

Carol: You dont need to get in people's faces to make a point, that abuse. And he will earn no respect from behaving like that

Paul: Carol - no every need. Some people are just not taking this pandemic seriously. If people have to be spoken to harshly at times just to make them aware that there behaviour can have serious consequences, then so be it.

Leslie: This is not surprising. Nor should it be making world wide headlines. Tom Cruise thinks he's more important than everyone else. Shut up little tiny man, lol

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Shelly: He shouldn't have sworn at them but I can see why he might've been angry, but he could've handled it differently.

109

Kevin: so Tom Cruise shouts and swears at staff and everyone is saying well done Tom, but if an employer shouts at a employee or a mp shouts at staff its bullying in the work place. You are all insane.

1.1K

10.2.4 BBC. Covid-19: Oxford University vaccine is highly effective. The vaccine is cheaper than other options and easier to distribute around the world.

709 Reactions

255 Comments

Justine: The flu vaccine is only about 50% effective. So I think 70% is still pretty good.

Griselda: Justine - influenza also mutates INCREDIBLY rapidly. For example, 9 out of 10 viral particles are non infectious because of how many mutations it has. Coronavirus is much more stable

Jocelyn: What's more important is what percentage will agree vaccinations. So many think about how they feel about it personally rather than the gains to the community.

Lynn: This whole situation is about choice. There should never ever be mandatory medication. That put far too much power in the hands of organisations and governments. Look at the profiteering that has taken place with this government. The lies that they tell and ask yourself if you really trust them with your long term health.

Valerie: Lynn - The Oxford vaccine is not-for-profit. It's not mandatory, but never mind, I'm sure there will be enough sensible people who will have it so that the anti vaxxers can mingle safely .

Barry: Lynn - please remember, your choice can adversely affect dozens of others, sometimes fatally.

Mark: Very encouraging news, especially as a changed dosing regime appears to improve on that 70% figure. Then factor in the lower cost and easier distribution compared to the others announced so far and this is likely to be a game changer.

Karen: Well, aren't we all 70% enthused, with a 30% chance of extreme disappointment.

Adrian: Oxford University said interim analysis from its phase 3 vaccine trial showed that the efficacy of their vaccine is 70%. But that came from combining the results of two different dosing regimes, one of which was 90% and the other was 62%. The 90% regime involved a half dose first and then a full dose of the vaccine later.

Terry: Strange that most flu vaccines take years to produce and are still only 30-40% effective? Their effect only lasts a few months. Amazing how they have a

vaccine for a virus they were unable to isolate for a test?? Something smells and we should all be researching this claim before putting more poison into our bodies (aluminium,Mercury, formaldehyde). COVID 19 is just another flu.

Gavin: Isn't it incredible how vaccines are relatively suddenly arriving when regulations are cut? So why (rhetorical question alert), hasn't there been cancer cure or an AIDS cure fast tracked yet? My opinion? The "treatments" are such a money spinner for those concerned.

Phil: This is still an amazing scientific achievement in such a short space of time! It's only at the start of this year they received the genetic code for it. 😊 Congratulations to all involved!

56

Jan: No one mentions the A.I software they are looking for to monitor adverse reactions. I would ask that people check the ingredients before blindly believe it our Government as hey have lied to us from day one

Roxana: Disappointment? You're not a scientific journalist, right? The first test were 70%, they tested a different method and now it's 90%. Where is that disappointing?

Jan: Well the good news is that there is a 99% recovery rate so we don't need it

Adele: Better than trying out a new technology never used in humans before

Laura: Still an amazing achievement in such a short space of time 🙌🙌

Vivienne: SKY says this vaccine is 90% effective! Which of you two are lying?

Cal: That doesn't sound fantastic.

Vasti: 75% and 95%? Not 100%? Then it is just like the flu vaccine, that you take it today, and become sick tomorrow.

10.2.5 DAILYMAIL.CO.UK. *This is SO important to know!! Anyone receiving Covid vaccine should AVOID drinking alcohol, experts warn*

2.9K Reactions

2.2K Comments

Diane: It's Amazing how many 'Experts' who we have never heard of now suddenly have an opinion.

192

Joe: Diane - better than following the likes of gates and fouci

Diane: Joe - from the standard of your comments it is obvious you would lose an IQ contest with an amoeba.

Joe: Diane - really , u sound dumb

Bob: Joe - it is more than possible that the device you are using to connect to the internet owes a great deal to Bill Gates.

Joe: Bob - u still in the dark , wake up sunshine

Diane: Joe - Im English, I possess more Common Sense! 😊

Mike: The magical non liable experimental mRNA vaccine with unknown long term side effects 🦿

Leonard: So you've heard of everybody who is an expert in every field everywhere in the entire world? My bad, didn't take note you were blonde.

Stuart: Diane - The government expert advisors (the Neil Ferguson's etc) are about the the most comedic of all. Facebook has nothing on this lot. But just conform & obey without question nonetheless! Resistance is futile. 🤪👍

Garry: Diane - some us of read multiple peoples information not just sit nodding like a puppy at sage and Boris.

Sandra: Diane - Too much time on their hands!!!

Sandra: Joe - And you're the brain of the world!!! 🤖🤖🤖🤖

Pauline: Does this article mean that if you have had your tonsils removed as a child you are at increased risk from getting Covid with more serious effects. If so could partly explain why over 65s are more at risk because back then this was a very common operation.

Declan: Why didn't these experts mention this sooner? Bit late when half the population have been drowning their sorrows and anxieties away!!!

Roderick: Fear. Fear. Fear. Hold onto fear. Don't look at your loss of freedom. Just fear. Fear. Fear. Terrifying Fear.

118

Rhonda: Good luck with that. My wine has far less risks than that lethal vax.

64

Paula: So basically they're starting to get their excuses ready for when people realise that the vaccine is useless, they can blame it on the fact that they may have had a drink, we're expected to believe that a vaccine so strong that it can tame a highly deadly and intelligent virus, can be damaged by alcohol, that doesn't affect the immune system against the common cold or other viruses, how stupid do they think people are?!

Michael: Paula - I agree, the next warnings will be try not to breathe. I won't be having the vaccine and we can all make decisions for ourselves as more and more comes to light. Nice little earner for BG & his cronies.

Summer: Paula - no, like with any medication, mixing alcohol is not only bad but it's dangerous. The amount of alcoholics in the comments disgusts me.

122

Paula: Summer - utter rubbish, I've known more healthy people that drink and have lived into their 90's than people that don't who end up on antidepressants or die of strokes and heart attacks through stress, one of our doctors recommends a glass of red wine a day to help reduce stress and lower cholesterol, and I know of no doctors that I have seen that don't drink, you can be a drinker without being an alcoholic, I drink regularly but gave it up for a month when I was going in for operations, wasn't a problem, but I drink again now.

Summer: Paula - drinking wine is actually good for you, it helps your body. I'm taking about drinks beside wine.

Paula: Summer - and whiskey is also good for you, so is stout and Guinness, I was the only woman on my maternity ward that didn't need iron tablets because I was a regular Guinness drinker before I became pregnant, and even though I hadn't drank any alcohol whilst pregnant the iron had stayed in my bloodstream, I catch far less colds as well especially since I started drinking whiskey, I have found very little evidence that alcohol in moderation is bad for you, only if drank to excess.

Wayne: 😁😁😁 highly deadly and intelligent. What planet you been living on?

Paula: Wayne - well that's how the government make it sound, it knows to only infect people gathering socially and not in the work place or schools, and it'll make a beeline for you in a pub unless your eating a substantial meal or scotch egg, that sounds very intelligent to me!! 😁😁😁😁

10.2.6 *BBC News. Man who hid in girlfriend's shower jailed for breaking Covid laws. Police became suspicious after visiting the woman's flat, when they heard a male voice.*

6.7K Reactions

2.2K Comments

Susan: If she lives alone, why can't they have a bubble, or whatever it is called? In Scotland I could have an extended household with another household and this would not have been illegal. Then there was the wedding in Stamford Hill with hundreds of guests and a few people faced paltry fines...

143

Julie: This is so wrong. A dear friend of mine is in a complicated situation, she lives in Kent and her partner lives in Norfolk. They can't see each other. I know them both very well, and this forced separation is seriously affecting both of their mental health!

223

Chris: Julie - tell her to put her house on the market and he can go round as many times as he wants as a perspective buyer.

96

Cheryl: Julie - To bad grow up already

Julie: Cheryl - excuse me. I'm talking about a lady in her mid 50's here. Not a child, like yourself. Or you would know it's TOO in the context you attempted to use it. Please educate yourself before judging others too!

Eva: If this would have been at another time nobody would have believed this. Hidden camera ! 😞 Democracy is on hold. I wonder what happens to the real criminals ? They must be taking a Corona break. 😁 As the police must feel overqualified chasing young people in the shower for breaking Corona rules

124

109

Ben: What a joke of society we live in when you can't do that! But you let 16 non professional muppets go and Chase wolves round in football game

236

Kean: Come on...he is just a plumber 🙄

190

Michael: Good luck securing anything that looks like freedom once you've empowered govt to enter homes and remove people for socializing privately.

96

Trudie: Let hope he police will arrest all 400 guests as well who attended the wedding in North London.

116

Lawrence: Trudie - As if The race card will come out 🐒🐒🐒🐒🚗

Trudie: Lawrence - well it shouldn't as Covid doesn't give a toss about colour or religion.

Mark: Trudie - They revised it down to 150... earliest number was way off. Still a lot.

Vicki: No mention of covid in the old testament, so it doesn't exist 🙄

Linda: Jim - they should put them in the empty hotels and make them pay for 10 days quarantine and have guards on the hotel. Like they do in other countries we're far too soft in this country. Those 400 only a handful were issued fines 4-6 & the organisers (might) receive a 10k fine. Everyone of them should have got a 200 fine.

Nick: Linda - there aren't any empty hotels they are full of illegal immigrants lol

Linda: Nick silly me I forgot that 🙄

125

Jim: Linda - the snowflakes won't allow big fines.....its a£10000 fine....÷400.people...so its £25 each...lol.....should be 50 years for acid attacks...and the guy who dragged a policeman behind a car...Will be out in 7 years

Tarnie: Trudie - the police don't put criminals on jail and now needs to put 400 for a stupid lockdown violation? 🙄

10.3 Tabloids, gossip and celebrities

10.3.1 BBC News. The US model lost the baby she was expecting with husband John Legend earlier this year. Chrissy Teigen 'sad she will never be pregnant again'.

12K Reactions

2.6K Comments

Andrew: My heart goes out to Chrissy and all the other women who lose a baby. We lost our first child Whitney at 7 months due to anencephaly. I still shed a tear when I read of this. Just over a year later we were blessed with a daughter who has since blessed us with 2 grandsons. For 6 years we lost 5 babies in the first 12 weeks until after 7 years we had another daughter and 2 years later a son. Honestly the pain never goes away, oh it subsides amidst the joy of other children but even now 32 years on I read of this sad event and cry. May God bless you and all parents who go through this.

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Lisa: Andrew - you poor souls. Over and over to have that loss is so unbelievably sad. More ppl are sharing which will bring this important subject to the forefront where it should be. Thank you. It took us ten years and many losses before we had one healthy girl and like you grandchildren now.

Cheryl: I say, with the most kindness and caring, likely she will. When the grief subsides, it will never go away.

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Diane: Cheryl - no. Please learn her story. She went through IVF for all of her pregnancies.

Cheryl: I know that, what's your point? I'm an OB nurse whose friends were nurse clinicians in an IVF clinic. It's all fraught with pain, hope, and journey. I worked as a high risk OB RN Case Manager. Also covered the Nicu. We had many miracles, and many heartbreaking situations. I loved and cared for them all.

Diane: Cheryl - then you should understand that through her heartbreaks, the toll on her body & mind that she's made her decision. We should be honouring her as she is, not as u want her to be.

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Anika: Cheryl - then your comment is surprisingly ignorant given you background, she's been told that physically she can't take another pregnancy

Anika: her comment was equivalent to when women say they don't want kids and others say, "oh just wait, you will".....um no, while the intent is not malicious the end result is invalidating what women are saying about their own bodies and wants. Chrissy said she's not going to be having anymore babies, not because she's lost hope or is sad but because she knows medically it's not safe for her. Saying, oh don't worry you will, just believe....that's not a thoughtful reply at all actually but a dismissive one.

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Cheryl: Really, I don't judge her decision making, just making an observation of what I've observed many times. It matters not to me how this goes forward for her or

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anyone who has suffered a loss such as this and how they decide. Don't make controversy where there's none!

Jenna: Diane - no, she didn't. The last was natural. Get your facts straight.

Madison: Cheryl - she never planned on being pregnant a 3rd time at all. The two kids she has were her plan. This pregnancy was unplanned and traumatic

Tiffani: Cheryl - Like you said I say this in the most kind and caring way possible. I relate to her story obviously some parts are different. My husband and I have 2 children. When I got pregnant a 3rd time it was unplanned but so very wanted sadly ending in a miscarriage. I fell pregnant again a 4th time not long after only for it to end in miscarriage once again. This happened 2 years ago. Moral of the story is I will also never be pregnant again for very personal reasons I don't care to share. I feel for her it is a different type of grief process when you have to not only grieve the loss of your babies but also have to grieve the fact that you will never be pregnant again. You hear so many stories of women having miscarriages and the hope and happiness that comes from rainbow babies which is a wonderful amazing thing and I am so happy for these women. But when you find yourself in my situation or Chrissy Teigen's situation knowing that you will NEVER experience the ups and downs of a rainbow baby it is very painful to hear people say "oh you will change your mind" or "you never know what will happen in the future" etc. Honestly NO just stop because although social media and society emphasizes rainbow babies after any type of pregnancy loss that is not a reality for ALL WOMEN!!!

Nicki: Cheryl - not all of us do get over it. And that's really not an appropriate response to someone's struggle and grief.

Mari: Cheryl - she had 3 eggs that were the best of the lot. She just had this one left. Hence she's not or can't go through it all over again. You of all ppl knows the process which is long and arduous.

Eilish: Diane - Cheryl isnt sayin it in a bad way. When i lost my baby i also couldn't see myself getting pregnant ever again as it is an extremely painful situation. But after a while i got pregnant again. Bein honest, this last one has been the worst one. After losing a baby and getting pregnant again theres a constant fear that it will end the same way and you dread every appointment, and you dread getting attached to ur baby in case it happens again. It is still very raw for her

Kiki: Amanda - several women have come on here to comment that it IS dismissive & ignorant & insensitive, actually, despite her best intentions. So how about instead of only believing in your own perspective you listen to that of other's. Not everyone emotes & copes the same

Melinda: She said she won't so she won't. But you're saying she will like you know better than her? Whether or not she could is not the issue. She's not willing to risk her health and family to keep trying. So being blasé like oh yeah she will, that's offensive.

Hannah: Cheryl - what if she can't? It's not always a choice and it's incredibly presumptuous to assume the option is even still there after her traumatic stillbirth. When I say I'll never be pregnant again it's because... wait for it...I will NEVER be pregnant again. (You kinda have to have a uterus for that). It is infuriating hearing "aww give it time; you'll change your mind; you're only young, etc etc" from people who have NO idea.

Dianne: Hopefully adoption one day? Any foster kid would be blessed to end up with that wonderful family.

Matt: Dianne - Stop forcing people to adopt children. It's a personal decision. Shame you can't respect people's boundaries.

Maria: Its not easy considering adoption after losing your own child.....

Melissa: Matt - whose being forced to adopt children? 🤪

Jessie: She will probably eat it.

Chantelle: They have children now, there's no need for them to adopt

Meg: Dianne - thank you for posting this! ❤️ I could not agree more! So many children need good and loving homes! they would have the perfect home for a child in need of adoption if and when they were open to it! ❤️

Gina: Dianne - She tweeted about about sexual thoughts of little girls.

Mary: I agree Dianne. More people should adopt

Gina: Allison - Really, so reading the tweets is not evidence? There is a lot of signs that her and her husband are involved in child trafficking child rape. But i guess when you put people on a pedestal you won't see the signs.

Becky: When celebs air their grieving they are often shamed, I think it's because they are rich and it's hard to relate to them. Their lifestyles are so different from the norm. losing a baby is tragic for anyone, rich or poor, famous or not. It's loss.

Peter: Becky - it's because idiots think that having money makes up for everything. It doesn't.

Marygael: Becky - I'm sure the devastation is common among all women that lose a child. She certainly doesn't need lights, camera, action

Tani: Becky - if money meant nothing, they wouldn't have posted staged photos EVERYWHERE. They make money out of unborn kids. SICK

EmT: Why MUST we know this news? That too on Christmas! How is it relevant to anyone's life whether Chrissy Teigen will or will never be pregnant? You are making her womb and its productivity the center of her significance and newsworthiness. Why? Isn't there anything more exciting to cover?

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Emily: Oh, so the world should come to a stop simply because a celebrity had a miscarriage....
Get a life!

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Marco: Who? She looks like a normal chick and acts like a special needs social media addict.

Roy: No one cares

10.3.2 BBC News. The UK pop star didn't self-isolate following a trip to Egypt and held a birthday party in London, which she has already apologised for. Rita Ora apologises for second breach of Covid lockdown restrictions

15K Reactions

6.2K Comments

Marcus: Do you think she apologises because she cares? No dear, she doesn't. She apologises because its a get out of jail free card.

1.2K

Tracy: Marcus - She certainly dosen't care. She knew what she was doing was wrong in the first place, that didn't stop her. She's an embarrassment to her mother who's a nurse working with covid patients.

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Ray: Marcus - one law for Joe Public another for the overpaid celebs

Nicky: Marcus - apologising because she got caught! Silly woman. 😞

Elaine: Marcus - shes only sorry for getting caught.

Sharon: Marcus - your 100% correct. Once is bad but a second time is unforgivable. She should have a hefty fine and jail. People who are so into themselves think rules for ordinary people don't apply to them. It's sickening when some people haven't seen loved ones for months. 😡😡

Daniela: She's offered already to pay any fines 🙄

Ana: Marcus - she is a celebrity, doesnt want to lose her popularity I suppose, but looks like she thought rules dont apply to her

Anne: Marcus - Absolutely and also to keep her in the headlines! Despicable person. Only one putting her on a pedestal is herself...

Entela: She sounds soo desperate for attention. Stop girl. You aren't doing yourself any favour.

?

505

Joshua: honestly, she sucks

Lori: Turning out to be a bit of a lass aren't we Rita, unfortunately a very BAD example, the rules apply to you love too 😡

239

Peter: Her attitude to this Pandemic is almost as bad as her Music!!!!

734

Ben: She should quit music, not because of covid. Just because her music's awful.

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Jan: Does not matter about us older ones, my 4th letter now saying I can go out but BEST STAY HOME!! EIGHT MONTHS OF THESE LETTERS SO SHE CAN DO AS SHE LIKES????? GO SODD OFF!!!

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10.3.3 BUZZFEEDNEWS UK. In the pursuit of body positivity, we've tipped over into an absurd place — where merely existing in a body larger than a size 0 is considered courageous. Billie Eilish Isn't Brave. She's Normal.

1.2K Reactions

318 Comments

Carole: Thank goodness I've never worked in an industry where body size is such an issue.

Mat: She looks fine - it's just the wardrobe choices that have made people comment. (Also pretty much my work from home outfit 😊) That said, I cannot now, nor at any time in the future, condone the wearing of socks and sliders.

Megan: Omg she's so brave for walking outside in clothes ❤️. Seriously? How about the people fighting cancer, covid, ptsd. The doctors and nurses working in covid units right now facing infection risks constantly. That's bravery 😊.

