



Familiarize Yourself With These Twitter Terms

If you have heard about the social media platform called [Twitter](#), you may have also heard some of the following terms. It's important to understand their definitions and abbreviations before creating an account and joining conversations on Twitter. Please note the following list may change as the social media environment continues to evolve.

1. **Tweet:** When you post a message on Twitter. Tweets are limited to a total of 280 characters.
2. **Quote Tweet:** When you share another user's tweet and add your two cents. A quote tweet shows a screenshot of the original tweet, with your tweet above it.
3. **Retweet (RT):** When you share someone else's tweet, word for word, to your followers.
4. **Modified retweet (MT):** When you manually share someone else's tweet to your followers and make slight edits, usually to shorten the tweet.
5. **Like:** When you click the heart icon below a tweet.
6. **Timeline:** The stream of tweets that populate on the homepage of your Twitter account. The more Twitter users you follow, the more robust your feed will be. Ads may also appear here.
7. **Handle:** Your username (e.g., @ACCinTouch)
8. **Tag:** When you reference another user in a tweet by including his or her handle. You can tag multiple users in one tweet. Depending on a user's personal settings, he or she will be notified when his or her handle is mentioned in a tweet. This allows for users to respond quickly to ongoing conversations.
9. **Direct Message (DM):** A private message with another user. You can decide whether to accept a DM from any Twitter user, or only from those you follow.
10. **Hashtag (#):** Starting with #, hashtags are used to connect users within related conversations (e.g. #ACC18, #Cardiology). Including a hashtag in a tweet allows others to find your tweets. If you click on a hashtag in a user's tweet, you will see all the tweets that mention it in real time — even from people you don't follow. It's very important that you understand the definition(s) of the hashtag(s) you use before including any in your tweets. The ACC's Hashtag Reference Guide includes more than 100 different cardiology- and ACC-related hashtags. [It can be accessed here.](#)