Snapchat considers teen time limits after Meta deal

LEVEL B1


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I. WARM-UP

1. How much time do you spend on social media each day?
2. What tools can help parents guide teens online?
3. Have you tried any smart glasses or wearable tech?

II. KEY VOCABULARY

implement
to start using a plan or rule in a real and practical way

settlement
a legal agreement that ends a dispute, often with payment and actions

default
the normal setting that happens if a user does nothing

muted
made quiet or turned off so you do not get alerts or sounds

stringent
very strict and difficult to avoid or ignore

timeline
a planned period or date for when something will happen

litigation
the process of taking legal action in court

addictive
making people want to keep using something again and again

III. READING

Evan Spiegel, the CEO of Snap, told the BBC that the company would be willing to implement time limits for teen users of Snapchat. He said a maximum daily limit could be an important step for the industry. His comments follow Meta's recent legal settlement with US states.

Meta agreed to pay $12.7bn and, by default, set a two-hour daily limit for teens, with muted notifications during school hours and night-time blocks. It denied wrongdoing. Under the deal, it will add even more stringent limits and pay a further $5.3bn if YouTube and TikTok adopt similar rules.

Spiegel did not give a timeline. All the major platforms face litigation over allegations their apps are addictive and harm youth mental health. Separately, Snap announced new Specs smart glasses with AI features, priced at $2,195 in the US and £1,995 in the UK.

Reading text adapted from reporting by **BBC News***: "Snapchat open to putting time limits on teens...". Original article linked at theenglishwire.com.*

IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What change did Evan Spiegel say Snap is willing to consider for teens?
2. What two key actions did Meta agree to in its settlement?
3. How much extra will Meta pay if YouTube and TikTok adopt similar rules?
4. Did Spiegel give a timeline for any changes at Snap?
5. What are the US and UK prices for Snap's new Specs?

V. DISCUSSION

1. Should social apps set default time limits for teens? Why or why not?
2. Who should decide teen screen time: parents, platforms, or governments?
3. Do time limits reduce harm, or do other tools work better?
4. Would you try AI smart glasses at these prices? Why or why not?

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Present perfect vs past simple

Use the present perfect (have/has + past participle) for actions connected to now, often with since or so far. Use the past simple for finished actions at a specific past time, such as yesterday or last year.

> *"Meta **agreed** to pay $12.7bn and, by default, set a two-hour daily limit for teens."*
>
> *"Many parents **have asked** for stricter app rules since the lawsuits began."*

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

Complete the sentences with the correct verb form (present perfect or past simple).

1. My sister (have) ___ a Snapchat account since she was thirteen. _____
2. Officials (announce) ___ the measure yesterday. _____
3. Meta (deny) ___ wrongdoing when it settled with US states. _____
4. Spiegel (not/give) ___ a timeline so far. _____
5. When Spiegel (speak) ___ to the BBC, he discussed time limits. _____

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 and comprehension, 8–10 minutes grammar, 10–12 minutes discussion.
- Pre-teach: implement, settlement, default, muted, stringent, timeline. Elicit examples of app limits students know.
- Run the reading in two passes: gist (what Snap may change), then detail (numbers and measures). The topic involves youth mental health; begin discussion in pairs and allow students to speak about public news, not personal stories.
- Differentiation: stronger students summarise Meta's measures in 40 words; others match figures to measures before answering questions.

II. DISCUSSION FACILITATION TIPS

1. Start with a quick poll of the room, then pair students to trade one benefit and one risk.
2. Board three options (parents/platforms/governments). Put students in trios to rank and justify them.
3. If answers stall at "yes, it helps", prompt for alternatives like education, design, or sleep mode.
4. Set a budget line: students list two features that would make the glasses worth it to them.

III. EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Debate: In two teams, prepare and deliver 2-minute arguments for or against default teen time limits.

Writing: Write a 90-word public notice from Snap explaining a new default time limit for teens.

IV. ANSWER KEY OVERVIEW

Comprehension questions: short factual answers from the text.

Grammar exercise: Present perfect vs past simple

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

Answer Key

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IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What change did Evan Spiegel say Snap is willing to consider for teens?
   Time limits on how long teens can use Snapchat.
2. What two key actions did Meta agree to in its settlement?
   Pay $12.7bn and set a default two-hour daily limit with muted alerts and night blocks.
3. How much extra will Meta pay if YouTube and TikTok adopt similar rules?
   $5.3bn.
4. Did Spiegel give a timeline for any changes at Snap?
   No, he did not give a timeline.
5. What are the US and UK prices for Snap's new Specs?
   $2,195 in the US and £1,995 in the UK.

V. DISCUSSION

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

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

Complete the sentences with the correct verb form (present perfect or past simple).

1. My sister ___ a Snapchat account since she was thirteen. **has had**
2. Officials ___ the measure yesterday. **announced**
3. Meta ___ wrongdoing when it settled with US states. **denied**
4. Spiegel ___ a timeline so far. **hasn't given / has not given**
5. When Spiegel ___ to the BBC, he discussed time limits. **spoke**

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Key point: Use the present perfect (have/has + past participle) for actions connected to now, often with since or so far. Use the past simple for finished actions at a specific past time, such as yesterday or last year. (Example 2 constructed.)

> *"Meta* **agreed** *to pay $12.7bn and, by default, set a two-hour daily limit for teens."*
>
> *"Many parents* **have asked** *for stricter app rules since the lawsuits began."*