Tracy: Megan - considering so many people feel the need to talk about her body and pick her apart even though she's bloody 18 (not that a person's body should be picked apart at any age) it is quite brave of her to dress how she wants and not cover up. I always had comments about my body, not necessarily bad but I became very self conscious because of it and wore baggy clothes to hide my body. I'm now 35 and still cover up. People's comments can have a terrible impact on a person, I know. She may

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not be as brave as others that you are comparing her to but they're completely different situations and not really comparable imo.

Isidora: Megan - they're saying it's silly the media thinks it's brave. existing in your own body should not be considered brave. but from youth women are getting CONSTANT messages about what's wrong with them.

Sasha: Personally I don't see why Billie Eilish should be picked at for being or not being brave, you should be picking at the people that write these articles. You've just targeted an 18 year old girl, because you don't like what someone else has said about her.

Amelia: People busy focusing on her body and ignoring the fact she's wearing socks and slides?? 🤔

Natalie: Our society has a sick obsession with tearing others down based on the size of their bodies. Its so, so wrong.

Robert: Natalie - people who judge normally are the one with the issue

Adelaide: It speaks volumes that so much media coverage has been on this picture....it's just a normal picture, she is a normal looking lady with exceptional talent, it's pathetic we are praising her for being 'brave' as she's not, that's the point, she's just normal!

Louise: The sock / sliders combo is a brave choice but that's just my fear of socks with sandals

Laura: I see why she wears baggy clothes. Let people focus on her music and not her.

Kathleen: Laura - For attention. She doesn't wear baggy clothes, she wears insanely big clothes so that people talk about it and she makes money.

Anthony: Kathleen - no she wears baggy/oversized clothes so people dont sexualise her because when she came into the industry she was still 17

Jodie: Anthony - she was 15

Anthony: Jodie - she was 15? I know she got a lot bigger in the industry when she was 16/17

Nat: Kathleen - must be weird being able to live in the mind of others

Beverley: She has large breasts and a flat stomach and great legs.... just because she isn't a size 8 version of that then she is deemed fat???? The world is getting worse

Andrew: Looks like a troll with that hair.....

Olivia: Andrew - she's a young woman experimenting with her identity. She's probably a whole lot more interesting inside and out than you are

Andrew: Olivia - Yeah experimenting until she realises that she looks a twat.....

Nikki: The worst thing about that photo is the slides and socks. Apart from that, there's nothing terrible going on. Just a girl.

Levi: knowing the shit she'll get for it is what makes it brave

Johan: She is a lucky tw@t.. She won the Grammy, and she can't even sing... Worst, she didn't deserved them

Amy: But she has really stupid hair....

Daniel: Just me who thought she looks fit ?? 🙄

Rebecca: Dan - boobs 😞😞

Daniel: Well, eyes ... everything she's a good looking woman 🙄

Olivia: Dan - she's 18... leave her alone and stop being creepy

Daniel: Olivia - leave her alone ? Fuck sake men can't speak these days.

Olivia: Dan - not when they're being weird about young women. She's just on the verge of not being a kid.

Daniel: Olivia - being weird ? Was just defending an 18 year old woman tbh by paying a complement. I'll get back in my box

Erinn: Dan - Saying a women looks good isn't defending her. Women don't need to hear "compliments" from random strangers on the internet. And the whole "men cant speak these days", how do you think women, people of colour and the LGBT community have felt for years. Our voices are now being heard and straight men start acting like the victims all of a sudden. 🙄

10.3.4 BBC.CO.UK. The show was Adele's first US TV appearance since the 2017 Grammy Awards. Adele sings and jokes about weight as she hosts SNL

23K Reactions

1.1K Comments

Angela: I always thought it was about her voice, regardless or her size and shape. Although, the latter is what everyone focused on. I'm more interested in seeing how this transformation will affect her music. Previous to the 'yet to be released album', she has created music that is raw and vulnerable, so it will interesting to see a new dimension

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Dave: "raw and vulnerable"? You mean like every depressing song she's ever released? Her albums should come with a free prescription for anti depressants.

Natalie: Angela - so, are you saying because she was fat she was vulnerable, and worry that it won't be same because she lost weight? Do you think she won't be able to come up with "raw music" because of her size? Let me tell you, not all fat people are vulnerable or insecure.

Angela: Natalie - 🙋 really? No I wasn't saying because she was fat, she was vulnerable. I was highlighting that people judge her harshly and not just her, everyone is judged

Terrance: It can influence your voice. My daughter is a vocalist. She talks about how different physical attributes affect the voice. Singer or not. Adele, we love her. Lol

Alexis: Natalie - oh Natalie 🙈🙈🙈🙈 no that's not what she's saying! Go back to bed 😬

Jamie: Angela - shape and size plays no role (theoretically shouldn't at least) in anyone's success. Talent doesn't have a shape or size.

Angela: Dave - you don't have to listen to her 😏 maybe with the development of the emotionally detached and borderline narcissistic culture that we are heading towards, we may need this as a historical record of the emotion that once was

Kat: Angela - Losing weight and becoming healthy is a very vulnerable and exposed journey... she has a lot of pressure about her image and she has basically broken that down and now has to prove that she is something beyond the way people perceive her... I can imagine it will bring out beautiful emotion and honesty.

Loki: We men love her no matter how she looks so stop with negativity

Angela: Not sure why people are viewing my words as negative so I will just describe how I came to form my opinion. I am not slim, just because my cleverly taken profile picture shows different. I'm not famous either, yet the awful and disgusting words of one man who I thought loved me dearly, changed me. I am on a weight loss journey now and not just because of him but I cannot pretend that those words did not have an affect. Before writing what I meant as a positive comment, I looked at all the body shaming comments that went before mine and whether she knows people or not, it

has to have an affect. Her raw and vulnerable songs where both haunting and moving and showed real emotion, so I am excited for the next part of her journey as her emotion plays through her words and voice and not every singer has the same gift. I hope this has added clarity to my comment

Jesica: Angela - some people are just ready for a fight all the time. That said, I don't think as many people focused on her appearance as you think, she was a superstar without losing weight. It's not like she got more popular after her weight loss and I didn't actually hear/see much news about her size until she started to lose weight.

Scott: I'm glad she is taking care of her health. She looks much younger now. Congratulations

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Clark: Scott - You look younger too

Pascual: Scott - what a sad comment 😞

Steve: Scott - yes she does

Thomas: Adele looked amazing & did a great job on this episode.

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Jimmy: Thomas - she looked f'ing hot. I had no idea who she was when I flipped over and was like who's that. Good for her. All of her new songs will be about guys wanting her back.

Thomas: Jimmy - Ive seen her recently in magazines and people were slamming her because of her weight loss. The only opinion that really matters (regarding her weight) is hers & she looks very happy. It looks great on her.

Jimmy: Thomas - nobody should be slamming her. I mean if she did it by dieting, hitting the gym and going that route, awesome. If she did it through surgeries, I'd hope there's no repercussions.

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Laura: I'm happy for her if this has made her feel good about herself and boosted her health as we all age...but to me she was always gorgeous.

Christelle: She has all my respect! She has decided to take care of herself and she shows that a strong will can make a huge difference. Great artist!

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Emily: Christelle - so before when she was bigger she wasn't worth your full respect?

It's weird how people think of you as a better person if you're skinny.

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Jade: Christelle - larger people take care of themselves too. There is a misconception that thin=healthy and large=unhealthy. There are thin people who are unhealthy and larger people who are healthy and vice versa. This narrative needs to end. Especially the opinion that thin is more worthy of respect.

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Michael: Emily - losing weight takes a lot of discipline and commitment. There is something as a healthy weight. She is worth much more respect than before.

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Carl: Christelle - really?...nothing to do with having the money for personal trainers..chefs..operations etc....and ive met her..stes stuck up herself..

Sabine: Christelle - nothing to do with "a strong will" please it is just a question of motivation and desire. now regarding how quick overweight people can regain the lost kilos I do hope for her that she will manage to keep going.. I suppose she had a bypass surgery. But the brain remains the brain and it hates diets .. that is why it is so easy to loose weight but so difficult to keep the lost ones away. never forget that obesity is a chronic disease.

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Coyle: Sabine - if you think it's easy to lose weight than you've obviously never had to - it's not easy and it does take a 'very strong will' like Christelle said - and your comment supposing she had bypass surgery makes you sound nasty !!! Fair play to Adele, she looks amazing , she always has 🙌🙌🙌

Miranda: Michael - Imfaooooo wowowowow

Mariela: Emily - stop being overly sensitive

Mariela: Christelle - I agree! She has a son to think of! If she kept gaining weight being an active mom is not possible.

Mariela: Jade - I mean, if you eat junk food all the time, no you do not take care of yourself. It's about calories in and calories out. I have PCOS and I'm able to eat lots of fruits, veggies, and lean meats. Soooo...it's about how much you eat?

Jade: Michael - just curious but do you think a slim person who smokes cigarettes is healthy? Or a slim person with bulimia throwing up every day? Or a slim person who eats fast food all day long but has a fast metabolism? There are healthy slim people just as there are unhealthy and same goes for larger. You do realize people have different bodies and some are naturally larger even though you eat a balanced diet and get exercise in? It also depends on the doctor not every doctor is on board with weight stigma and is about the overall health.

Jade: She may not have kept gaining weight though. She wasn't getting bigger she was actually a little slimmer than when she started before all the drastic weight loss. Some people are naturally larger. Some bodies just weren't made to be tiny. Some larger people actually are healthy and eat a balanced diet and exercise. I think we need to stop assuming that larger is always unhealthy. I am not saying Adele has an eagerness disorder but what if someone lost weight because they were starving themselves?

Would you still say that's healthier? We don't know the details of people's weight loss and need to stop assuming they are always healthier. This encourages weight stigma and eating disorders!

Michael: Jade - where did I say slim is healthy? The thing that is used is called BMI - body mass index. You can research on it some more.

Jade: Yes and it has been proven that the BMI chart is outdated and antiquated. It doesn't differentiate between men and women, muscle mass and bone structure. According to the BMI chart body builders are obese so maybe you should do your research!

Jenny: Michael - no you don't know how she lost the weight you assume you know ideally it was lost because of stress due to her messy divorce ...

Deborah: I love her voice and her songs! If she is happier and healthier, more power to her.

Andrea: Her weight loss didn't affect her voice, although not the musical guest she sounded great singing in the skits 😊

Ann: She's an amazing artist just love her music she looked amazing whatever size she is but she looks really well

Rozi: Great to see her looking after her health, she's an inspiration to younger generation and hopefully will inspire lots to eat healthy.

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Sarah: Is she going to be your inspiration to lose weight? That's awesome! Good for you! You can do it! I fully support your decision to be healthier because of Adele! That double chin will be gone in NO time!

Stephen: And what about the fatties she was a roll model to? Who's going to inspire them to be body positive?

Stephen: Ahhh... someone has filled the space left by Adele. In all senses of the term

Lisa: Stephen - yet she dances a full concert and still sings live. Funny that 😏 Men and their obsession with putting women down. Who hurt u

Peter: She is an excellent singer. Her weight is irrelevant to me. Like all people, she deserves to be happy and comfortable.

143

Julia: Peter - you seem to have gathered a fan club. 😁 😁 thought it was only women that got targeted by scammers on here.

Izzy: She looks great but she looked great before too.

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Dale: Izzy - she looks much healthier now that she's not obese and hopefully she feels all the better for it in life 😊. Good on her!

Michelle: I'm not sure I would recognise her, as she looks so different. She was beautiful before and is still beautiful now.

Patel: fat people shouldn't be on the covers of magazines or in tv, it is promoting obesity! ! !

Michelle: Patel oh how wonderful do tell me more 😬 😬 🙄 🙄

Wendilis: I never had an issue with her weight. I thought and still do think she's just awesome 🍑! So I'm actually disappointed that she done all this cuz of the bsfckry around. To me she never had to do a thing. Her vibes are always perfection.

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Adrienne: Wendilis - apparently she did it to improve her health for her kid

Kate: Wendilis - it's about her. Has nothing to do with you. You're opinion doesn't matter.

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Cynthia: Wendilis - I'm sure she feels better and less at risk for health issues. Good for her!

Leora: Your opinion doesn't matter. Whether she lost or gained it's none of our business.

Jan: Wendilis - Disappointed because she lost weight?... Wait. You're saying...we should focus on those with positive opinions? Give them a thumbs-up for it? Of COURSE people are replying to those attacking her for losing weight. It's also human nature to defend others against hate.

Wendilis: she had no health issue. Haven't you listened to her albums. The script for this bsfckry is right on all her songs. Furthermore have you even listened at all. I don't know if you know this but.... like to sing for songs like she does you better be able to hold , yelp, welp, belch, te'lt it down. That's a whole lotta core strength to feel out of shape. Take a back seat lady. Health and Dynamics is not your best subject.

Wendilis: Adrienne - health has nothing to do with size in all actuality. In fact, this is most likely an unhealthy weight for her. Time will tell. She is large bone she is actually deficiently starving herself for this brokeass image! I know it all to well as I've battled to social conformity as Adele just has. Eventually it will be about herself. But she didn't actually start there but at least it's the end to means. So it's great. It's unfortunate how it's brought upon by so many unnecessary factors

Wendilis: Kate - if my opinion doesn't matter. Neither does yours. What do you know about this obsession with self-image by our populous society.

Kate: Wendilis – this society may be rotten but caring about peoples weight is not one of the reasons. She was obese and young kids looking at her thought is is normal, she

normalized or tried to normalize being obese, sick and ugly- why else would she lose weight.

Wendilis - Kate - funny you say it. I must add. Is this not opinion based? Crazy sht right? It's all opinions. If not, then why this post even exist. You make it seem like I said something negative. When in fact it is scientifically proven that which is the status of this society. It's encouraging narcissism is prevalent in all scoped areas of his spiraling socialism. Pls save the bs. You know I love Adele ! She did not have nothing to prove to me. She done did it. Irony :same subject matter, first hit single. And I will still be holding Adele down in all what is to come from her. Frontier and Faker is what you appear like... reflects little now

Wendilis: Jan - actually no. But I know where she coming from since I lost weight myself and got very well 'hardcore shape' and no negativity but she still got a lot of work TGIF that six pack to come on. Not that it really matters. I like Adele and like I said I see her soul thru songs. It's never been an issue

Wendilis: Jan - I'm disappointed by the stereotypes society has based upon women. I too have lost a lot of weight. So I can't be disappointed. I encourage fitness. Repeat: fitness. What do you know about it? We can debate. I see racism is not a factor for you. So you still got a chance at a higher understanding. Thank god for that

Wendilis: Paul Martin I like how you put this. So right! It hurts

Wendilis: Adrienne - health has nothing to do with body image. health has nothing do with size. In fact correlating size :weight with health is completely insulting to the dynamics of proper health and nutrition.

Wendilis: Paul - best part: your man !! A dude is straight up acknowledging the pompous bsfckry of our socialist republic! Irony: Women are insulted .Makes me

question if it's really men pushing the Gucci and Prada and MK shttyful images on women or is it women doing this? I've realized it's the women. You know why cuz I too have a story. An a woman one at that. My dude ThanXs for acknowledging that my stars opinion is in fact a positive one. One of love and not an image agenda drive lord Tracy: I'm a product of my environment. brits are just as produce. Bullocks ! Don't know which is worst so imagining how much surgery she just did to herself must really be offsetting? Looks are deceiving. Adele said the album is not done and that's why she's been out of the public. I don't know we are so hard on ourselves and each other. But she does appear pleased with herself . That's all that matters.

Wendilis: Leora - it's none of our business? Coming from a commenter. Obviously opinions matter. This entire post/thread is all about well opinions.

Leora: Wendilis - you are saying you're dissapointed in her doing what is best for herself and her health.... It's just rude and judgemental.

Wendilis: Leora - no you didn't read correctly. That's not what meant at all. Your not understanding my point. The social aspect of it is what's disappointing. The stereotypic conformity

10.3.5 DAILYMAIL.CO.UK. Green with envy!  Kim Kardashian models massive \$1M emerald necklace four years after Paris robbery.

20K Reactions

938 Comments

Ari: All those millions and still can't get her husband adequate and proper medical treatment to address his illness. So no .. all the pretty diamonds in the world won't give her happiness.

Sad!

Erin: Ari - there's only so much she can do, at the end of the day it's down to him

410

Timi: Ari - HE has to want to get treated

229

Cecley: Ari - dumb thing to say. No one knows what really goes on behind closed doors when mental illnesses are involved. Anything at that... Its this kind of thinking that makes it so hard for ppl dealing with mental health issues. Their struggle is nothing you would ever understand so be quiet if you can't help in any other way.

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Angelina: Ari - you can't force people who are mentally ill to take medicine. More often than not bi polar people stop their meds because they feel better. I swear he said in an interview that the meds mess with his creative ability. He's never going to agree to take anything that prevents him from doing what he loves. Did you ever watch the show?

Max: Ari - that's crazy, I could've sworn she set up a meeting for him to get treatment and he tweeted that she was trying to get the illuminati to come get his soul. He also refuses to take his medication sometimes

Leo: How do teenagers who known eachother 5 minutes stay attached to the hip InLove be side by side with eachother claiming to be inlove and then U look at Kim and Kanye they both seam like they live on different planets we all know they live in seperate houses... Kim don't love Kanye anybody can shes InLove with herself.

Ashley: Ari - look at wat happens to every man to marry into that family 🙄

Shelly: This is bipolar people not depression, he needs to be pushed to get help

Tavi: Shelly - We are not his parents.! And and we are not him.! No cant force no one to do anything.

Margaret: amen to that! You can't force someone else to get help if they don't want it and don't believe they need it! Ari needs to quit trying to shame her for something she's not responsible for!

Shelly: Tavi - if bipolar people aren't treated they become a danger not only to themselves but to others

Chanene: Ari - he has refused treatment many times. She has flown dr's around the world to try and help him. If he's refusing treatment what else can she do 🙄

Harry: Ari - what a jealous comment 😏

Joshua: Ari - wow the fact that you had to say that really shows how miserable and depressed you are with your own life your so invested in others and what they decide to do. That's sad I hope you get the help you need ❤️

Leo: Yea she really really tried to help kanye... 😞 NOT

Ari: The truth of the matter is someone who has a mental deficiency doesn't always know that they do. Stats indicate that most people will have a psychotic episode or break from reality at least once in their lifetime aka nervous breakdown. Most will recover with the help of those around them who recognize something was wrong and got immediate medical attention. In some cases to recover it will require a lifestyle change and a great support system. Sometimes taking a step back can be the simplest first step in healing. Kanye hasn't been himself since the death of his mom. I appreciate his music but clearly more must be done. We must be advocates for the ones

Shelly: Ari - apparently all the others telling you that you have no clue obviously have none themselves, this isn't depression but this is bipolar where people need care

Zoe: Ari - how is that her fault silly! He can do it himself

Natie: Ari - maybe she's happy with a crazy husband 😁

Leo: Yeah she's so happy 🤔 that's why they live in seperate houses she has calabasas and he's got Wyoming.... Married people don't live in seperate towns living seperate lives... Wtf marriage is that 🤔🤔🤔

Nicky: Ari - 🤔🤔 u too worried over rich people business 🤔🤔🤔🤔🤔🤔

Tina: Ari - hater. Only haters can say that. You don't have millions n here you are sounding miserable. Better rich n sad than broke n sad

Michelle: Ari - you can lead a horse to water but can't force it to drink.

