

Week 1

## #2 Meet the man who 'invented' the #hashtag

**Skills/ Objective: Listening and Speaking**

### PART 1: Before you watch...

#### Preparatory questions

1. Which social networking sites do you use (e.g., Facebook, Instagram, Weibo, WeChat, Snapchat)? Do you post on those social working sites? Do you use hashtags when you post? What are the hashtags about? Why do you use hashtags?

#### Vocabulary

1. Hashtag (noun): a word or phrase with the symbol (#) that is used on social media to identity subjects or particular topics
2. Pitch (verb): to try to persuade someone by saying how good something is
3. Nerdy (adjective): someone who is unattractive or lacks social skills. It can also be used to describe someone who is extremely interested in something, especially technology.
4. Dejected (adjective): sad and disappointed
5. Participate in (verb): to join
6. Versatile (adjective): be able to use for many purposes

### PART 2: Video

In this video, Chris Messina, the inventor of hashtags talks about the reasons why he invented hashtags. The video also covers how hashtags were used in some current affairs.

**Meet the man who 'invented' the #hashtag** (*click the link to watch the video*)

<https://www.cnn.com/2018/04/30/chris-messina-hashtag-inventor.html> (3:23 minutes)

(Source: CNN news)

### PART 3: Pronunciation

/ʃ/ (hashtag) is a consonant. Learn how to pronounce this sound here:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/spanish/features/pronunciation/vlessconst8>

#### **PART 4: Let's discuss!**

1. Do you use hashtags when you post? What languages do you use when you write hashtags (Chinese, English, or mixed codes (Chinese and English)? What are the hashtags about? Why do you use hashtags?
2. Based on your observation on social media, what do you think are some of the functions of hashtags?
3. Do you use hashtags to search for topics of your interest? What are they?
4. Choose an online public post on social media that includes at least one hashtag (e.g., a celebrity's Facebook page). Post the link on your comment and brief introduces how the author uses the hashtag(s) on his/ her post. (For example, what languages do the author use when they use hashtags? Why are the hashtags about?) Do you use hashtags like him/her?

#### **PART 5: Learn further**

**1. YouTube video: What is a Hashtag?**

This video introduces what a hashtag is and how hashtags are used on social media (e.g., Instagram, Twitter, Facebook).

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-4A\\_wdR0Ukc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-4A_wdR0Ukc) (3:29 minutes)

#### **Chat online!**

[Moodle Chat Room](#)

12 September 2018 (Wednesday) 5:30 – 6:30 pm

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