Meta brings Muse AI agent to UK

LEVEL C1


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I. WARM-UP

1. How much would you trust an AI to run errands for you?
2. What app do you use most for shopping, and why?
3. When a new tech product launches, what makes you try it—or wait?

II. KEY VOCABULARY

regulator
an authority that makes and enforces rules for an industry

watchdog
a body that monitors companies to protect the public

permission
agreement to let someone do something

approval
official agreement to go ahead with an action

glitch
a small error or fault in a system

encrypted
protected by code so only approved people can read it

autonomous
able to act or improve by itself without human help

rollout
the planned release of a product to the public

III. READING

Meta has launched Muse, its AI assistant, in the UK. In the US, it ranks high on Google and Apple's free app stores and has millions of downloads. The tool works as a standalone app and inside WhatsApp.

Users can name Muse, chat with it, and hand over tasks such as booking travel, buying presents, chasing refunds or managing the school calendar. Meta says Muse cannot send an email or make a purchase without your approval and only connects to apps you allow.

A separate security agent monitors its actions against your permissions. UK regulators are watching the rollout.

The data watchdog, the Information Commissioner's Office, says Meta has entered a voluntary monitoring and reporting scheme, while the Competition and Markets Authority says it secured fairer terms and conditions.

Reuters also reported glitches in testing, including a reminder about a message on the encrypted app Signal and a message with random bank balances. Meta says most issues came from a bug that is now fixed.

Meta has also signed deals with Marks & Spencer, Currys, Sainsbury's and easyJet so Muse can navigate their sites and apps more easily. Muse runs on Muse Spark, from Meta's "super intelligence" lab. Meta's chief AI officer, Alexandr Wang, has raised concerns about powerful autonomous systems.

Reading text adapted from reporting by **The Guardian***: "Meta launches Muse in UK – the AI agent...". Original article linked at theenglishwire.com.*

IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Where does Muse run, besides as its own app?
2. What kinds of tasks can users ask Muse to handle?
3. What safeguards control Muse's actions, according to Meta?
4. Which UK bodies are overseeing the launch, and what did each secure?
5. What testing problems were reported, and how did Meta respond?

V. DISCUSSION

1. Would you let an AI buy presents for you? Why or why not?
2. Which task would you hand over first, and which would you keep?
3. How much oversight should regulators have over AI agents?
4. Do early glitches matter if a company fixes them quickly?

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Three-word phrasal-prepositional verbs

Verb + particle + preposition: three-word verbs like put up with, come up against, get away with. They're inseparable: the object comes after the preposition (put up with delays; not put delays up with).

"Some sellers **get away with** *vague 'AI-powered' claims."*

"Students **ran out of** *time in the exam."*

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

Circle the correct option in each sentence.

1. Teams came up (with / against) delays in testing. _____
2. Shoppers won't put up (for / with) dark patterns. _____
3. The watchdog must keep up (with / to) fast rollouts. _____
4. Meta must (face up to / face to) the issue. _____
5. Users look forward (to / for) new app deals. _____

Teacher's Notes

TEACHERS ONLY

These notes are designed to help you get the most out of this lesson. Please do not share this page with students.


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I. LESSON GUIDE

- Timing: 8–10 minutes warm-up, 10 minutes vocabulary, 12–15 minutes reading, 10 minutes comprehension, 10 minutes grammar, 12–15 minutes discussion.
- Pre-teach or check: glitch, watchdog, encrypted, rollout, regulator. Highlight how these appear in context before reading.
- Run the reading once for gist, then again for details on safeguards and regulators. The story raises data-protection concerns, so let students answer about public examples rather than personal data if they prefer.
- Differentiation: stronger students summarise the regulators' roles in two sentences; others match claims to institutions using the text.

II. DISCUSSION FACILITATION TIPS

1. Poll the room first, then pair sceptics with fans to compare one benefit and one risk.
2. Get quick lists in pairs, then ask each pair to justify one choice they would keep.
3. Elicit one concrete duty regulators have from the text, then push for limits and trade-offs.
4. Take quick examples of famous tech bugs, then ask if trust depends on speed or transparency.

III. EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Debate: In two teams, propose a user rule Muse should follow and defend it in 90 seconds.

Writing: Write a 100-word user guide paragraph explaining Muse's safeguards to a new user.

IV. ANSWER KEY OVERVIEW

Comprehension questions: short factual answers from the text.

Grammar exercise: Three-word phrasal-prepositional verbs

Discussion: open-ended. Accept any reasonable ideas supported by examples and reasoning.

Answer Key

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IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Where does Muse run, besides as its own app?
   Inside WhatsApp as well as a standalone app.
2. What kinds of tasks can users ask Muse to handle?
   Booking travel, buying gifts, chasing refunds and managing school calendars.
3. What safeguards control Muse's actions, according to Meta?
   User approval is required, a security agent monitors actions, and access is permission-based.
4. Which UK bodies are overseeing the launch, and what did each secure?
   The ICO set up a voluntary monitoring and reporting scheme; the CMA secured fairer terms and conditions.
5. What testing problems were reported, and how did Meta respond?
   A Signal reminder and random bank balances appeared; Meta says a bug caused this and it was fixed.

V. DISCUSSION

Open answers. Accept any reasonable ideas supported by examples and reasoning.

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Key point: Verb + particle + preposition: three-word verbs like put up with, come up against, get away with. They're inseparable: the object comes after the preposition (put up with delays; not put delays up with). (Examples constructed.)

"Some sellers **get away with** *vague 'AI-powered' claims."*

"Students **ran out of** *time in the exam."*

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

Circle the correct option in each sentence.

1. Teams came up (with / against) delays in testing. **against**
2. Shoppers won't put up (for / with) dark patterns. **with**
3. The watchdog must keep up (with / to) fast rollouts. **with**
4. Meta must (face up to / face to) the issue. **face up to**
5. Users look forward (to / for) new app deals. **to**