Vickie: Carrie - how do you know do you live with them 😞😞😞

Kristy: Jennifer - only if they agree he's a danger to himself or others around him. If he's just spouting secrets and spending money , that's not enough to be sectioned. Then if it is successful, you'd have to deal with the aftermath of always getting your partner sectioned because you CBA to deal with their mental health

Robyn: Leo - always has been in love with herself and ju ju lips

Thom: Ari - you are so right 🤔🤔🤔🤔

Denise: Shelly - bi polar disorder is a depressive mental illness with highs and lows..cant force an adult to get help for mental illness unfortunately, they have rights even if not in a mentally stable mind frame to accept or seek that help for themselves..the whole mental health community needs major improvements, I fought the system for many years trying to get my adolescent then adult child the help he needed and needs and it's a losing cycle..release someone that cut their wrist cause they didnt mean to do it?? that's the explanation I was given when they released my adult son after he cut his wrist after many many years of documented treatment

history on him..the system is a joke and as much as family tries to force them to get help it doesn't work out that way unfortunately

Ash: Sharyn - R they God. U need help for been so hateful, that's what it is

Ginger: She's the whole package but money success and things do not never will insure happiness and contentment!

97

Reek: Ginger - they sure help 😊

Harry: Ginger - nice irrelevant comment lol

Jeannette: True! Don't store treasures and don't put any 'thing' before the Lord . This life is but a vapor & nothing goes with any of us.

Stella: Ginger - you must be so happy then 🙄👉 a little Green maby

Derek: Ginger - you believe this woman to be the whole package? Explain?

William: Can't stop CANCER

Catherine: Ginger - a whole package of fake you meant to say!! 😁😁

Elaine: The so called robbery I believe was a publicity stunt

Gage: Elaine - Wow, very said that people like you can't even have compassion when they went through something like that. Very sad and pathetic to be honest

Laurie: Elaine - yup not enough attention so needed to create some

Laurie: Gage - the only sad and pathetic is that whole family

Gage: Well I really don't think they are concerned about your support don't even know you exist 🙄

Lyvonne: I guess all that money she got from the insurance company for the "robbery" helps buy bigger things for a future money encounter. 😊

82

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Lamborghini-Lambo: Lyvonne - so how is it your business if where she gets her money



Lamborghini-Lambo It is my business because I am on FB and like everybody else I comment on different issues. Period! Personally people do what they want but if they put it out for more publicity than expect people to express their opinion which I will continue to do. Thank you!

Lamborghini-Lambo: Lyvonne - that's great then it's not like they know us..... wow. YOU are the one with the problem. God your full of hate.

Masa: I thought the woman said in one of her interview material things such a jewelry what so ever are not important to her anymore.

Miriam: Masa - she is full of dodo.

Angela: But just because she bought it doesn't mean it's important to her. You go buy some candy at the store, does that mean it was important to you? 😞

Vanessa: SHE LIED!! LOL

Kiera: Masa - who said they was important to her ? Just cause she's wearing a giant emerald and the media decides that's what they are gonna show doesn't mean it's the most important thing to her jheez

Lisa: She could do so much more for others and even animals with her bank account! What a waste of money 💰

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Lamborghini-Lambo: Lisa - when it's your pay day who is telling you what to do with your money mxm you guys are so jealous you need to chill

Jenny: Lisa - u clearly dont know much about her than shes done alot for others. And contributed to alot of charities

150

Jordan: Lisa - you're not force to help anyone.. Its her money

June: Lisa - I suggest you trade your phone for money and help some African kids to buy food

Monica: Lisa - Shut up, it's her money. Do I like her? Not particularly. Should she have to give up the money she's earned for every cause under the sun just because she's rich? Also no. If you worked your whole life to build a sizable net worth would you be willing to spend all of your disposable income on every cause that came along?

Lisa: June - why does it have to be African kids? What about starving kids here?

Anthony: Lisa - she's literally training as a lawyer and had somebody on a life sentence freed. Shes taking the training so that she doesn't need legal representation and can help others herself. Not her hugest fan, but if you know anything about her, you know she's more than willing to get stuck in.

Erica: She's been helping alot of people out of prison. I'm not sure the numbers but it's been more than the few that have made the news.

Amy: Jordan - well if ahe wants everyone know her business i think she needs to do more. So you make no point 😞

Amy: Anthony - who cares

Jordan: Amy - guess u just made a point huh? Cause its her money and dont need to give it away. I bet u wont give away money just cause u have it.. Shes responsible for her own family not someone else's

Lamborghini-Lambo: Jordan - good point

Joanne: Erica - she could maybe build a prison right beside her place and then she could help shitloads more prisoners good on her, you go girrrrrl

Jenny: Amy - so quick Google search to name a few examples.. now i shouldn't waste my time to make point to u but I got time today. Kim has donated millions of dollars to charities that provide vital services to the homeless as well as to women's shelters across LA. ... [...]. Doesnt matter if Kim became famous from a sex tape what she did after does.. she managed to turn that into what millions now. What have you done?

Jenny: Victoria - lol I was called naive for saying that lol. But they all do so much for others. I'm not a huge fan of them but I do have respect for them and what they do, well let me clarify, of their show I'm not a fan but as them as a person and what they do yes.

Amy: Jenny - didn't read your bs your crazy.

Jenny: Amy - daym take a chill pill, Did I strike a nerve with my facts? I'm all about empowering other women, not tearing them down. So with that negativity your showing. Girl bye 🙌

Amy: Jenny - strike a nerve. Lol it takes a lot. So don't flatter yourself.

Kerrie: She get people out prison. Lol she does more than her share!

Val: Lisa - i mean when it's your money u can kinda do whatever you want 🤔🤔🤔🤔 and she has charities

Stacey: The necklace is pretty but she is starting to look like Michael Jackson with the plastic surgery. They we so much prettier when they were natural. She has erased all the beauty of her ethnicity right off her face.

Sarah: Stacey - Don't disrespect Michael Jackson like that 🙄

Stacey: Sarah - unfortunately Micheal did the same. He was awesome and beautiful and truly blessed talent wise but he literally tried to erase himself. While I understand

his pain I am sad about what he did to feel accepted. Erasing diversity and individuality in the name of beauty is not ok in my book.

Angela: It's called insurance... and aside from that you don't think she could afford to buy new ones or even have new ones made?.... of course she can geniuses. Get a life trolls.

Bobbie: Kardashian-Jenners are becoming the Carnival Barkers of self promotion. Totally oblivious of the world outside their egos and bank accounts.

Robin: Has she had more work on her face ? Good thing she has money. The kids are going to need it to look like her

Alexis: Suggested alternative article title: "absolute nobody, famous for no reason, spends millions on jewelry while society crumbles into disorder with the help of her mentally ill husband"

Elliott: Absolute nobody makes hateful comment about someone they envy, and diagnose their husband as mentally ill. Do you think you're better than them because you can repeat narratives? She's actually been working on criminal justice reform. What have you done lately to help society?

Alexis: Elliott - fact: he has been diagnosed by professionals as being mentally ill. Fact: she got famous for literally doing nothing (well I guess there was a raunchy sex tape). [...] She has the same diagnosis as Kanye West, schizo-affective bi-polar disorder. She now lives independently, holds a job she is proud of and has reconnected with her family. Stay in your f**king lane.

Shane: Alexis - so you have copies of his medical records? Weird

Angela: & you think EITHER of you are worth bragging about? 🙄

Joan: Lips getting bigger by the day and not pretty

Angela: Mark - No, it's not. Its only a joke cause they got called out in it. & I stand up for what's right & against what's wrong, so if that makes me a 'thot protector' so be it.



Mark: And it's still a joke ..., chill out

Cory: 11 MILLION OUT OF WORK. OUT OF TOUCH MUCH.

84

Julie: Cory - did u stop living ur life because 11 mil people are out of work?

Rich: So she should looking after all these people? Why don't you give some of your money or start your own business and give some of these 11 million a job? Because it's not your responsibility? Not hers and anyone else's either jyst because there to lazy to find a job

Kathy: Cory - calm down

Isabella: Cory - i get what you're saying, but in reality, it's not their responsibility to make sure everyone is living comfortably.

Mary: I don't hate her. I think she's self absorbed! I really feel sorry for her children.

Mike: Who cares? Far as I am concerned, the whole family is just a bunch of non entities of absolutely no consequence. Now she is a 'law student' an overpaid, overblown industry that largely exists to make money. Bet she will not be starting at he bottom.

George: The whole incident was staged like moon landing

Ashlyn: IT WAS LOL ... SHE WAS WEARING THE RING THAT WAS STOLEN FROM HER -A FEW MONTHS AGO

Dan: the robbery was more realistic 🤖

Kristin: Does anyone in these comments know how to use proper English? Kim is doing more for the world than anyone of these haters combined. 😏

Diana: Kristin - ok so tell me whats she doing for the world other than flaunting her money left n right but shes incapable of keeing a man 😞😞😞😞😞

Candy: She looks like she needs to stop with the plastic surgeries. Her nose is so thin.

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Lamborghini-Lambo: Candy - did you pay for her plastic surgery jealous wii kill you. That is why ppl don't succeed bkz of jealous if she is doing surgery that's her money it's non of your business

Forentina: Somuch plastic surgeries .

Aramis: Lamborghini-Lambo so angry, you need to control your anger

Lamborghini-Lambo: Aramis - who me never angry for what you guys need to control your jealous that's all 😏

June: Candy - will you stop? she can do whatever she wants with her body or face but you have no right to judge her bcuz that is her life

Judith: Candy - they all became a caricature of themselves! 😏

Lori: Because the robbery was a storyline on their show just like everything else that happens to them. 🙄

Jennifer: I think that robbery was an insurance fiddle

David: Why would you even bring the robbery up, it makes it seem like it was somewhat her fault because she isn't hiding her wealth.... stop with the victim shaming

75

Theresa: Why is she and the family famous????

Tara: Yes she has money yes she could do a lot with it and feed thousands of children ect ect but why should she it's her money that she earned however. So she can do what she wants with it... why do people expect the wealthy to give give give what gives us the right to decide

what people should or shouldn't do with their own money. I don't even particularly like the Kardashians but no one should say what she should or could do with her money we could all get rid of our so called luxuries.... sky, virgin, mobile contracts slow cookers, microwaves, holidays and all live a basic life to help others but we don't..... we all have more than someone else somewhere....

Mary: Tara - you are correct. Her money, she earned it. She can do whatever she likes with her money. However, the sheer self indulgence of this is what is upsetting to some people. People are unemployed, living far below the poverty level. Children aren't getting enough to eat. Families are facing eviction. People are getting sick and dying. But, it's all good because the very rich are still able to travel and celebrate. Our state has asked us to stay home and quarantine and cancel our Thanksgiving dinners with family and friends. People expect the wealthy to give back because they have enjoyed the prosperity that alludes most of us. And, to a lot of people who are struggling, whisking your friends and family off to a tropical island for a birthday celebration and bragging about it is like a slap in the face. My personal feeling is that as long as you are so fortunate and blessed, why not give a little back to people who may not be as fortunate. Now might be a good time to practice humility and gratitude.

Tara: Mary - yes I agree to an extent but is that not our government's fault for allowing such behaviour..... not really the fault of the wealthy as if we were in their shoes would we not do the same if allowed????

10.3.6 BBC.CO.UK. The singer has previously said that Covid-19 was disproportionately affecting African-American citizens "that do not have the luxury of working from home". Beyoncé donates \$1 million to black-owned businesses

27K Reactions

5.5K Comments

Shen: everyone's life matter 😞 we need to unite and respect everyone's life... we are all the same colour on the inside. I'm sure any surgeon can confirm that!!

400

Ronat: Shen - for the millionth time... all lives matter when black lives matter. Saying all lives matter is like 2 guys running a race. One guy falls and sprains his ankle. When he is asking for help the other guy says "oh! You need help? But what about my ankle?"



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Donna: Shen - then why have people acted like black lives didn't matter for hundreds of years? Do you feel threatened suddenly? Like you might not be Mom's favorite anymore?

Taliya: Shen - true unity is helping people who aren't as privileged as you. Stop being selfish.

Ronat: Seeing a lot of white people abusing their white privilege. We see all you Karens commenting here! 😁👏

Barrie: Ronat - no. All lives matter, always did matter, always will.

Liam: Ronat - nice to see you use your racism to group all white people who have the opposite opinion together

Laura: Missed the point, entirely. 🙄

Dominique: I'm tired of people putting white people on these pedestals and making black ppl look like some kind of hopeless victims that need white saviors. I'm black and I'm privileged I live in London where I have clean water and electricity and heat and super markets. Like wtf is wrong with y'all?

John: Ok white supremacist

Christopher: Ronat - you've got a lot of hatred built up in you boyo

Ann: I am so sick of this, I have black friends (who also live in UK) who I worked with, have known for years, we have fun and we are kind to each other. Organisations and bitter toxic people with political agendas are making life impossible and separating us - rather than bringing us together.

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Johnny: "Look, Ann has black friends.. They're kind to each other. This is all just one big misunderstanding" - Nelson Mandela

Jordon: What I heard: "I have black friends, so now I'm an expert on institutionalized racism." Lol.

Joshua: Ok seriously what is wrong with you people attacking an elderly, seriously what is racist about her comment! Shes explained how she has black friends they have a good time and how we should all be brought together and that she is sick of the fact that there is so much divinity between the races and religions etc.. Her comment is in no way racist and I think some of you need to learn the definition. Definition:"Discrimination against someone for their skin colour, religion, or ethnicity" Non of which is displayed in her comment! Some of you people seriously need to have a look at your selves! If you look at this and see racism then you need get of facebook

158

for abit and go interact with the real world because alls I see is a woman with love and compassion who wants the world to come together

Mike: People who scour FB waiting to be offended, have deliberately miss interpreted what she's trying to say so they can be offended... You read hated and racism. I read love, friendship and resrespect. Different opinions, thats all.

Michelle: What are you sick of? That black owned businesses are getting support? I cannot see how you can be against that at all?

Noelle: " I have black friends" do these black friends know you're on facebook being a racist?

Steve: Michelle - it's called positive discrimination and it's wrong however it's spun. You don't fight racism with more racism.

Emma: Noelle - which part of it was racist?

Andrew: Ann - another denier..sorry to drive it to you, she is Black and she has black family not just "friends".Sorry to remind you but descendants of slaves do not have the same privilege as white people

Victoria: Noelle - 'because you have a black son' does he know you're on Facebook being a racist??

Sling your hook! I have black friends from all over the world, stating the fact, doesn't mean I'm racist. It shows that I respect them, as they are friends, no matter their skin colour or their religion or anything else for that matter.

Johnny: Victoria - you're showing off now, adding "all over the world"

Rebekah: Good I am glad she is supporting black businesses

David: you lot mentioning the riots and whatnot... i dont have an opinion on police and who they kill . It doesn't happen here in England . Criminals in general get a whooping all I'd say is ... stop committing crime reduces your risk of getting into trouble with the police massively!!!! Who knew !!!!

Rebekah: David - hey if it's going to small business I don't care if it's black or white owned.

Dave: Byron - most of the time, but not when i consider the disaster that America has become over the last few years. But I suppose if a country votes in through whatever convoluted system a man funded to actually destroy the country's democratic institutions, it should be no surprise when he actually tells armed gangs to go out and shoot people or otherwise kill or intimidate them.and I don't mean the police

David: Dave – gromit I'm talking about the people caught running out with items they'd pinched from black business owners in their own towns

Dave: David - as far as I have seen reported most of those people were out of towners. At least according to shop keepers. I wonder why you didn't mention the ones who have been terrifying neighbourhoods by driving through in convoy waving weapons and Trump flags and driving at people. Must have slipped your mind. But never mind, the country is falling apart and Trump won't accept any responsibility just as he said he wouldn't for nearly 200,000 deaths from Covid-19. Did you have any opinion on the police murdering people? Whoops getting forgetful again.

Byron: Dave - keep believing that tripe published in yellow tabloids. I recognize your posts as the fanatical inaccuracies pushed by the far left propaganda machine. You would make Goebbels proud.

Andrew: Rebekah - well its definitely not white.

Rebekah: Dave - um when you bust out the windows and doors and then loot it, it kind of is.

Mat: David - black people aren't killed by the police here in England? About 165 people have died in custody (official expression meaning under circumstances warranting investigation) in ten years, 8% of whom were black, out of a national black population of 3%. [...] And typical with the Tory party, they no longer take stats on ethnic makeup of deaths in custody involving force, but for the last two years, the figure has been 30% of deaths in custody being of blacks. Hope that helps.

Darren: Dave - what a warped view you have

Rebekah: Gary - it's her money. I can donate my money to small businesses of my choice

Gary: Rebekah - Because they are white?

Gary: Mat - And you think that is simply down to the colour of their skin?

Rebekah: Gary - doesn't matter what color they are. I can choose because it's my money. She can choose because it's her money. It's not like it's public money, that would be a problem.

Gary: Rebekah - That's the problem. To her it does matter what colour they are. Only black businesses. That's racism. If a white celebrity specifically donated to white businesses there would be international outrage. Racism isn't exclusive to one race.

Christopher: Nice to see her giving back. Small And local businesses are really suffering. Nice to see a positive story in the news too, people helping each other.

Angela: I think this is the first time I've actually seen someone DO something. In stark contrast to our professional athletes with "thoughts and prayers" as they sit on their nests of cash. 🙏

Beyoncé 🙏

330

Jamie: It's barely even a commendable act that warrants any form of gratitude. If anything it's actually quite divisive and lacks any sort of genuine willingness to help

347

Lara: Jamie - You're an All Lives Matter supporter aren't you

Bran: So giving to black businesses doesn't help and is an fact harmful? Do you actually listen to yourself talk?

Jamie: Did I mention anything about all lives matter black lives matter white lives matter or no lives matter you pair of fuckwhits

George: Jamie - and what have you done? did you even read the article to understand the background..sometimes it best just not to comment if you have nothing to contribute

Ben: Here we go again the usual suspects denigrating Beyonce because you are all feeling triggered 🙏 sure it would be the same if Stormzy said the same.... some of you hiding behind your colour prejudice and bigotry. Plenty of high profile support businesstrying to hear some of you.... When was the last time some of you supported a Black business? And know for some of you your ignorance not talking Asian, though nothing wrong with some! Exactly. Many Black people support businesses run and owned by others even if on truth some of those people have little regard for these people. Because giving to White business doesn't help and is harmful!! 🙏 The drivel when some are triggered.... Similar stupid ignorant attitudes prevail also

162

here in the UK... Well the tone is breaking get used to it ir just stay in your lane as the fool ole US would say. The irony.

Suzi: So based on this. Nobody do anything for anyone or someone will get pissy

Brian: Jamie - I'm sorry if she hasn't done as much as you for your community. Hopefully she'll catch up.

Ronald: What part of "disproportionately affected" do you not understand, mister "all lives matter"? 😏

Phil: you misanthrope!

John: oh ffs. Bore off

Lynda: Jamie - what a miserable jealous remark .

Siri: Jamie - you aren't serious. As if you can donate even \$1. Do you even know the weight of what she gave!? Even if she has all the money in the world, can't you appreciate?

Jamie: Siri - it's apparent u do not know the weight of what she gave!!

Andrew: I totally agree. Colour should not come into the equation.

Jamie: Phil - I'm exactly the opposite. I'm just smart enough to see how the rich are taking the poor for a ride and people like you are thanking them for it

Ken: Jamie - What an extremely stupid take. Just let black people succeed bro lol

Jamie: Ken - again what has colour got to do with it? I never mentioned colour

Ken: Jamie - I mean obviously the recipients of this is what it has to do with it. But I mostly meant you saying it wasn't commendable or that it would be divisive, it's a good thing and it won't be. I'm not really gonna argue proportionality relative to her wealth because I can understand people saying they don't feel like it's enough even if I don't personally fully agree. But the other ones are a little ridiculous

Jamie: I'm not sure how you can argue that it isn't divisive? I'm not debating whether or not it should be divisive I'm just pointing out the fact that it is divisive to only support business of a certain colour? Personally I couldn't care less who gets her money as long as it goes to people who genuinely need it and there is a genuine attempt to help people instead of helping themselves. [...]. They are not doing these things to help the needy they are doing it to make themselves rich off the backs of the poor and most people are thanking them for it Mx

10.4 Science

10.4.1 BBC.CO.UK. New mineral found on rock mined in Cornwall. "It's amazing that in 2020 we are adding a new mineral."

49K Reactions

2.1K Comments

Teila: I can't wait to tell my papaw about this!!! He's been a rock, gem, and mineral enthusiast his whole life, and completely self-taught, too! Now I can finally show my 85-year-old grandfather a mineral he hasn't seen before and hopefully see that youthful spark of curiosity and wonder! 🧡💎🧡

764

Lorraine: And, I understand it was dug up a long time ago and the mine is now closedso little hope of finding any more???

John: Lorraine - I can imagine people digging in their gardens to look for more! I don't know how far down you'd have to go, but it could be worth a fortune.

Lorraine: John -and lots of homes subsiding into the holes

John: Lorraine - I don't know what the rules are in Cornwall but, in County Durham, I think British Coal still retains mineral rights to any underground workings.

Ash: There is so much we haven't discovered. We humans really get into a mindset that we know it all

71

Victoria: Wow, that is so interesting. Cornwall is home to many interesting rocks & minerals. I love Serpentine & have a small lighthouse (which works!) made from it..

Bob: Is it pink on the outside and white with the word Cornwall right throughout!!!!

184

Jan: Brilliant. Does this mean they will bring back Poldark? 😄

115

Kyle: I have tried to hide the kryptonite as deep as possible but they still found it! Sorry Clark, I have done my best to protect you.

305

Andrew: I'm pretty sure I have several new substances lying in the depths of my sofa cushions

Robert: Fossilised Stilton , perfectly clear .

68

Catherine: Robert - Jones yarg, tis true ha haaaaaaaaa 😄 *this is funny if you're Cornish and know what yarg is 😄

Patrick: Not all that glitter is as not as good as gold, look at the middle East since oil it's been haven for some but a killing field for many

Nelle: If it isn't Vibranium, I don't think I care too much 😄

80

Mat: Nelle - dear Lord what did she say, Vibra.....

165

Leo: Mat - made up element/material from the marvel universe. Best left in the fantasy world

Edith: Nelle - if we don't do something we're about to see much worse things. It gets even harder when it's young children.

Gerard: Was discovered on Blackadder, everyone knows it's called Green 🤪 😊

Jack: Correct me if I'm wrong, but the possibilities are pretty much endless when it comes to mineral combinations. Sure, terrestrial conditions don't allow for all of them to form, but it's not that big a surprise that we find odd ones here and there.

Rich: Account written in 2084: "...the zombie sickness outbreak of 2021 that eventually affected 99.3% of the world's population was found to have originated in a mine in Cornwall..."

10.4.2 BBC.CO.UK. Warmth shatters section of Greenland ice shelf. A big chunk has broken away from the Arctic's largest remaining ice shelf, further evidence of rapid climate change scientists have said.

8K Reactions

2.2K Comments

Sue: The earth is a huge rock that changes without our assistance! Ice ages come and go as well as periods of dry desertification. It's all evident in the rock strata and fossil record. Yes, we humans do litter and mess up our environment but one volcanic eruption, earthquake or other periodic event will impact many times more than we humans could.

583

David: Sue - wow thanks sue, and there's me thinking I would get my info from climate change scientists with their years of fact based research when all I needed to do was ask you

Justin: Sue - Yes but not this fast, are you crazy?

Joseph: Thank you so much. You figured it out. You should write a paper so the thousands of climate scientists that spent their lives studying this stuff to tell us this information, can realize you figured it out without all their experience and they can retire.

Peter: Thanks Doc Sue!

Bella: Sue - What if it's a big hoax like some deniers say and we create a better world for nothing??

Jonathan: People like you shouldnt be teaching children.

Chris: Sue - ...the evidence is right there and still you deny it.. You say you are a teacher.. What would you tell your pupils if they asked you about climate change...would you tell them we are not responsible in any way..?

Jon: Sue - I agree. We need to burn more fossil fuels, scrap recycling & cut more of the rainforest down. It's all lies spread by lizard people.

Matt: Sue - sense !!!! We have sense, at last 🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌

Chris: Sue - it concerns me deeply that you're qualified to teach our next generation...

David: Sue - unless you have scientific credentials to back up your comment SIT DOWN, WE DO NOT CARE WHAT YOU THINK.

William: Sue - you're an expert...I'm sure you've studied climate science and published some research. You think your opinion on the matter holds weight against vast swathes of scientific evidence???

Have some humility...

Liz: So who do I believe? The 93% of climate scientists who say this is so, or some random supply teacher from Cheshire I saw on Facebook. Decisions, decisions!

Taylor: Sue - completely wrong take. You make geologists laugh. You are an abomination of a teacher.

Germer: Sue I can't help but feel that if this was the case, the qualified and specialist scientists wouldn't be warning us about climate change. But you probably know more than all of those so I'll relax

Greg: Sue - yeah thanks Sue. I'll give your stinking chat a miss and listen to environmental experts rather than a supply teacher. It's thinking like yours that's going to drive this planet into extinction.

Christopher: Sue - You simply don't have a clue what you're talking about. We've had many earthquake and volcanic eruptions, none of which raised global temps more than temporarily. As for combustion vehicles and manufacturing effluent, well that's been getting worse for almost two centuries, and has a cumulative effect, which you really ought to be aware of, The planet certainly is.

10.4.3 BBC.CO.UK. Honeybee venom 'kills some breast cancer cells'. In an "exciting" development, venom from honeybees has been found to destroy aggressive breast cancer cells.

65K Reactions

2.6K Comments

Barbrah: I don't believe there is a way to get the venom without killing the bee... SAVE THE BEES

Rachel: Absolutely. Everything about them and their honey, their propolis, pollen is all beneficial to human kind. Without bees and their amazing pollination technique we will not be. Always look after the bees. ❤️

Jeffree: Rachel - plant a pollinator garden to attract them and provide food. Bees are an example of why we need to protect and take care of nature.

Tamara: Rachel - very true just as shame the human race will eventually annihilate nature including 🥺

Daniela: Looking after bees means to leave them alone and let them live their natural life . But is nothing left for humans to use and explore .

Mary: lawns are highly overrated. I think we should take an area of yards and make a small meadow with native plants that attract butterflies, bees and hummingbirds. How beautiful that would be! It just needs to be mowed at the end of the season and reseeds itself. No chemicals!

Ian: Bees could also hold the answer to Diabetes with natural immunity to sugars. Why is this the case, fantastic when you think about it.

Trevor: Ian - because bees have a special nectar stomach when they collect it. Also nectar is mostly water hence why hives are quite warm to evaporate the water to make honey. But if they do find a cure that would be pretty fantastic.

Denise: Ian - Honey IS sugar and the body treats it the same as sugar

Steve: Ian - Type 1 not type 2 as we already have the answer for that.

Mary: Ian - problem I have with people claiming sugar gives you diabetes and salt hypertension. Is that Barbados have one of the highest % of centenarians, a group of people who eat and drink a lot of sugar and use a lot of salt, sugar only became a problem after it ceased being a money-making machine for plantation owners We are telling people not to eat a lot of salt, but wasting our pure drinking water resources and pushing desalination water and plants, knowing full well we can't get all the salt

out of seawater because it is part of its chemical makeup The thing the older generation used to do was work from sun up to sundown and walk every where, maybe that allow them to burn off all that salt and sugar

Jaci: we need to protect these bees at all costs.

100

Esther: Propolis from them are an absolutely treasure for our denfensive system. They and their honey are wonderful. We need to protect them.

Lisa: Wonderful if this treatment works its a start in the right direction. I agree honey is great for so many things i love it.

Chelsea: Lisa - it's not honey, it's venom from their stingers, but yes, bees produce a lot of great stuff!

John: Lisa - its not the honey,its venom

Keith: Lisa - lol its honey bee venom not honey

Jim: If they can figure out how to synthesize the chemicals without killing the bee's, then I'm for it. If not, then it's not worth it. No bee's should have to die to help people manage their health. We need bee's to survive. There's a balance with nature we humans have already egregiously abused, that we need to learn to maintain again.

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Shey: So one can catch a honeybee and makes it stinks a breast cancer patient or the venom is scientifically prepared?

Stuart: Let's protect our bees 🐝🐝 please, they do something positive in the world that humans don't! BLM Bees Lives Matter!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Sarah: Maybe now the government will consider the importance of the humble bee a little more carefully.

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Ron: Always the same news, scientists have found a cure for cancer and then we don't hear anything later, never seen a good result.

Elaine: Praying for all the women and men who desperately need treatment for breast cancer that this is something that may help.

Gaby: Honey bees are incredible! 🐝 Another reason why we have to protect them ❤️

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Oliver: I won't be surprised.....even honey itself is amazing, we struggled with my doggo's nose cracking and peeling, he had a bleeding nose with scabs just coming off of it, I used different things but until I got Bees lotion for him nothing helped. A shiny soft nose in less than a week.

10.4.4 BBC.CO.UK. Nasa leaks asteroid samples into space as door jams A Nasa probe sent to collect rock from an asteroid several hundred million kilometres from Earth has grabbed so much that samples are spilling out.

18K Reactions

1.4K Comments

Tony: If the solar system was formed 4.5 million years ago what was there before, remember there's no such thing as nothing.

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David: Tony - The earth was formed 4.5 billion YA. Further scientific study will piece together the information to answer your question. It's not simple, its quantum physics. Remember that's its important not to take the easy way out and start ascribing it to imaginary gods. That would be like going back 2000 years.

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Nicholas: keith Richard's was here before the universe was formed.

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Mark: Science is simply a process used to find how things work. It's not telling anyone how to live their lives, it's not telling anyone to war against those who don't believe in it, and it doesn't require you to put aside all other methodologies. So no, science is not the new religion. Years ago before the world was properly mapped cartographers would write "here be monsters" on the blank parts of the map. As those areas were explored and filled in the monsters shrank until we knew the shape of all the lands, and the monsters were shown to be what they were, myths.

In a similar way science lights the darkness of our ignorance. Unexplained mysteries were attributed to God, as science explains more, the things God is responsible for are shrinking in number. "We don't know how the universe started so I'm saying God did it" is the cry of an upset child who doesn't want to let his fantasy go. Once God was responsible for the creation of the earth, the rising of the sun and bountiful harvests (good nitrogen fixers in the soil will give you that). As science explains more the concept of God is squeezed into the ever smaller cracks of our ignorance.

Lee: Tony - a big man with a beard in the sky created it in 7 days duh.

Tony: David - ascribing to imaginary gods is the last thing I would do as Emile Zola said "Civilisation will not attain to its perfection until the last stone from the last church has fallen on the last priest". I hope we find out what was there before the universe before I leave it.

Nevis: Tony - the universe is estimated to be 13.7 billion years old.

Daniel: 4.5 million? LUL. Stop reinforcing the "creationists are idiots" stereotype.

Andrew: The solar system was formed from a cloud of interstellar dust that began collapsing due to gravity. So to answer your question, a cloud of interstellar dust. And it was 4.5 billion years ago, not million.

Tony: Nevis - how ever old it is something was there before and something will be there after, the mind boggles.

Daniel: The Solar system was formed about [looks at watch] 4.5 billion years ago from dust and gas from the guts of exploded first generation stars. The universe is about 13.7 billion years ago. There is very likely no time before the universe just the same way there is very likely no space outside the universe. (An outer universe can have its own time, though.) The scale of the universe is such that if it were a project of a sapient being interested in human affairs, that being would have to be an amazingly unambitious cosmic ant farmer.

Kido: Tony - Dude, you pose an intelligent question! But science says billions of ago there were only two gases; hydrogen and helium which combined to form stars. I'm not sure if its stupid to ask, but Helium is a noble gas and I don't understand how helium noble gas would "react"with hydrogen. I'm using the word "react" cause for the 2 gases to form an entirely new thing, they must have simply reacted. The very noble gases don't react with any other element. But even if we said that the noble gases react, how would hydrogen and helium 'gases' form a solid materials like stars? [...] I dunno if u get what I'm saying dude? 😊

Terry: Usually the question is wrong. If we ask how old or how big we have to remember that there is no such thing as time or size. A singularity exists outside of time. There isn't even a now. To ask the question is to try and measure something that can't truly be measured with our minds.

Edward: It's very interesting news . I love leeks especially spaceual ones. "To boldly go where no leek has gone before..."

Carla: What exactly does this have to do with everyday reality?

108

Yusuf: Another money wasted. Many of resources we have at hand aren't turn into use for keeping the needy alive , why asteroid rock?

Paul: Ancestors live thousands of years ago and it never bothered them, so why spend £m's on getting dust when they get it for free from my back garden?

Philipp: no, it'll be brought back to earth and we will have THE GLOB

10.4.5 BBC.CO.UK. Sex and coronavirus: What are the rules? Couples who don't live together can now meet up for sex in England - but casual sex is still banned.

13K Reactions

3.8K Comments

Ben: If you are meeting someone new, the charity says to ask if they or anyone in their household have had symptoms or tested positive. I wonder if this chat up line actually works

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Kieran: I don't know if it's the wording or the several Stella's I've downed tonight, but this whole article had me in childish giggles. Ffs I'm 32 whats going on...

212

Tracey: Kieran - I'm a grandmother and about to pee myself laughing 😂😂

Pauline: Kieran - I am in my 60s and it's the funniest thing I have read in quite a while



Nicola: Kieran - this is so funny I'm sure people will stick to it not x

174

Kelly: Im in kinks here 🤪🙈 So happy that people still have good humour in these strange times 🙏🙏🙏

James: Soon they won't be living anywhere, once the muppets in parliament are through with their experiment both will be homeless.

Sam: Some of these comments are hilarious! 🤪 absolutely ridiculous guidance. On an entirely different note, can one contract the virus from vegetables? Asking for a friend 🙄

65

Ryan: Articles like this confirm to me BBC is a joke

144

Steve: Ryan - you do realise that it's not the BBC that sets the guidelines that they are reporting on, right...?

Brendan: Ryan - "so ur government is a joke?" 🤪 I mean you're absolutely right, the UK government is a joke, and a very sick one at that, but the Trump administration is hardly a shining beacon of all that is good in worldwide politics! 🤪

Allysson: Ryan - that is what we have now a days, the true journalism has died long time ago, what we have today writing the news articles are a bunch of leftist idiots !

John: Alice - BBC is not a news agency. It is the Worlds largest broadcasting organisation.

Raquel: I had a lot of fun reading all this message Commons it made my night I had so much fun laughing for real this world is gone crazy. Fearless and Fabulous Silly, woman pointing her fingers sticker

158

Tami: I had to look up what a glory hole is from these comments wish I didn't now 🤪🤪

175

Angelica: I wonder how were they enforcing this rule 😞

Teresa: same way as they did back in the days when it was illegal to have sex with someone who is the same sex.- I Guess not, it's bloody stupid!

Warren: It's guidance not law

Andreas: Angelica - Curtains will be prohibited.

Melanie: Do people have to start checking for police officers in the room before doing the deed now 🤔

Rich: What about in a car, with 4 people maximum watching

Paul: 😂😂 Clarity required- What do they mean 'spreads through contact with HARD surfaces'. Hilarious

Chris: Masks must be worn, condoms are optional. 😂😞 Also, no sex after 10:00pm!

389

Ben: If you are meeting someone new, the charity says to ask if they or anyone in their household have had symptoms or tested positive. I wonder if this chat up line actually works

247

Giselle: As they keep trying to control the population, people see it as a joke until they actually start

149

10.4.6 BBC.CO.UK. Cosmic signal rattles Earth after 7 billion years . "It's astounding, really.

This event happened 'just before half-time' for the Universe, and now it's mechanically moved our detectors here on Earth."

49K Reactions

2.7K Comments

176

Steve: It's probably just Tinnitus my mum gets it and so do I. She hears singing I hear electrical sub station humming !

206

Charles: The universe is so complicated to understand. I mean events that took place billions years ago are reaching us now?

174

Joe: Charles - The size of the universe is mind boggling. This event happened at a distance of 7 billion light years away. As in the gravitational waves took 7 billion years travelling at light speed to reach us. To put it simply, it is difficult to comprehend how enormous the universe is. For context the light / waves emitted from our sun would take about 8 minutes and 19 seconds to reach us. So if such an event happened with the sun, that's how long it would take before we felt it on earth. Then we'd probably die 😊

Julian: It's the speed of light. It's finite. Gravitational Waves travel at the same speed.

Dadzie: Charles - With speed of light and it still took 7 billion years to reach earth.. and I presume it still continues propagating past earth???

John: Charles - what was there 13.6 billion years ago?

Patricia: it is all electrifying! in fact, everything we see in the sky is in the past. for example, the comets we see may not even exist now. that means, i think, if we were over 4.5 billion light-years away, we could observe how our planet formed at its beginning, right? 😊

Stewart: lol comets are indeed existing if we see them from earth. They come from the Kuiper Belt in our solar system. The new James Webb Space Telescope next year will show us events from th Big Bang

177

Ian: Absolutely, you see the sun as it was 8 or so minutes ago, the stars in orion you're seeing as they were hundreds of years ago.

Hollis: Yes it's complicated, you can learn more if you look up 'cosmology'

Jeff: Charles - According to relativity, time stands still at the speed of light. Moving at that speed, the second hand on the clock would not have advanced, in the least. This means that the time spent for its journey would be reduced to zero.

Paul: Amazing. Astounding . Awesome cannot describe this. Just reinforces the theory of Intelligent design.

217

Kardo: How do we know it was 7billion years ago?!! It's funny when we think we have an answer for everything .. nobody knows what's going on and we we are here all the theories are justification for our existence..

459

Dan: Kardo - we know it was 7 billion years ago because it's 7 billion light years away. The distance can be approximated using the parallax method.

229

Max: Kardo - No one claimed we have an answer to everything and saying that "nobody knows what's going on" is such a ridiculous and ignorant comment... How do you think modern technology and medicine works? By using Harry Potter spells?

Sean: Exactly, how would flat earthers like you know who believe in flying donkeys!

Rob: I want the job of making all this stuff up, must be great just thinking up stuff.

134

Chris: It's God warning the leaders of the world to stop lying to the people dem surrounding corona virus.

178

Frank: Might also have originated from Keith Richards' first guitar lesson.

Norma: Everything evolves sooner or later , just logic .,!!!

Chelsea: It's the earth groaning under the weight of sin! Turn to Jesus before it's too late! 😊

61

Natalie: This is actually a hugely fascinating thing personally. Not just how scientists know when it happened but the fact they believed something happened that was once thought impossible. Brings about some new theories and questions on black holes and how dying stars behave. I'm not even ashamed at how excited I am to follow this up 🙈

Andre: This shows us how insignificant we are in the scheme of things. We have explored less than 0.1% of the visible Universe.

162

Karen: So that's why the world's gone mental, cosmic rattlings, as good as explanation as any 👍 😊

Kelvin: Wondering if Adam and Eve knew about it, if not then which science is this that can tell us about 7 billion years ago but failing to tell us what will happen tmro. This type of science is just melting my brain cells. 😬 😬 😬

Glenn: These figures fry my brain. Tbh does it matter what happened billions of miles or years ago...

10.5 Sports

10.5.1 BBC.CO.UK. Lewis Hamilton named most influential black person in UK. Stormzy, Michaela Coel and Edward Enninfu OBE all appear on the list that honours the most powerful people of African, African Caribbean and African American heritage in the UK.

7.8K Reactions

2.6K Comments

Louise: Can't stand the bloke. Drives a fast car and he's influential? Makes a mockery of the more deserving people on that list. Where's Marcus Rashford? now that young man is someone to look up to.

404

Sarah: Louise - I love Marcus Rashford. But don't get me wrong Lewis is just as if not more charitable than Rashford. Lewis uses his platform to raise awareness of for example the climate crisis, BLM, not only does he do that he works extensively with UNICEF and has his own charity, he donates to a lot of charitable causes if you look into it

Raymond: Louise - You know what I think it is with Lewis Hamilton and you? He can speak his mind, and as much as the right wing press and haters try! You can't make him POOR again or stop him from being the richest sports person to come out of this country. He speaks up for oppressed who gave no voice! long may he keep on doing that!

Paula: Louise - I had all this yesterday on another post. Just because I said I don't like him and I find him arrogant I had some of the most vile insults thrown at me. Same as

always you are only allowed an opinion if u agree with them if not don't bother. They then throw the race card at you when it's nothing to do with that, x

Raymond: Stop your bulshit ,you can say and do things but until you have lived in a black skin, and every day you are judged on your skin colour first,you don't know or feel it! Eating jerk chicken ,attending the carnival, dancing black ? Is not the same as living it my dear!!

Sarah: Chris - sorry I laughed at your arrogance, not saying he is perfect. But what I am saying is that he uses his platform to raise awareness for example the climate crisis, it was only an example mate, no need to get your pants in a twist. There are bigger celebs that rely on likes and narcissistic tendencies, who don't use their platform to raise awareness about what's going on out there in the world, just what perfume they're releasing, or how they live such a privileged life. Atleast Lewis fights for something.

Anthony: Rashford is hated by many True Brits too. I think that Jenson "Blondie" Button needs to come out retirement to make u all happy. 😊

Noel: Why for suggesting something that's been in action since I was a lad 70 odd years ago, this country has gone to the dogs

Ruth: Louise - 🙌🙌 well said Marcus rashford is an inspiration to us all

Ernest: Anthony - what a radist comment to make!!

Simone: Gosh!!!! I can barely contain my indifference!!!! I thought he was much more famous for being a PREACHY HYPOCRITE - entirely irrespective of COLOUR!!!!

600

Kris: Strictly speaking he is not in the uk. He lives in Monaco but his achievements are peerless. He should be honoured

129

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Fliss: Really 😬 not in my eyes he aint he bought hatered an a head ache with his blm that was not influential at all alm would have been a better approach. Amazing driver thats as far as it goes for me.

Matt: Sttandard BBC positive discrimination towards him. Plenty more 'real' people who work in communities who are a role model to certain 'groups' than an overpaid go cart driver tbh

103

Denny: He's not 'black', he's mixed race and anyway what has that got to do with his 'influence'. A ridiculous and dividing post and Lewis should stop spending his life by being a colour and tbh he brings it on himself imo

Matthew: Lewis is very good at it his job but I don't see him as being that influential. I didn't see the other F1 drivers follow his BLM posturing. I'd argue that Marcus Rashford is the most influential black person in Britain as he identified his own worthy cause and is attempting to bring about meaningful change.

115

Robin: So what has Hamilton done to make him 'influential'? He is very good at self publicity, for dodging tax and for driving a car! I can't abide the man.

148

Denver: LIVES IN MONACO !! doesn't live in U.K. so how is he the most influential black person in U.K. ?? working on their premise then with everything that has happened in the last year then that honour should go to the deceased GEORGE FLOYD!

Paul: So the most influential black person in the UK doesn't live in the UK 🤔

James: He is not black!!!! For goodness sake his mother is white and father black... He is mixed race like many other. Stop appropriating people of mixed races being black. If my mother is

182

Chinese and father white, this does not make me chinese... honestly the same applies to Obama. All of a sudden their one parent of a different race is pushed aside. Ridiculous
Steph: That's a bloody laugh, he's never in the UK!!! Plus I wouldn't say influential I'd say pushy!!!!

10.5.2 DAILYMAIL.CO.UK. BREAKING: Terrible news. RIP legend. England World Cup winner

Nobby Stiles dies, aged 78

1.2K Reactions

235 Comments

Martin: Agree Joe, he was a great character and formidable defender.....but that ball was never over the line!!!

Steve: Remember seeing him when he was manager of Middlesbrough. With his players at Fratton train station 20 minutes after the final whistle ! Mid 70's true legend. I was 7 when he helped to win The World Cup. Alan Ball didn't stop running and Noddy was like a rottweiler, snapping at their legs 54 years ago . Great memories from my childhood! R.I.P.

Dave: Dynamite comes in small packages,used to pull his socks up n blindfold himself, hard as nails great player, condolences to family and friends.

Mick: Dying breed and not many left, great footballer, great character and provided some entertaining moments, RIP Nobby

Alan: They were Real Football Players in his day! RIP Nobby 🙁🙁🙁

Norman: RIP Nobby a bloody champion, they dont make them like u anymore

Coraline: Rest in Peace Nobby Stiles.. I can still see you in my minds eye rejoicing the England World Cup.

David: We will never win a the World Cup because we haven't got players like Stiles,Moore,Shilton, all hard as nails players these where real players not diving every time they are challenged no diving etc.

Lorraine: A true footballing legend with a personality to match. What he lacked in size he made up for in stature. A true red.

Larry: A true legend in football will sadly be missed RIP LEST WE FORGET thanks for the memories

Fred: What a player 90 minutes every time he played ,never nested a challenge not like 90 percent today .legend r l p 👍

Alexander: Even though I'm a Liverpool fan from the " oldish" days but respect to the legend.R.I.P

George: How sad. Another England hero leaves the planet

Rick: RIP, condolences to his family, although ive never been a fan and I absolutely despised this bloke

Daryl: RIP Nobby true legend your name will always be remembered and recited with the rest of that great team by people like me that grew up in that great era

Neil: Rip Nobby,my outstanding moment was watching him skip round Wembley with the trophy in his hand with the biggest grin on his face.when footballers were footballers.

Jo: RIP ... A true legend .. Manchester United, Preston North end and Middlesbrough player x

Baker: RIP Nobby, great player for United and England. Will always remember him dancing round Wembley in 1966.

Michael: Hard to believe he gone so relative young - an inspiration to a huge generation of young players

John: RIP Nobby Stiles - another '66 hero has left the field.

Julie: Another one of the 66 legends gone !

Barry: So sad nobby was true legend

Kevin: A rare breed....an actual English man who won the elite prize.....

Paul: RIP Nobby another legend gone

David: In first English team to win the World Cup.. in first English team to win the European Cup.. RIP Nobby

Geoffrey: Proper player no nonsense guy always in the thick of it : well deserved place in england squad 100%

10.5.3 BBC.CO.UK. Lionel Messi wins fight to trademark his logo. Man marking. ™

19K Likes

467 Comments

Maurice: Cristiano Ronaldo is the greatest player of all time.

246

Tom: Maurice - you sound like a 5 year old in a playground.... When it comes to scoring from spot.

Bard: Only his half brain fanboys will say this. But footballers, ex-footballers, legends, coaches, sports journalist, all said a 6th time Ballon d'Or winner is the G.O.A.T.

Maurice: Don't compare a club Legend with two international Trophy winner.

Maurice: Tobi - does 'scoring from spot' give Messi any international Trophy?

Howard: Maurice - There is different between playing football and only scoring goals from spot.

Barry: Penaldo Freekickious.

Ag Ag: Maurice - butt hurt , innit ?!

Andrew: Maurice - Show some respect here and Can you just keep it to yourself?No one is asking your opinion

Alan: Yeah whatever! Not every story is about CR7. You & the CR7 fan club are boring. This story is about Leo no claim to be goat leave it be

Anders: Nah, everyone knows that Paul Walsh, when he played for Pompey, was the greatest player of all time..

Mikah: Greatest play acting/diving coward ya mean 🤪

Maurice: Mikah - nope. Messi is the real coward who always retire when his team is in worst position. The retirement king.

Maurice: Messi is average when not surrounded by Barcelona. But you see cr7 same in national team or club. That's why, cr7 is best. And Messi is a just a club legend.

Christopher: Maurice - he's not even the best Ronaldo of all time.

Derek: I'd have loved to see him play in my day with big brown footie boots and a ton weight soggy leather ball. Slowed him down but feel sure he'd have managed. The lad's a genius on the field. 😊

Philip: Derek - ... do t forget the muddy pitches too

Derek: Philip - and 4 inch of snow sometimes with blue lines sprayed on. And the maximum wage 20 quid a week. Good old days them were. 🤪

Bran: Fair enough. Anywhere in the world Messi refers to Lionel Messi. Unlike Jordan, it could either mean Michael Jordan or the country Jordan or even the Jordan River. 🤪🤪🤪

Kester: Bran - this just gets messy!

Dominic: Bran - I can see you are playing with Alfabetical letters

Godson: I know many people with the name messi, Go to Cameroon and you'll meet 200.000 people with the same name

Bran: Godson - No one will dispute that, But big business will not be interested with the name Messi if Lionel Messi did not exists. You get the point? Some person will take advantage of one's popularity for his own gain. And it's not just a name

Mike: Anyone who says Ronaldo or Messi are the greatest of all time have clearly never heard of Emile Heskey. I'll have you know Heskey has scored more goals for England than ronaldo and Messi have scored for England combined!

Dan: Mike, do you really hate Heskey so much that you brought his name into a totally unrelated post just to try and mock him. He's a pretty decent guy and lacked the ego problems that most players have these days.

Mike: Dan - I'm not sure how good your English is, Sir Snowflake, but if you read the post I'm saying he's the greatest of all time

Dan: Mike, sorry. I misinterpreted it as sarcasm. I'm a big fan of Emile. His selflessness meant he didn't score as many goals as Owen and he got on with the job. I was sorry to see him go. I still don't see why you dragged him into the discussion though.

Mike: Dan - 🤪 There's a lot of the world you need to learn young one. Emile is a great guy & if he saw this he'd laugh. Don't worry about it.

Nikki: Still overpaid regardless lol

Ali: The greatest in the history of football. All hail King Leo. Congratulations!

Patrick: A few comments about greatest players...The only person to have won the world cup 3 times was a legend on and off the field - that person is the greatest footballer.

Jane: Who needs so much money? I wonder he can sleep at night. Strange world we live in ...

Milo Allcock³⁷: Surprise surprise, lost all respect for this person since he said he was bigger than the club, perhaps a broken leg or something might force him into retirement. Deserves nothing...

Matthew: Milo Allcock You sound like your surname. All Cock... 🤔🤔🤔🤔🤔🤔

66

Saul: Matthew - I tell u bro. May he traded his brain for something else... I don't wanna mention 🤔

Milo: Matthew - ha ha and you sound like one of the kids I used to go to school with about 50 years ago, grow up little boy and don't forget to throw the fish back..

Jonathan: Milo - You're absolutely right. Can't understand why you're getting abuse from these muppets. He has no class at all.

Milo: Jonathan - cheers mate, it's in one ear and out of the other.

10.5.4 BBC.CO.UK. Rashford: Hungry children still worrying about next meal. England footballer Marcus Rashford has called for further action on child hunger, urging UK ministers to offer free meals to 1.5 million more children.

8.2K Reactions

3.1K Comments

Marilyn: What an inspiring young man he is. His parents should be very very proud of him

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Gregory: Marilyn - Why? He is volunteering other people's money, that's nothing to be proud of.

³⁷ The surname of this person is mentioned in this case (the first name has been changed) for the purpose of maintaining humorous undertone of the following reaction in the comment section.

Andrew: Gregory - 😂😂😂😂 says the man who ignored the fact he put and continues to put over 20 million pounds of his own money into supporting this

Joanie: Gregory - It's our money. And I would rather it was spent on this than awarding contracts throughout the pandemic to incompetent, unqualified Tory cronies.

Helena: Gregory - can't we just appreciate the sentiment and resist trying to humiliate people? People advocating for other people less fortunate than themselves seems to be a source of fury for some. I can't for the life of me fathom why you'd take issue with that. With respect, he may well use his gains in a benevolent way and that isn't something that's necessary to share. If he were my son I'd be very proud that he's used his platform to do good. He just wants to see children fed, he probably has the kind of personality that feels deeply for others. It's a virtue.

Andrew: Gregory - well, obviously not to you, to me it makes a massive difference , but of course , if you think letting kids go hungry is ok, I can see why you would struggle with social conscience led people

Clark: Gregory - I agree with the first sentence...however, communism has no bearing on this story. A socialist economic government is one which uses taxes to benefit ALL the people, to ensure ALL the people have access to food, education, healthcare, clean water etc regardless of social status and affluence. That is what everyone should wish for it's country...a healthy, educated population.

Elaine: Trouble with people today they get there benefits & spend it on the wrong things my husband was behind some 1 in the shop yesterday a lone parent she spent £35 on scratch cards that would have done her a week shopping in lidl it's disgusting

???

Andrew: and it's still not ok to stand by and wash your hands of responsibility, even when you try to label hard working families on benefits, people made unemployed, those with health issues both physical and mental, those with addiction issues and misrepresent the working poor, as people who deliberately allow their kids to go hungry, it really isn't a pleasant human trait to be touting as a value ever

Andrew: Time this govt took some of its funds and did the right thing, wasted £12 billion on the private test and trace system, when it is going to cost a fraction of this to ensure kids don't go hungry , and yet their priorities seems skewed. Marcus Rashford has put 20 million of his own money into play, and rightly applauds the welsh govt for its lead

97

Neil: Why don't they stop some of the child benefits some parents squander.. This could be put to provide FREE Meals, Uniforms etc

69

Rich: I was one of 5 kids we weren't rich but we always had food and didn't get free school meals. How has this become the states problem?

464

Ally: Rich - you were a kid like 50 years ago, and surprise, times change.

157

Emma: The threshold for claiming free School meals should be dramatically changed during the pandemic....lots of people are on reduced hours or income. People on benefits have no change to their income (even if it is low) yet those working/self employed are not knowing from one min to the next what their next pay is going to be and some don't even know when. Free meals should be included with child benefit NOT other benefits.

190

Derren: I am all for humanity but we do need to look inwards to our own nations children's plight before we look at others. Our nations children are our future and thus I fully believe we should introduce free school meals in all public schools along with milk to ensure our nations children can prosper. Once we have no hungry or homeless people in our nation first before we look at helping other nations people. Our charity should begin at home 1st and foremost.

Caroline: Well done. I'm not a football fan and hadn't heard of him until this. What an inspiration.

Chris: I hope every child who would be hungry receives support but stop calling it 'free'

Marcus... that would mean you contributed, not public funds

63

Anne: I thought the child benefits payment was to be used for the benefit of children. Im not so critical of people having phones as they are part of society now. Use it to look up cheap meals and how to make them. If you are at home for whatever reason use the time to cook. I'm sorry but no one mentions people receiving the state pension and the everyday struggle in trying to keep heads afloat and literally watch every £

Brett: Sure why don't all footballers give a weeks wages to child hunger and that's the problem solved, they don't need all that money surely done getting 2-3 hundred thousand a week and signing on fees of millions

Matthew: Why dont he just get his team mates to give 2% of their wages each month and set up a charity . BE THE CHANGE .. oh yer words are cheap . And quotes are good for publicity and ego

Neil: Its called child neglect. The government are being held responsible for feeding kids whose parents spend the money elsewhere.

105

191

Scott: Call me an old cynic but I do wonder if Rashford does all this off his own back or does his management tell him to do it 😞

Louise: Everyone moaning on this thread about how people shouldn't have children if they can't feed them! Circumstances change and many people lose jobs so fall on hard times. Don't hear you all moaning how we pay for all the politicians lavish food and drinks with our tax money so why moan about feeding a child

Flash: Why has the government got to feed peoples kids- since when did it become their responsibility???

67

Jill: Thats a great idea could he also have a word with his team mates and ask them not to party and break the Covid rules that would help too! Nowadays it's not the parents responsibility to feed the children even though they receive child benefits,rent paid etc ,no ,the government must step in and take over ,how's it come to this.

Ali: Why does anyone have children if they can't afford to look after them themselves 🙄

Eddie: Parents responsibility NOT the government. Bet they all have iPhones etc though

73

10.5.5 INDEPENDENT.CO.UK. The Egyptian was caught on CCTV helping to diffuse a situation at a Liverpool petrol station. Mo Salah helps homeless man avoid abuse from gang before giving him £100

13K Reactions

781 Comments

Christopher: We can't all afford to hand out £100, but we can afford some food and kindness. Don't let the takeaway here be how nice Salah is (and he is)-- let it be that you can be kind, too.

291

Steve: Christopher - I collect the McDonald's loyalty cards fill them with the stickers. I'm a street cleaner so find a lot of them. And when full give the card to the homeless so they can get a hot drink

Melanie: Christopher - very well said. I hope to act on this today! We can make the world a better place with small acts of kindness

Padi: The situation can also be helped by not voting Tory. Since 2010 homelessness has increased and with the coming catastrophe of the likely combined effects of Covid-19 and Brexit things are going to get a whole lot worse. But essentially yes, give what you can, when you can directly to the homeless themselves.

Jeff: Best comment I've seen in a longtime

Joannah: "caught on CCTV"... unfortunate phrasing. Many who are just scrolling by will read the first few words and assume it was something bad.

50

Mahida: Negative language takes away from the actual essence of the story. It almost intimates that Salah was up to no good. People will see that word "caught" and immediately its "muslim, male, doing something wrong"

Kamala: Why does CCTV carry negative connotation?

Joannah: Kamala - It's more the "caught" that implies something negative. ppl r rarely referred to as being caught doing a good deed.

Kamala: Joannah - I didnt "catch" that first time. Thanks for clarifying 😊

193

James: Joannah - you commented with what I wa showing to say, why use caught? The context (at least to me) is making out he did something wrong instead or the lovely gesture he actually did

Anne: He didn't have to do anything. He could have ignored him. Perhaps that was all the money he had on him. I'd be lucky to give him a fiver, never carry much money only lose change for parking etc.

59

Chanel: Anne - the article says he went to cash point 😊

Anne: Chanel - still didn't have to do it.

Chanel: Yes, I know. Just pointing out it was not all the money he had on him. He especially went to the cash point.

Alex: It's a great gesture, but helping him get a flat could have been money better spent.

67

Mona: Alex - what did u give him?? Money isn't the issue here...a man stopped to help someone else...and offered him whatever he wanted to..to help him in anyway he can. Much more than we ever could.

121

Andy: Alex - oh Alex, on behalf of everyone, STFU

135

Deus: Alex - so why dont you get the man that flat?

59

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Miguel: Alex - Should he take him looking for flats? He found himself witnessing a scene at a gas station at night and did the right thing and then some. The council should deal with helping the homeless long term.

Lisa: Alex - none of us know what other acts of kindness and charitable works he does without getting publicity. Why just say that's nice and move on. Your judgement of him is unwarranted.

Katie: Alex - If you work for a homelessness charity then you should be well aware that it's rarely as simple as "give them a flat". There are usually a dozen reasons why someone is on the street, and seldom is it because there's no opportunity for shelter. The majority of people who are homeless purely because they lost the roof over their heads are the hidden homeless who survive by sofa surfing or are put up in unsuitable B&B's. The 'give them a flat' rhetoric is so unhelpful and dismisses the immense struggles many vulnerable people have in managing and occupying a permanent home.

Rachel: Some people are never satisfied. If Salah had ignored the situation and walked in by he'd have been called out for that (rightly so). He steps in to help, gives the guy £100 and yet here we are people still moaning. It's not up to Salah to solve the homeless problem it's up to us all.

Deus: Alex - so who gives you the right to count someone else's fortune? He gave what he thought was needed for the person at the moment. How do u know he doesnt send most of his fortune back to Egypt for people in need? Just say thank you for people like that and leave it, no need to say u could have done this o that, I could say to you - u could have worked harder and get rich and then do the stuff u thought Mo should have but its not my business is it?

Alex: Mona: I work for a homeless charity, so yes it is my full time job. Giving a homeless person £100 is nice but is unlikely to get him out of his situation.

Katie: Alex - Yet you still assumed that giving him a flat would be better? Or that it is even what the man wants? Perhaps Salah asked him if there was anything he needs, and the guy told him he could do with a new sleeping bag and a winter coat? It's very easy to judge and prescribe, but I'm surprised that someone with any experience of the sector would repeat such unhelpful misunderstandings of the situation. The thing that matters here is that a wealthy (and therefore powerful and privileged) young man of influence saw a homeless man as worthy of his kindness and attention. He gave that man some dignity, set a good example, *and* did something useful and proactive he hoped would improve the man's circumstances. There is nothing to criticise here.

Andrea: Alex - I understand and admire your passion. Sometimes, though, it's better to acknowledge the 'baby steps' rather than risk alienating people by suggesting they could have done more (which is true in this case) but equally he could have done nothing at all - which many choose to do. xx

Chris: Alex - and? So now he has to take responsibility for this guy. Maybe he only had 100 cash on him. What's he meant to do give him his gold card and come back next week once he's secured the deposit on a flat. How does he pay the rent after that initial outlay. Not many landlords will take a homeless, jobless tenant . It's not that easy is it. If homeless people are relying on rich footballers passing by to fix their situation . How realistic is that. Nah absolute nonsense.

Lilian: Alex - it's not the only thing he's done though is it? He's a big donator to charity and has helped build an ambulance station in his hometown as well as sending food to the poor there. This was a one off response to the situation he stumbled upon. He

sounds like a decent guy to me compared to some of those other overpaid Prima Donnas (Rooney comes to mind!!)!

Chris: Great story, but DIFFUSE ????. For God's Sake The Independent, get your act together

Eddy: Mr Salah was indeed fortunate that the police didn't take him in instead and incarcerate him for 24 hours in order to discover how a person "like him" was in possession of such a large amount of the Queen's currency to give away in the first place!...👍...

Bede: Lovely. But nothing compared with all the money Rooney donated to the elderly

Andy: For the linear simpleminded thinkers. The story is about courage not the money 😏

74

Adem: Well done Mo, I am not surprised. This is the example and Idol of footballers we need to see. Not them stupid ones showing off their fancy cars and fighting on a football pitch while kids are watching. Credit to you Mo. ❤️❤️❤️

Marilyn: Reading other comments I just wanted to say it's not the money that matters but the act. Mo Salah supports people in Egypt and obviously has a good heart. Thanks Mo. 😊

10.5.6 BBC.CO.UK. Argentina legend Maradona dies. Diego Maradona, the Argentinian football legend and one of the greatest players of all time, has died aged 60.

67K Reactions

5.6K Comments

David: BBC News - Strange how the BBC (who covered that "infamous game" consider him!

CHEAT would have done more accurately!....not worth our attention!

Mark: David - yet u feel the need to comment. Not worthy of attention? One of the greatest to have played and u say not worthy? Get a grip

Cristian: the best football player of the world

Steve: Cristian - you obviously didn't watch pele. Maradona isn't even the best argentine of all time 😁

Martina: BBC News Out of the core: Maradona did not die yesterday. Yesterday another sixty-year-old poor man died with a heart compromised by thirty years spent in sex drugs (alcohol) and rock'n'roll. [...] Sport needs icons that r very different from this one R.I.P.

Jenna: A true legend, the greatest of all. Rest in peace. 🌸🌸

103

Said: One of the greatest footballers in history. By far he was an influential player of the game, who was loved by both young and old across the world. Such a character! Incredible player from the greatest era in football. A very sad news. Football fraternity has lost a legend. RIP Legend

144

Deborah: So sad the way his life ended. One of the greatest players but you can everything and still have nothing. Rip sir and may you find peace at last.

70

Dave: Great player but still a cheat, that never admitted it or apologised for it.

109

Nathan: This is sad. He was a legend. I had the honor of watching him play in person during the 1994 World Cup.

Grant: Guy was an incredible player, could walk through teams on his own but he was also a massive cheat and a very flawed man sad the way his life went. Rip.

68

Paul: Wonder if he will shake the 'Hand of God' ... RIP (George Best - who died 15 years ago today WAS better though)

198

Martin: Great Player RIP - but just goes to show "Power is nothing without control " Absolute legend on the pitch not so off it, but I guess its hard to deal with the adulation of a country !

Phil: Sad news. A brilliant player yet led a very troubled life away from the pitch. My deepest condolences to his family, friends and thousands of fans. RIP Diego Maradona 🙏

Chris: Scored the greatest goal I've ever seen but was clearly a troubled individual. Will never be forgiven for what he did against us in '86 by many but one of footballs greatest ever.

105

Ian: Diego in our Thoughts & Prayers. Maradona an all time great. 1986 was his World Cup year for Argentina. Sad day in Argentina & for fans of Napoli & Barcelona who will be mourning his loss. A sad day for Football today.

Jairus: The greatest player of his generation and the greatest Argentinian player in history.

Olivia: A great player!A legend. May his soul rest in peace.

Sean: Forget the Hand Of God, forget the drugs, he was for me the best footballer I have ever seen!

105

Bill: Those of us old enough remember that 1986 goal that cheated us in the World Cup.

George: I'm English and anyone that complains about the hand of god is utterly stupid. Full speed it was a perfect headed goal and only when slowed down did anyone know. No one ever spoke about his other goal where he beat 3 or 4 england players and rounded the goalie too. Look at the mans magic over his career not one slowed down handball. RIP master.

Jake: One of the greatest of all time, the 86 World Cup is the best by one player ever. Hand of God will always be legendary.

Andrew: His period of football whilst playing for Napoli was beyond awesome! Memories of Football Italia! May God Rest His Soul 🙏

Paul: He will meet his god and have to explain why he used gods name in vain ! He was always so high, he was nearly up there most of his life.

10.6 Politics

10.6.1 BBC.CO.UK. Should free school meals to be offered to kids over the holidays? Tory MPs attack celebrity free school meal campaigners. MPs voted against a proposal to extend free school meals over the school holidays until Easter 2021.

409 Reactions

336 Comments

Andrena: Yes of course! If children qualify to be fed at lunch times during school time then why are they suddenly not hungry during holiday time? Teachers have reported for years children returning to school having lost weight over holiday periods. It's not new, but it's not right.

Gema: Andrena - it's not right no. However, what did parents do last year? What will they do when Covid is over? These parents are basically saying they neglect their children during holidays because they cannot afford to feed them. Social services should be having a field day and be able to meet all their quotas. Also, are these parents stopping all luxuries like cigarettes, alcohol, takeaways, sky or cable TV, Netflix etc. I'm sure a full belly for their kids is more important than watching sky one. And I don't say this because I'm being bitchy I know someone who has moaned that she can't feed her kids without the govt giving her the vouchers and she used the first vouchers to get fags and alcohol. I have no sympathy for parents like this

Vicki: What did parents do back in the 50s with no money at all and still feed their kids
.... Priority is key

Andrena: Vicki - They didn't feed them if they couldn't - kids went hungry then too.
Hunger is hunger whether it's in the 50's or the 2020's - it still feels the same in your
stomach as a child (or an adult). Paying bills to keep a roof over your head and heat
your home is a key priority too. Parents shouldn't have to choose eating over heating.
Long term low income has an accumulating affect on families. Month after month or
longer has a big impact.

Vicki: Andrena - I don't mind if people work but lots don't and for no apparent reason
either. Some parents shouldn't have kids . I personally think you shouldn't have kids
until you can prove you can support them . Kids are a luxury not a paycheck

Trevor: Wtf do the parents do? This is a joke.

Sarah: Vicki - sorry, thats incorrect. Back in the 50s children could go into school, during
the holidays n receive free school meals. My mum remembers some of her friends
doing this. Bermondsey London, 50s.

Pippa: Gema - the vouchers cannot be used for anything other than food products.
Definitely not on alcohol or tobacco products. The till do not accept them as payment
if those items are in the basket

Gema: Pippa - they did. It was in the papers

Pippa: Gema - unfortunately there are always some that ruin it for everyone else

Gema: Pippa - so are you prepared to accept that your 'definitely not on alcohol or
tobacco' was wrong?

Pippa: Gema - well if they were able to then that's down to the shop. They were not
"meant" to be used for those purposes. Unfortunately those that do use them for said

items are the kind of families that probably don't need them in the first place. Besides, it's not about me accepting what I wrote was wrong. As what I wrote is correct. If they have managed to use them on those items, then that's what's wrong

Gemma: Pippa - dealing with leftys a typical convo on Facebook since this whole covid BS.

Peter: I'm fully supportive of free school meals, I was on them myself from about the age of 9 till leaving secondary school and yes lunch times were usually the best meals I had, but what I don't agree with is how everyone from all different angles are jumping on a bandwagon and making this political etc, where was the all the protests for my generation (left school 95) and before, where was the anger under recent labour governments and conservative governments? It's like the recent BIM protests this is now in vogue everyone is on the bus, but offering vouchers etc won't stop hunger no matter how hard you try, yes times are hard for many genuine people and support is out there but what would the enrolment be for continuous free meals to make it fair, someone working with a large household struggling to make ends meet on one income, because they are employed children are not entitled to free school meals or someone who doesn't work gets less in benefits but with all the extra housing benefit etc in real terms have more disposable income and children entitled to free school meals.....it's a very hard situation and also needs to be sacrifice from parents, this has been a problem long before the pandemic, so yes maybe short solution whilst employment rises but long term we need to direct the help to people that genuinely need it, my mum for instance used to smoke about 40 a day.....did she cut down to 20 a day to feed me and my sister did she heck....we can't throw money at something that won't solve the problem at all and in my opinion will make it worse !!!!

Linda: I see both sides...there are truly 'some' parents who need help feeding their kids, however, the system is widely abused. I see it happening in my hometown. At some point, there needs to be a financial verification of who really needs this free stuff, & who is sucking the working folks dry! At present there are no checks to see if a family is truly in need.it's called discrimination. So, people not in need are getting all the free stuff also. Prove your family income, and/or your inability to work before qualifying for the free.

Lisa: No, I think parents are responsible for feeding their kids. They get plenty free of the packaged processed food during the year. They need some healthy home made food!

82

Will: What a horrible, horrible example of "humanity" this is...

Lisa: Lisa, parents who are poor do their best. At this time, with so many living on 1/3 of their normal wages it is all of our responsibilities to support families.

Lisa: Lisa - It's called being a responsible adult. At some point free is over. If you can't afford children you should not have them. There are jobs all over..may be you need to take a second job. U do what u have to do ..i've worked 4 jobs at one time to survive.

Berri: Lisa - we are in a pandemic, millions of parents haven't been able to go to work for 6 months, you're aware of that right?

Lisa: Lisa - and btw do you really think if you are honest that the current incumbent of no 10 and cronies are behaving responsibly by living on expenses, not paying taxes and moaning about a 150K salary? Really, ask yourself.

James: Lisa - missed the point by a mile didn't you?

Vicki: look you get plenty of hand outs in this country just feed your kids it's something no one wants to do anymore. It's utterly disgusting

Catherine: Lisa - how do you know that? What cobblers

Linda: Lisa - but then the parents won't have money for tatoos, new IPHones, drugs, fancy clothes!

Linda: I see both sides...there are truly 'some' parents who need help feeding their kids, however, the system is widely abused. I see it happening in my hometown. At some point, there needs to be a financial verification of who really needs this free stuff, & who is sucking the working folks dry! At present there are no checks to see if a family is truly in need...it is called discrimination. So, people not in need are getting all the free stuff also. Prove your family income, and/or your inability to work before qualifying for the free.

Mark: Lisa - you don't live here anymore so pish off. dont knock our system. you go bankrupt yourself if you get sick

Deborah: Let's just be honest the ones who aren't fed properly all year are the ones who's parents actually shouldn't have had them. But its not the child's fault. During this difficult time anyone who needs help should be given it. Unfortunatly peoples incomes have reduced in this difficult time or they may have been laid off, i work 2 jobs & have done for 9 years, but the jobs situation at the present is not looking good... So to advise people to take multiple jobs isn't constructive.

Claire: Yes. As a civilised society we do not condemn children for the failures or misfortunes of their parents and/or government. No child should be going hungry in 2020 Britain. Moreover, it is worth pointing out that the link between childhood nutrition and brain development is undeniable. Condemn these children now and you're basically condemning them for the rest of their lives...or to put it in words people who care about money can understand - what you spend now in food will likely be less than you pay in benefits later.....

Kevin: We all enjoy a meal together with friends. Why should we not see children do the same. All primary school children should sit down together and enjoy that social interaction. Then perhaps we would become a friendlier society.

Shirley: It seems that too many politicians these days have left university with degrees in politics, economics or law. Then gone into being a researcher for a politician. Finally becoming a politicians. Where is their life experience? Never known poverty.

Paul: This is the same group of MPs who supported the 'Eat out to help out' scheme which cost the tax payer £500 million so that wealthy people's children could eat for free, meanwhile the children of the poorest people in Britain are too expensive to feed when the bill would be £100 million.

Valerie: Perhaps someone should take away all the subsidised meals and drinks in the commons also all the other perks, a 20% pay cut to their wages to ease the suffering of these kids it may show these families they are not forgotten or alone.

Gavin: If the kids were so poor they couldn't eat - but when u see these families they have fancy trainers designer clothes and latest technology so they aren't too poor to feed their kid they are poor at prioritising what's right?

Angie: No child should go hungry. Of course we should be helping them. So many people have lost their income this year. None of this is down to children. They are the leaders of tomorrow.

Graeme: Can always find £7000 a day for consultants, it's no blame of any child so why should they suffer.

Paul: From the same MP's whose canteen & bar is subsidised by the British Tax payer? The Conservative Party... the natural home of the hypocrite since 1834

Bob: FFS. Children are starving and the fat Fu####g Tories are denying them food in a pandemic. People of the UK this is what happens when you vote conservative. "They don't

care if you die". You believed their lies and now your children will suffer. Thank yourselves for your ignorance.

Marie: RASH?????, it would be nice if all you boys in the football clubs just contribute a little part of your takings a week to feed these kids. The Government has not got a bottomless money pit to do all what we want. Just a thought, think about it RASH?

Ingrid: My Nan was so poor the school fed her (along with thousands of others) but that was in 1921. How can this country still have kids so poor that the state has to feed them? 100years later and no progress. And meanwhile MP's get a 3k pay rise? Shameful and disgusting behaviour.

Matthew: Funny how all MPs voted for a £3.400 pay rise when the whole country is knife edge, clearly they should use that pay rise to be put towards helping people the truly need help, not them self's

Irene: PARENT'S responsibilities to FEED, CLOTH and SHELTER. THAT IS THEIR DUTY!!!!!!

Daniel: So many people saying noone should go hungry. Does that mean that this scheme needs to be extended to anyone that is homeless or just on a low income living on very little

Justin: Yes, why on Earth would anyone think it acceptable to see children go hungry? It beggars belief that this should even be a question.

Denise: The number of people will to watch children starve while arguing about the rights and wrongs of being in need is depressing. Lifting people out of poverty, what ever the reason is the job of the State. Making sure no child in this country goes hungry should be something that makes the nation proud. Scotland and Wales are doing it. Policy change, education, phased changes, all are possible with political will. But the kids are hungry NOW, what is the emergency solution while the people in power argue over their subsidised gourmet meal?

Simon: If you can't afford to feed your children then don't have children. What I don't understand in this country why are people given so much benefit there better off than if they go to work. Get a job

Alexander: How much is this footballer putting in from his millionaire salary into the extended free kids meals....? just asking for a friend.

Trev: How many of these people with hungry kids still have sky TV and mobile phone subscriptions? Priorities people.

Jamie: While they get a 3 Grand pay rise, they honestly need to take a look at themselves and understand they are meant to work for the people

Jason: It's a disgrace to see in this modern age that children go hungry, the MPs that voted against this would be named and asked why they didn't support it.

Mark: You've got to love all the comments from those sat in their ivory towers. "It's the parents responsibility blah d blah", was that not what Katie Hopkins tweeted Marcus when she has a donations page? Let's blame the parents for the pandemic eh. Thousands have lost jobs, thousands were already using food banks. The government pay consultants £7k a day for a failed track and trace system, don't follow SAGE advice (we should have locked down last month but ignored). All of a sudden the government has found funding for tier 2 restricted areas (now it's affecting London). The taxpayer subsidizes both houses of Parliament £57k per week for their food and drink. They all just accepted a £3k+ payrise. For all of you saying why doesn't he pay? How do you know he doesn't? Mata and others contribute a % of their salary for other charities. At the end of the day this is about hungry children, all those with negative comments, how do you sleep at night? Hopefully it never happens to yours

Mustafa: My money is on Rash making an impact on the benches of parliament. His words and experiences should not be ignored nor disrespected by Conservative MPs. This young man had

access to support as a kid and today he is at the top of his profession. Maybe extending the scheme may support another super talented kid, from a low income family.

Emma: School should offer a foodbank voucher, and foodbanks can issue more food to feed 1/2/3 kids for lunches.

Tony: The total lack of compassion, understanding and thoughtfulness on many of these comments is astonishing and shameful. You should all hang your heads in embarrassment and disgrace. Do they have kids? Personally I think you should not be allowed to have any if you are unable to show compassion to your fellow human beings in genuine need.

Peter: When i was a kid in west london, we had the use of the playgrounds and free meals. ... Mind you that was 60 years ago..

Katie: The children should not suffer due to parents difficult circumstances

Gemma: Er YES...why we are debating this?Of course parents are responsible for feeding their kids but if they have no money for food, what are they meant to do, starve?!

Angie: With all due respect on ITV London yesterday evening a lady was interviewed saying she goes without food to feed her children. She looked very wholesome to me and didn't look like she wasn't getting food.

10.6.2 BBC.LONDON.UK. The national lockdown has begun. Here's what that means for you.

Read more: [bbc.in/3bbFA3s](https://www.bbc.com/news/health-56444444). 'CORONA VIRUS BBC NEWS. New lockdown rules for England Main restrictions from Tuesday 5 January.

4.4K Reactions

1.2K Comments

Martina: This list doesn't cover everything. For example, volunteer work is also allowed, if we keep a safe distance from other people.

Alexandra: It's awful. 830 deaths today just 1 stat, plenty of devastating news throughout , first day of lockdown again 🤔🤔🤔some shops are still open,I don't think a well known brand of coffee shops are that essential personally, people need to stay home not in bloody queues all day/evening long!!!making excuses to go grab a bloody latte 😡n hanging about in car parks!

Geeta: Getting worsen by the day, people have made this country so depressing and it's like walking and waking up in a ghost town 😡, listen to the government and follow the guidelines for your safety

Ria: Geeta - it's the government who brought you here at this point. Please don't defend them.

JJ JJ: Ria - you brought yourself here by not doing as you was asks to do in the first place

JJ JJ: Ria - stop making stupid comments then open your eyes its the British public what's made it go this far .not all of them but a Great deal off em enough said

Ria: JJ JJ - you do not know me and being against all the measurements does not make me automatically a person without respect for others and other opinions. Perhaps your parents did not teach you that.

Marilla: Oh come to East London - Whitechapel is still going like there is no pandemic at all!

Paula: So, I have no option but to household mix on public transport & at the office! Is this an actual lockdown or are they trying to cull workers?

Lori: This lockdown is confusing. Although BJ told the nation that the lockdown would immediately start, it should be voted by MPs tomorrow, then, will be legalised, or, might not

happen. I agree we need to have this, hopefully last, lockdown. However, I am absolutely fed up by BJ and his mates who don't know how to discipline themselves as politicians.

Wallace: Lockdown-schlockdown. No people. We don't have lockdown. We have guidelines but with a few things shut. Clue, yesterday in my high street a shoe shop was opened. A fashion shop, opened. Not a chain like Gap etc but an independent wee one. And this is exactly why Kings College has to now cancel all of their cancer treatments 🙄

Debs: Churches are still open. Why?? No tests when leaving or entering the country. Everything too little, too late.

Krystian: Whilst all of us are jumping through the hoops trying to stay safe and socially distanced, wrecking the economy in due course, the Southeastern cleaning staff at Charing Cross is making sure that their trains are extra safe by walking THE ENTIRE LENGTH of trains, wiping handles and door buttons with a SINGLE, DRY PAPER TOWEL...

Sophie: Colleges aren't closed actually. They're open to those with EHCPs and vulnerables for a start. Lessons are still being delivered online and if you can't work from home for any reason, you go in. Definitely not closed.

Paul: Essential workers seems to be a very loose term, I have a lorry taking away an untaxed vehicle, traffic wardens and enforcement officers (litter patrols), estate agents, garden centres open. Wtf is the sense of that?. Shut the churches mosques and temples. Shut the garden centres (who can do much in the garden at this time anyway?), why enforce parking when people are told to stay at home and not use the car?.

Maggie: Without a mass vaccination programme - this is just a little plaster that will keep falling off.

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Angus: New Zealand is covid free without a vaccine

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Paul: Maggie - is this the vaccine with no liability..it wont stop you getting or spreading the " virus" you will still wear masks n isolate..the effective % is lower than the " virus" survival rate and people are already getting sick n died off the vaccine....that vaccine

Maggie: Paul - not really here to waste times on antivaxxers who have zero idea what science is.

Maggie: No Paul, they are your opinion based on youtube and other conspiracy sources. Do u have a Phd in virology at least. Thought not.

Jorden: Maggie - do you know the science behind: 1) the virus itself, 2) the lockdowns, 3) mass mask wearing, 4) vaccine. Please, enlighten me with your scientific knowledge of said subject matters.

Paul: Maggie - never looked into anything..just blindly accept every narrative because its on tele haha..youre heading to a new world order...brainwashed woman

Maggie: Jorden - yes I do. And I have been thru covid. Obviously if you need to ask those questions you're not mature enough to learn the basics that have been around since march.

Paul: Christine - your depopulation vaccine

Jorden: Maggie - I've asked you to enlighten me with your "scientific" knowledge on those subjects. Do you have any RCTs that showcase mass mask wearing of healthy individuals slows the spread? Do you have any data showcasing the lockdown help the death rate and infection rate? Do you know the ingredients in the vaccine and the benefit/negative impact they can have? Do you know anything about the virus and the fatality rate of said virus that concludes with pushing through these measures?

Jorden: Maggie - I'm asking you to enlighten me? Please send me all the information you have. Seems like you can't get me it.... because it doesn't exist. There are ZERO

scientific RCTs showcasing mask wearing as having any benefit whatsoever - there are plenty of RCTs showing mask wearing causing the user harm though. [...] You probably also didn't know that the U.K. govt declassified covid as a HCID (no longer classed as a High consequence infectious disease) this was the week prior to our first lockdown in March.. So please, enlighten me.

Maggie: Jordan - why would I enlighten someone who just copy pastes things from antivaxx forums?

Paul: Maggie - the science told you you will still isolate and wear masks. They said it doesn't stop it...the science. Remember. TV woman

Jordan: Andrew - do I what? Yes I have plenty but haven't been asked to provide information on anything because nothing has been discussed other than calling us "antivaxx"

Laura: Alexis - good point. But I'm pretty sure they did follow rules. If they were told not to gather with other people, they didn't. If they had to wear face mask in shops, they did. However, I feel in the UK not everyone wears face mask while shopping, not everyone avoids meeting people, and there you have the problem.

Christine: Angus - how?

Maggie: Angus - New Zealand followed rules, closed air space and they do have a vaccine.

Christine: Paul - which vaccine are you talking about please?... oh depopulation vaccine, not heard of that one, who makes itdurex

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Paul: Maggie - this is their words 🤪 50,000 scientists exposed this and signed the Barrington...do you mean tell a vision scientist??? The government own your brain...do

u know the Pcr test is not a diagnosis test?? Hows that science. lay off Msm scientists...look at the others

Maggie: Paul - yes I do. Those are basics.

Maggie: Alexis - exactly. Structure. Stopping travel stopped the problem.

Paul: Maggie - anti vax. ..scientists who dont get on the governments tell a vision..youre obsessed with your tv

Haley: wow u r all so bright hey. what a shame you are not in the research team, bet everyone would be stunned by your intelligence.

10.6.3 BBC.LONDON.UK. UK-EU trade deal some way off, both sides say. Progress has not been made in certain areas, and both sides said compromise would be needed to avoid a no-deal Brexit.

1.3K Reactions

811 Comments

Claudio: I'm sure there's a mistake: I clearly remember that they said it was going to be the easiest deal in history !!! And when the remain compain said they might end up with no deal the winning side and our current prime minister said that was project fear !!! I'm sure after 4 years they are finally able to tell me what this brexit looks like ??? 🤔 🤔

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Roger: The Government have never had any intention of a deal.

Owens: Claudio - No, Claudio, ur wrong. Liam Fox said it SHOULD be the easiest deal in history, not WILL be. There's a difference

Barry: Owens and Boris said it was "oven ready" 🤔 🤔

Tony: We dont want a deal.

Anthony: Tony - so what do you expect in the way of Trade agreements after December? and who do you expect to be trading with- USA and Canada say 2022 at the earliest- New Zealand and Australia are only interested if they can get a better advantage than they already have. China is now out of the picture following Huawei - Africa and South America are deep fighting Covid - and we will be out of Europe. - Constructive answers please. Of course there is always the NHS as the government have already paved the way to sell off their services.

Claudio: Tony - that's not what the leave campaign said

Steve: Owens Nope you're wrong. Boris proclaimed this easy to do, with his 'oven ready' deal.

Paul: Claudio - Maybe everyone of you on here are blaming the govt, not a single mention of how uncooperative, stubborn, obstructive, hostile, unreasonable and petulant the EU has been throughout - and continues to be so, with absolutely no intention of achieving a deal. And we all know why - ££££££

Sharyn: Can't we be honest here? Brexit was based on race not economy. It was campaigned to deport/kick out people from Britain (the world via social media saw the Brexit campaign posters) and now you are all moaning about trade? What did you think would happen, didn't you think about what fabulous Brexit was about before you rushed in with your chauvenism?

Steve: Except Boris, following the Fox being hunted and pulled apart, in the now infamous Johnson hunt for the Tory leadership... clearly said his deal was oven ready and do-able.

Owens: Steve - That was not the original quotation, Steve, which was, "the easiest deal in history". If you mean something else, fine, but that is *not* what the original poster was talking about, and it was to that I was referring.

Dennis: Sharyn - Agree with you all the way, except that the main reason for Brexit was to protect tax dodgers and their off shore accounts which the EU are calling time on. As you say, racism was and still is a big factor. After all, let's face it, the Brits (or mainly English) just don't like Johnny foreigner do they. Sad but unfortunately true!! And I dare anyone to call me unpatriotic. I served 24 years in the Armed Forces. Patriotic yes, Nationalist no!!

Paul: In order for Boris and his chums to be able to tell us what Brexit looks like, they need to know what Brexit is. "Brexit Means Brexit" was not exactly helpful. To be honest I doubt that Boris and Govie knew what they were peddling during the referendum. They just told us what they thought we wanted to hear. Cameron just expected the result he wanted. After all, Harold Wilson managed it in 1975, but Harold Wilson was a different political operator!!

Kennedy: Paul - That comment does read a little bit like having a laugh at "Johnny Foreigner." I am surprised that someone has not reported it for moderation.

Richard: Owens - The Tories consistently said they would get a deal. That they wanted a deal. Farage said it would be good if we ended up like Norway. At one point I'm fairly certain Fox said it was more or less a foregone conclusion. Any way it doesn't matter now because the idiot PM doesn't want a deal and never has.

Louise: Paul - you seem to forget that we are the country that asked to leave. Why on earth would they give us better terms than countries who are paying for membership. You don't get something for nothing.

Look at the USA, they want to flood the U.K. with poor quality food and buy the NHS. The government isn't protecting either. Serfdom to the USA here we come and we really won't have any say. The fishing rights were sold off years ago, Brexit isn't going to change that.

Tim: Tony - you really do need a deal. Without a deal the UK will be unbelievably weak and isolated ready to be picked to pieces in future deals with any other nations.

Richard: Paul - says a xenophobic twit from Scotland

Brenda: Claudio - It SHOULD have been easy, given that our country was already fully aligned to the EU rules and regulations but they still want too much for us that actually wouldn't really be us leaving, so the EU demands have proven insurmountable so far. France wanted the status quo on fishing in OUR waters for the next 25 years. Do you think that's right? The EU wants their European courts of Justice to be the Supreme Court of arbitration in the event of any trade disputes - they don't demand that of any other country they trade with, why us? They want a 'level playing field', so that we don't soar ahead of them and trade better, more efficiently, more profitably - why should we shackle ourselves when we can do better?

Paul: Richard - Spoken like a true Remainer - in all his arrogant, patronising glory.

Paul: Richard - From Scotland? Oh dear, geography not your strong point?



Rick: There seem to be a lot of divided opinions on here. So I have a question for those who wish to leave the EU. What will happen after Brexit. Explain that to me without referring to the Empire, the Commonwealth or using the phrase "take back control". Once I know what we are getting I will support you 100 %

Richard: The whole point IS to take back control from unelected, expensive fiddling beurocrats. Started as a marketing group and now has a flag, an anthem and trying to get an army probably run by Germany - doesn't ring any bells???

Rick: Richard - sorry. "Take back control" does not tell me what it will be like on January 1st 2021. What are we taking control of, what do we not have control of now amd for the man on the street what will it mean to him? Will food cost more or less? How much will this year's holiday cost? Will it affect my job? Those are the kind of questions I need answering as does the rest of the country.

Rachel: Richard Jack-son if you don't like unelected bureaucrats, presumably you think the PM should sack Dominic Cummings, who appears to be the de facto PM but with literally no scrutiny or accountability

John: Rick - I just don't get why we should pay to trade with anyone. The idea of trade is to swap goods. So if Jim wants some carrots he offers a cabbage to Fred in return for Fred's carrots. Fred may think his carrots are worth two cabbages, so enters into a negotiation with Jim. At no point does Fred turn around and say to Bill, Mary, Frank, John et al that they have to pay him before he will even consider swapping his carrots for Jim's cabbage. So why does the British taxpayer have to fork out to be a member of the EU? Let those doing the trading (and profiting from it) pay the 350Million a week (or whatever it was) if that is what they want. I know that is oversimplifying it but I hope you get my point. Eg, we won't put import tariffs on their cars if they don't on ours. If they want to sell us their wine tariff free, then we match it with our cider/lamb/cheddar etc to the same value. And we don't hand over taxpayers money for the privilege.

Eddy: John - the only trouble with the theory is that if we sell stuff to any one in any land and it's cheaper than they can produce it they will put a tariff on it to boost the price and then we retaliate by adding a duty to some of their stuff. And so it goes on (USA v China springs to mind). So as far as I am aware the joining fee we pay is designed to get us all to stabilise the value at source (remember the butter mountain). Not saying it's ideal or anything, but leaving isn't as sweet as it's made out to be.

David: Try and find one person who can tell you how Brexit will benefit them believe me you can't find any other than the racists☹

Louise: Richard - they are elected officials, not just some randos walking in from the street. Do your home work!!!

Mark: Surrender your waters to the might of the EU and refuse the right to trade with other countries and you will be free says Michel Barnier. Errrrr - sounds fantastic, like being told you can only shop at Aldi and your neighbours are free to party in your garden whenever they choose just so your allowed out !!!

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Chris: Mark - to be honest fishing is such a minuscule proportion of our economy that anyone trying to use that to block an agreement on our side should be hanged

Ian: Chris Marks It's a miniscule part of "our" economy now because it's routinely pillaged by our EU "allies". If it amounted to nothing how come it's one of the major EU demands in reaching a deal? Maybe not to you but having been born and bred in a fishing community where you could walk from one side of a wide harbour to the other across fishing boats moored side by side, having worked in the industry myself, and having seen the endemic poverty that followed as that industry was sacrificed to EU demands, it's a different story.

David: Mark - that is absolute garbage. The UK has always been able to trade world wide even as a member of the EU . You're one of the idiots who believe all the lies and propaganda this corrupt tory government spin.

Arthur: Chris - can you not see how important the control of UK fishing waters is in this debate. Do you not know how dependent France Belgium Spain are on being able to take UK fish from UK waters. Like someone to coming into your garden and taking the flowers in your garden and then go off and sell them and make a profit, even selling back to you because you aren't allowed to pick them. Thats what it feels like to the UK fishermen who were not given permission to take enough fish to keep their boats afloat. So the quotas have been bought up by huge EU companies that make money off the shoals in UK waters. They'll still be able to fish after brexit but this time it'll be the UK doling out the fishing licenses based on sustainability. Will be able to block the factory ships from pillaging UK waters.

Robert: Chris - if its not important,,why r they desperate for our fish?

Lukas: We'll take all the money from wealthy Russian donors - say Tories EU must put sanctions on Russia after novichok poisoning - say Tories :D:D:D

Chris: look mate I understand what you're saying and clearly it's part of a negotiating position but if Boris and his band of incompetents end up with a no-deal because of fishing rights then there is definitely something seriously wrong

Michael: One of the reasons that the EU placed controls on fishing in member states waters was to protect fish stocks from over-fishing.

Brexit isn't going to magically produce tons of fish from nowhere.

Even if the UK has full control of its waters, it would still have to limit the number of boats taking fish from those waters. So don't expect harbours full to bursting with fishing boats. That's an image that will stay in the past...

David: Mark - is being a gullible clown part of your basic training? 🤡 textbook.

Chris: Arthur - don't disagree with the environmental perspective I just don't think this is a major issue in the wider scheme of things - if it's enough of a lever to get us some advantage in negotiations then that's a good thing but I think there are many more important issues for the UK

Arthur: Chris - yes I agree, however the eu ate negotiating on the basis that the UK is weak, will eventually agree to their demands in order to get a trade deal. Unfortunately Frost is strong and already the eu have given some ground over insisting the ecj will still have jurisdiction over the UK and they have also moved away from insisting the UK follow EU standards. However they want the UK to agree to non competing with the EU. No point in being a sovereign state trading independently if your next door neighbour is dictating your trading terms 😏

Paul: Whats hes actually saying is that if uk wants access to EU market, its follows rules like everyone else. Your not special, take it or leave it dumbos.

Chris: Arthur - and yet given that the non-competition agreement forms the basis of any free trade agreement that doesn't appear to be an unreasonable requirement to make of the smaller party in the negotiations 😏

Chris: Chris Marks not really the smaller partner when we import more from the EU than they do from us. The UK is the 5 th largest economy, and with the turmoil within the EU caused by it's second largest contributor withdrawing and the frugal countries now being faced with paying more and wanting to dictate to the poorer countries, it

doesn't smack of future harmony. Whilst it is beneficial to be part of a trading block which was why the UK joined the EEC the price to be part of the political EU was becoming too high and other countries within the EU are beginning to realise the same. Merkel keeps an eye on the EU but she is leaving, Italy is talking of leaving. Barnier thinks the same as you, that the UK are weak and will give in. The pandemic changed our markets and the time since the referendum has given time for the businesses that want to survive to adjust. Farmers have changed what they are growing. Before they were prevented from competing with the French as the UK was more efficient, if you think this country is going to agree the non competition element up then you've got another think coming.

Chris: Chris - show me where I said I thought the UK was weak - I said we were the smaller party, which is factually correct and a key factor in negotiating trade deals - ignoring the drivel about other countries wanting to leave, the basic requirement is a level playing field if the UK wants a trade deal - if they don't then everyone will walk away and we will be paying tariffs on everything we get from the EU as well as from countries with which we currently benefit from the existing EU trade deals - hope you enjoy hyper inflation and many of the jobs that currently produce the goods and services we sell to the EU moving to the continent 🤖

Arthur: Chris - considering a lot of manufacturing moved to the EU to support countries such as Poland in their economic growth under EU rules and they used grants from the EU fund to do so of which the UK was the second net contributor and you're ignorant... nevermind...

Arthur: most of nissan cars go to the East their home market which is why they're down sizing in Europe nothing to do with brexit, however they are moving some of the management from Spain to UK site.

Chris: Arthur - where do you get this nonsense? 80% of Nissan's UK output is sold in the EU - I'm sure the 7000 workers in Sunderland and 30,000 in the wider supply chain will be happy to lose their livelihoods in the pursuit of your nationalist vanity project - it's about time you people took ownership for this clusterf*ck, stopped trying to blame others and accepted responsibility - not that I will hold my breath

Roger: Tell you what BBC, don't bother reporting non-news; wait till there's some conclusion then tell us what it is

Glyn: Roger - Here's the news. They're no nearer a trade deal. You don't wait until the end of the season to report on sport!

Roger: Sports is a poor analogy - this is more like a big corporate demerger deal, where again nothing comes out till the end because any release of information creates disadvantage. In old Fleet Street terms this is 'dog bites man' rather than 'man bites dog' - only the latter is a story. The headline is basically 'mid-negotiation parties report that negotiations are mid-negotiation'

Alexis: But Russia told us we should leave, so....

Richard: The EU wants the rights to the uks fishing areas which the government rightly won't give. Everyone knows that Spain and France have been fishing the UK waters and not once have they been following the laws in regards to what they can and can't fish with undersized lobsters and crabs just one example. Why should the UK allow their waters to be fished dry by the EU when tee EU has so much of their own coastline to fish.

Gordon: SUNLIT UPLANDS!! Easiest deal in history! Take back control! Spend the money on the NHS instead!! The ability to sell chocolate biscuits to Australia and something with a tax haven called Liechtenstein??? I think some people have been telling porky pies don't you?

John: Our government have always wanted a hard , no deal Brexit and the public will pay the bitter cost.

Colin: John - never mind, your pension is cast iron, so don't panic

John: Colin - Im concerned for all those folk who will lose their jobs ans for the young people who wont be able to find work. Also for the lower standards on living and environmental standards that will result. Clearly the tory strategy for ensuring the plebs know their place.

Roy: John - Still Remoaning and groaning, dooming and glooming eh Sonny? Time to give it up and cease your weeping methinks. GB

John: Time to fight back and overturn the fraudulent decision.

Sandra: John - not at all. They are not fishing our waters. They have their own.Loads of it.That's just one thing they insist on. Well go to H

Daniel: John - What cost? 1.5 to 2% slower growth, but still growth, over next 5 - 7 years.

Rich: We have been wasting our time since day 1, there's no way of having a meaningful negotiation with the EU.

Anne: You ain't getting our fish!

10.6.4 *BBC.CO.UK. Scotland first in world to make period products free Local authorities in Scotland must ensure that items such as tampons and sanitary pads are available free to “anyone who needs them”.*

176K Reactions

6K Comments

Mai: If we can at least think of tampons and period pads as toilet papers. Then it would be easy to understand why these products should be available in schools, and other public buildings

4.6K

Melissa: Theyre free in my college here in Wales theres a dhelf with loads of them in boxes with paper bags & a sign to say u can take em.

148

Victoria: I work in a school and we supply sanitary products to those who need it (for free obviously) I can't believe there's still a stigma round it. When I was in high school it was seen as embarrassing by the girls and disgusting by the boys. Little has changed in my opinion.

Tony: better wash with water than using toilet paper

Mai: Tony - well, yes I agree. But for women, menstrual blood does not get out 3 times a day in a window of 30 second and stop. Blood keeps come out the whole day and night. If you use water, you would have to carry a backpack filled with water 24/7 and also that has to be connected with a tube to drain that blood to the a bucket attached to the body, and then that bucket needs to be emptied constantly. The whole system would look a bit cumbersome for a normal human being who has to function in a society. So no, water is not an option

Alma: Suzanne - I agree. Thank you Mai for trying to educate the ill-informed and ignorants here. Hope your message reaches the mass and change their mind towards the sanitary pads and accept it as a necessity.

Elizabeth: Tony - how many times have you menstruated?? I'm so curious.

Sandy: Tony - Thank GOD, we have a man here to explain periods to all of us hapless women! 😊

John: be sterilized by the intel who wants globalization and billions gone. It's facts you ignore right from their mouths for decades!

Leslie: he probably thinks we menstruate from our Urethras!

Sylvia: John - get a vasectomy!

Elizabeth: Leslie - right ?! It blows when I man wants to talk about stuff they have no clue about. I just can't deal with man like that.

Mia: John - oh John, the great expert on periods and menstrual products out when you didn't even expect him. I mean, sure, of course they want to sterilize women with sanitary products, it's not like anyone would have an issue with women just randomly bleeding on everything every now and then...

Valetta: Mai - I like where you are coming from, would add though NOT to flush sanitary products down toilets, so in that sense we should not think of them as the same. Only flush the 3 'P's!

David: Mai - why do we have to pay for toilet rolls following your logic

Mai: David - in public building, toilet papers are free. We don't go out to work and have dinner in restaurant with a toilet roll in our bag 😊

Evelyn: Mai - I do think they should be available. I thought the deal was they should be provided for free. Perhaps I misunderstood.

Mai: Evelyn - yes your understanding is correct. My comment is for those who don't think this product should even be considered free in appropriate settings. I do think that even in countries where tampons and pads are not free, they should be as cheap as toilet paper so women can buy them without having to damage their finance. I remember when I was a teen, I had to use cloths because it was too expensive to buy pads. It was humiliating when my friends saw me drying them in the sun.

50

Zack: Mai - if we think of them as money we could use them to buy groceries.

Olwen: Well done. I suffered a huge amount when I was thirteen and started my periods. Had no money to buy anything, I lived in poverty through no fault of my own and it would have made a great difference to get these products.

476

Natalie: Olwen - I grow up in poverty and always had sanitary towels provided by my mother, which was her duty as a mother.

Tara: Natalie - good for you??

Melissa: Natalie - as was your tactless unsympathetic comment

Carrie: Natalie - Wow. Unfortunately children cannot control their parents' level of income nor personal responsibility. Children still shouldn't suffer because their parents aren't like your mother.

Cathy: Natalie - Your comment added nothing to the discussion except to belittle those who had dire circumstances.

Natalie: Melissa - Your right, my comment was thought out. Which is why I believe in personal responsibility.

Natalie: Carrie - How about encouraging those so called parents to take responsibility. The dependency on the taxpayer is becoming entrenched. Next thing you know the government will be asking the taxpayer to pay for play stations because "relative poverty" prevents their parents from buying one.

Natalie: Tara - A very well thought out reply. Why did you bother ?

Toby: will you pay for "free" supplies for prostate issues?

Ian: Toby - How is your comment relevant? Menstruation is an unstoppable natural process that occurs monthly for about 40 years, to every female. Prostate cancer can be removed or treated and does not reoccur and affects about 1 in 9 men. That's the best analogy you could find in men's health? Doesn't come close to comparing. Besides, if you live in a developed country, the costs of prostate cancer will be covered by universal healthcare.

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Katie: Toby - of course! Does your prostate bleed every month and impact on your personal hygiene?

Natalie: My mother was single, out of work, with 3 kids. I still got sanitary towels. And contrary to the myths being spread on here , tampons are quite cheap. I know a well known chemist where they sell them for less than a pound.

Audrey: Ian - fyi menstruation is stoppable. Cathy - Natalie demonstrated how well those on benefits can manage and prioritise how and what they spend their limited funds on and don't need government interference. Appealing to those parents less

capable of prioritising spending won't make them change their ways. In fact it's more likely to reinforce their behaviour

Ian: Audrey - Sure, 9 months at a time or by chemical means, but not on a scale that provides relief to a significant number of women.

Karen: Natalie - and here u were dependant on the government via ur mother of course. Trouble is u have no idea how ur mother managed to supply ur sanitary products but have no issue judging others...

Natalie: Karen - She paid for them herself.

Debbi: Natalie - strikes me as a sock puppet account. #Ignore

Lori: Natalie - my mom had cancer and couldn't get out of bed. After she got cancer I took care of her. I used those brown paper towels provided by the schools.

Karen: Everyone is missing the point. The majority of women will pay for sanitary products. They are free in public buildings ie. schools, libraries etc. , so that women who can't afford them can access them without embarrassment and also women who get caught short. Of course the men commenting on here have no clue how that feels!

3K

Bernard: This should have been the policy years ago. Poor people shouldn't have to suffer for something that they can't avoid

237

Diana: I had a young apprentice in a school who I didn't work with asking for help i manged a short term situation and now I pop anonymous bits in a locker x The choice between their bus fare or essential is not great. However to have the confidence to express their needs is amazing. Until today these words were never said x But a little bit helps everyone. I wish each and every one of your families well take care  

228

525

Jul: I notice it's a lot of the men who don't seem to think they should be free.

296

Andrea: At least tax exempt and not a vat " luxury" would have been great when I was younger, well done Scotland !

602

Kenny: I think the most worrying thing here is that there is people in scotland that dont have a spare £8 a month. think the government need to help these people as everyone that lives in a country that can spend billions on furlough should be able to ensure that everyone in its country has at the very least a spare 20 pound a month to spend on anything they need. how can we have people that cant afford £8.

Kirke: I personally think tax free and free to food banks and the homeless.

Nadia: Bet if nature forced men to endure a period every month, tampons etc. would have long been free. Imagine a family of females and what it costs especially if a single mum.

288

Christine: How come we could afford them back in the sixties? Very little disposable income in my family back then.

Andrea: Well done. Note to those complaining- most women will buy their own as normal but you should also recognise that periods don't stop because your flat broke, they don't stop for homeless women so it's totally appropriate for there to be a none judgemental and embarrassment free access to essential products for those in need.

Kathy: Absolutely brilliant! I must have spent a fortune,like every other woman, over the years.What a progressive action! X

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Karl: Well, they aren't free, it's being paid for by every tax paying person. Think it's just a better idea not to tax on them, let alone a lux tax like the USA does.

Several comments by Karl were deleted, but the reactions remained public and they are presented below as an example of 'online fight'.

Lana: Karl – its the least men can do.boys get off easy, stop complainin

Lynne: Karl - there hasn't been a draft since the Vietnam war up til 73

Chandra: Karl - you've never been drafted, Karl. what are you talking about? Women have jobs. Women have the same access to mental healthcare. Do you understand how much women pay for the pink tax? Not just for sanitary products, but items they made in pink for women, that they charge extra for? Almost every woman pays for sanitary pads or tampons for 40-50 years, give or take. We not only make a lot less money, doing the same jobs, we spend more on things that are only necessities to women. If you feel you need to fight for injustices men face, have at it. All the power to you. But don't use it as a reason to deny women being treated equally. Besides, this is only free to people in need as in low or no income. Stop being a dick.

Chandra: Karl Smith men don't have periods. That right there is a freedom you take for granted. What item are men required to purchase every month for 50 yrs that women aren't required to buy?

Karl: Manwaring You can say that when you all join the draft.

Charl: Karl - men can get condoms for free. There you go 🤔 sex is a choice a period whilst ur in the middle of Tesco doing ur shop is not!

Chandra: Karl - and what do choosing safer jobs, or mental health have to do with periods? Men can chose safer jobs too. Men can choose treatment. I'm an advocate for PTSD mental healthcare. You can be one as well, if you were really concerned. Using

someone's grief as an argument against helping women in need is pretty grotesque though, especially if you don't actually care enough to do something about it.

Karl: Chandra - being treated equal? what the hell do men get for free? Women have jobs, but they tend to pick safer jobs over dangerous ones, ya same access to mental healthcare but still more men killing themselves...Every sex has something that is against them. I fight against the "pink" tax because I think it's silly to charge women extra for something thats needed, but I'm not in favor of paying for people to get them for free, I already pay for them myself, because I'm the only worker in my family.

Ben: Karl - it's not proportionately fair is it though. Sanitary products aren't cheap and are a necessity for nearly every single woman, it's not a choice.

Anthony: Karl - women tend to choose safer jobs? Mental health issues in the male world is to do with the societal bias towards men not to speak out when they struggle or getting help with their issues, its nothing to do with whether they get free essential sanitary products, nor will those who need them getting them affect men in the slightest.

Lianne: Chandra - think you should have gave up when he said he is the only worker in his family (family assuming hes got kids and wife) I'm guessing hes one of those 'the wife does nothing all day'

10.6.5 METRO.CO.UK. Are sanitary products non-essential? Really? Tesco blocks aisle selling period pads saying they're 'non-essential'. One shopper in Wales was told she was banned from buying sanitary towels by Tesco.

3.8K Reactions

1.6K Comments

Theo: Since when did we start calling them Period Pads? 🤔

Ethan: The question is. Who the hell has the right to tell members of the public what IS essential and what ISNT? What is essential to one person maybe nonessential to another. So it's up to the individual customer to prioritise what they need or dont need from a trip the store. Tesco's job and other supermarkets for that matter is to provide a service and be paid in return. That service is to have a mass amount of products readily available in one place for ease and convenience for the customer.. dictating what they should be buying is a very slippery slope, a service no body's wants or needs.

Ben: Food clothes and personal hygiene and washing and cleaning supplies anything else a get like we can live without new books for a few weeks maybe re read a old one. We cant live without food clothes to keep us warm toiletries and personal hygiene products to keep clean and stuff to keep our environment around us clean and hygienic. U can tell that this was a man. Let me guess condoms are probably banned to

Aliyah: This should be titled as "One tesco store in wherever" And this better be an isolated error cos if I need something i'll do whatever to get it
in fact every female would

169

Amber: No way, sorry but I would remove the barrier myself and get what I needed go to the tills and ask for the manager to come and join me where we can have a discussion in front of everyone why these products are non essential. I'm sure a few others would join in too.

122

Pearl: imo nothing should be classed as non essential cos for example a pot of paint, maybe the person is painting to give themselves something to do if they are stuck in, or garden equipment etc. That's my opinion

232

Maxine: They wouldn't like it if I went round shopping in there store with a trail of period blood following me. I hope other retailers and shops don't follow in there foot steps .

Myra: Go for it!

Nikkie: Maxine - this made me laugh!! Go for it! It is Halloween soon!

Maxine: I should of join that guy who went shopping in Tesco in his pants 🤡🤡

Vicky: YES! Go commando in a skirt, teach 'em hahahaha

James: Maxine - just get some beetroot sauce and spill next to aile , they soon get annoyed

Angela: Typical of Tesco, I avoid it like the plague (pardon the pun). There staff are very rude and they treat their customers like school kids.

Fiona: I really can't be bothered to argue this case anymore. I'll just drink myself into oblivion whilst bleeding all over the place. The whole scenario is ridiculous. U are equally likely to get COVID from groceries as U are from non essential items. Alcohol by the way is NOT essential.



Simone: All the reasons they have given so far don't stack up. I understand they want to be fair to businesses that sell non-essential goods forced to close, but there is nothing stopping them from getting an online version of their business going within a few days. If I have a main concern it's the mental health of those that are not as strong. I dunno, I won't go with Covid is a hoax etc. but we will have to learn to live with it for now.

Rachel: Simone - it's still not essential is it? Alcoholism is self inflicted, the choice was there.

Simone: Rachel - alcoholism is an illness, and if an alcoholic cannot get drink they will suffer major withdrawals and therefore put major pressure on our hospitals which are already overwhelmed

Hannah: a kettle would become essential if a mother who was bottle feeding her baby's one suddenly broke and she couldn't wait for one to be ordered online as it could take days to arrive. The mother needs a kettle for making the powdered milk that day! Are they actually imbeciles?????

54

Peter: I really can't understand this clothing isn't essential, kettles and toasters aren't essential but alcohol is it doesn't make sense.

Paula: If I have a choice after all this is over I will not buy from ANY supermarket that has done this, how absurd, must have been a male that made that decision!!

112

Jay: Watch out, watch out, there's a man hater about 🙄

Paula: men will zoom in on any comment about men, ooh they must be a man hater or a lesbian. It used to be the norm in the seventies, if I rejected any man I was a lesbian. A very dated and narrow view.

Sarah: Paula - it's not the supermarket it's the government

Paula: Jay - not in the slightest .

Andrew: Sarah - Tesco confirmed it was their error, and they have apologised.

Andrea: Jay - why is she a man hater? Paula - yes had the same problem in the 80s 🙄 and extremely dated! ..their poor egos can't take it !! 🙄

Vicki: Paula - yes the over privileged white men that sit in government

234

Paula: Andrea - my friend and I used to go to a well known club in the 70s 80s. We had partners but used we both used to dance. If any men approached us we weren't interested. Many many times the response was "oooh are you two lesbians then" we would then go and hold hands for a while, hilarious. Had the original post been about razors and shaving foam I would have said "must've been a woman"

Andrea: Paula - 😂😂 I can just imagine it ! and yes it's just so ridiculous how some men's egos just can't handle it !!

Derrick: Paula - Dont forget males are menstruating as well.!!!!!!!lol.

Gareth: Paula - you can't beat a bit of sexism on a Monday afternoon

Phil: Paula - good for you. I am male But I do understand the importance.

Leo: Paula - it was the Welsh Assembly that started this... they really need supervising... clowns 🤡🤡

Christina: To a man perhaps. Even then, he may be purchasing for his mum, sister, girlfriend or wife. Even clothes are essential, I mean, I'm sure if the man down the road were to leave his house without them, he'd be arrested.....especially without the underpants.

Anthony: Went to asda in blackwood today and u can buy cards,. Sanitary products, so Tesco need to catch up and fast coz they are quickly losing a hell of a lot of customers ffs

Kelly: This was a mistake that was corrected, I live in wales and have had no problem buying any toiletries in my local stores.

Dan: Tesco have advised their customers to reschedule their 'time of the month' for after the 17 day lockdown. This'll help to avoid disappointment 😞

80

Peter: Dan - how can a woman change there time of the month i wood question tescos logic to this

Dan: Peter - it's just a joke mate. Not factual whatsoever.

Peter: Dan - oh i see sorry misunderstood the humor

Dan: Peter - no worries mate. Always been a fan of dry humour. Just trying to make people smile in a really crap time!

Peter: Dan - yeH its cool bud i know what ya mean i been off work due to covid an the pubs shut so im off the door now for way too long an so bored at home

Dan: Peter - similar for me. Lost my job start of September thanks to Covid. We'll bounce back though mate. Keep ya chin up pal 👍

Michael: Clearly used the UK taxing listings without thinking as sanitary are (wrongfully) in the non-essential bracketing. This has always been known and campaigned against (period poverty campaigns) for a long time.

David: Calm down everyone of course banning sale of feminine hygiene products is stupid it was a simple isolated mistake in one branch of Tesco which, I am sure could have been sorted by management of the store there and then hardly newsworthy.

53

Chris: Decisions taken at site level by people who have never had an ounce of authority in their life now think they have carte blanche to bully the customers.

Charlotte: That's fine if they ever did this in my locals I would go in mid period and sit on the floor with no pants on

10.6.6 BBC.CO.UK. Why are migrants crossing the English Channel? Rising numbers of migrants are trying to cross the English Channel in dinghies and other small boats - but where are they coming from and what happens when they get to the UK?

4.7K Reactions

Mac: Because French don't want them.

85

Simon: Mac - but nor do we

Malcolm: Mac - no because we are too soft and let France and Germany walk all over us. Let's send them back

Alexandra: Mac - FR and GE take on roughly 2-3 times more asylum seekers than UK although their population is only 1-1.25 times bigger.

Rian: Mac - Bro what about Humanity 🤔🤔🤔

Angela: Rian - OK, how many do you have living with you in your house, because of 'humanity'? We'll wait.

Malcolm: it doesn't matter what language they speak we don't want them anymore let someone else take them in. Why should we keep them

Zobs: To charge their phones. 😏

1.3K

Davie: For the free food and money sometimes called benefits

123

Gillian: Zobs - what a disgraceful thing to say. You should be ashamed of yourself

86

Susan: Zobs - you can't spell THEIR

67

Jules: Zobs - I was going to say....To get to the other side 🤖🤖🤖

Rita: Zobs - You're sick

Richard: there's plenty of space, we've only had 9600 immigrants cross the channel this year, but through their incompetence our shambles of a government let nearly 60,000 people die from Covid, so we have space for about another 50,000 immigrants....

Davi: Zobs - Because their countries and homes have been destroyed by us and the USA, so stop whinging about refugees, we have created them, you stupid people.

David: your grandchildren will be ashamed of you for what you've just written here, and rightly so.

Kingsley: Jeez calm down guys he was just joking 😊

Harold: that was funny and not funny

Douglas: For the rascism free ambience?...not amongst these dicks.

Frankie: The hatred for your own (human) race... wow, you must really hate yourself.

Richard: Zobs - SADD0,GO AWAY TROLL.

Joey: Why are they risking their lives? Because they are desperate and in need of safe harbour.

191

Ian: Joey - yeh that France is a war zone.

107

Mark: Joey - you do know WW2 ended in 1945 and France had been a safe country since then don't you

73

Andrew: Joey - I've been to France a few times. Such a terrible country. Full of war, famine and pestilence. I'll never go back

James: Except mainland Europe is safe, they do not need to make this journey.

Jan: We are no safer than the rest of Europe. Either they are after hand outs, or to get to family already here, or they are a trojan horse... Whatever the reason, they are ILLEGAL immigrants.

Jay: I don't care what people say, what kind of parents with even tiny amount of sense would risk their children on a crossing like that! And the common response 'you don't know how desperate they are' doesn't justify risking your child's life.

957

Pat: They belong in the first safe country they arrive in when leaving a war zone...when trying to enter the UK illegally the last country they left are responsible for them

130

Joan: For benefits they should stay in the first safe country so is France not safe

429

Robert: Joan - they can't stay in France for fear... rival religions. Look it up.

Jamie: Robert - so it's fine for them to come here and take our rights away from us is it?? Get *****d!

52

Valerie: For the benefits and it needs to stop

115

Debbie: Because they take priority in everythingall put on a plate ...they don't have to prove they are looking for work every week most of them don't speak English so come to UK If will feel like u won the lottery !

144

Tony: Is it because we give too much free stuff to those that don't work? If we stopped giving free stuff away maybe they would stop coming 🙄

239

135

Joel: It's horrible to hear that children have died, but it's really not our fault.

113

Joe: The Island of St Kilda is unoccupied, let the immigrants go there.

Kate: There's no jobs here and already struggling through the pandemic so we don't need yet more continuing pressure on our already limited resources

67

Bev: They come for benefits and put in london hotels. What about sorting out our own homeless people out first

67

Cath: Because the risk of crossing is lesser than the risk of not crossing

Elaine: Our children are going hungry. We should be looking after them with free meals.

Karen: They get everything houses that our own kids will never get, why else do you think?

Why don't they stay in France if they are So desperate for safety 🇫🇷🇫🇷🇫🇷

Giney: They know they will receive everything they need by default and if somebody protests against that, the society will crucify the author. False charity.

181

Maurice: Maybe that footballer can have them in his back yard. You know the one. He's giving out free meals out for kids.

Alan: Free hotels food and live like kings. while we all are losing our jobs and most don't have a pot to piss in. What a joke !

James: Mainland Europe isn't a warzone, stop them making this journey.

107

Bob: Bit of a stupid question BBC news. Free bank free house free everything

240

Mat: Because the government gives them everything lets them get way with everything as well

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