

YouTube Comments Not Loading? Here's How to Fix It

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Quick answer

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YouTube's comment section plays a key role in fostering community interaction, helping viewers share opinions, give feedback, and connect with creators. But when comments fail to load properly, it can ruin the entire viewing experience. If you're facing issues like a blank comment box, spinning loaders, or disappearing replies, this article will help you understand why it happens and how to fix it. Let's go step by step.

Common Issues You Might See

YouTube comment problems can appear in different ways. Below are some typical issues users face:

- Endless Loading Wheel: Comments never appear, just a spinning circle.
- Blank Comment Section: Nothing is displayed at all, no comments or loading icon.
- Comments Not Visible to Others: You see your own comments, but others don't.
- Replies Not Loading: Main comments appear, but reply threads won't open.
- Only Top Comments Appear: You see pinned or top comments, but the rest don't load.

These issues can happen on mobile apps, desktop browsers, smart TVs, and even tablets.

Why YouTube Comments Don't Load

There isn't one single reason behind this problem. It could be a local device issue or something from YouTube's side. Here's a breakdown of the most common causes:

Technical Causes

- Corrupted Cache or Cookies: Stored browser data may be outdated or broken.
- Slow Internet Connection: Weak networks might prevent full content loading.
- Browser Extensions: Some plugins interfere with YouTube scripts.
- Outdated App or Browser: Old versions might be incompatible with newer features.
- YouTube Server Issues: Downtime or backend changes can temporarily break comment features.

Account and Settings-Related Causes

- Restricted Mode Enabled: This filters comments to keep content family-friendly.
- Video Marked as "Made for Kids": YouTube disables comments for these videos.
- Creator Settings: Some videos or channels may have comments disabled or restricted.
- Shadow Filtering: YouTube sometimes flags and hides comments without user notice.

How to Fix YouTube Comments Not Loading

Let's go through the step-by-step solutions, from the simplest to more advanced ones.

Basic Fixes

1. Refresh the Page or App
 - On browser: Press 'F5' or click the refresh icon.
 - On mobile: Close and reopen the app.
2. Try Incognito/Private Mode
 - This disables extensions and uses default settings.
 - If comments work here, an extension or cookie might be the issue.

Clear Browser Data

1. Clear Cache and Cookies (Chrome example):
 - Go to: 'Settings -> Privacy & Security -> Clear browsing data'
 - Choose All Time for best results.
 - Select "Cookies" and "Cached images/files", then click Clear data.
2. Remove YouTube-Specific Site Data:
 - Settings -> Privacy -> Cookies and site data -> See all site data -> Search "YouTube"
 - Remove all shown results.

Check Extensions

1. Disable all browser extensions.
 2. Reload the YouTube page.
 3. Re-enable them one by one to spot the troublemaker.
- Some ad blockers or script blockers are known to interfere with YouTube's functionality.

Fixes for Mobile App Users

1. Update the YouTube App
 - Open App Store (iOS) or Play Store (Android) and install any pending updates.
2. Clear App Cache (Android)
 - Go to: 'Settings -> Apps -> YouTube -> Storage -> Clear Cache'
3. Reinstall the App
 - Uninstall YouTube and reinstall it from the app store.
4. Disable Restricted Mode
 - Open YouTube App -> Tap Profile -> Settings -> General -> Turn off Restricted Mode.

Check Network & Connection

1. Test Internet Speed
 - Use sites like Fast.com or Speedtest.net
2. Switch Network
 - Try switching between Wi-Fi and mobile data.
3. Restart Your Modem/Router
 - Power off for 3 minutes and restart.
4. Turn Off VPN or Proxy

- Some VPNs can block or misroute YouTube data, causing partial loading.

For YouTube Creators

If you're a creator and your comments are missing:

1. Check Video Settings

- Go to YouTube Studio -> Select video -> Edit -> Show More -> Comments and ratings
- Ensure "Allow all comments" is enabled.

2. Review Channel Defaults

- Studio -> Settings -> Community -> Defaults -> Ensure comments are not held for review or turned off.

3. Verify Content Type

- Videos marked "for kids" (under COPPA rules) won't have comments.

4. Moderation Settings

- Too-strict filters may block all or most comments.
- Adjust filters under: Settings -> Community -> Automated filters

Additional Tips & Best Practices

- Keep Software Updated: Regularly update browsers, apps, and OS for best compatibility.
- Minimize Browser Add-ons: Only keep essential extensions to avoid script interference.
- Clear Cache Monthly: Prevents buildup of corrupt or outdated data.
- Use Reliable Internet: Consider a wired connection or high-speed Wi-Fi for smoother loading.

Expert Insight

YouTube's commenting system is constantly changing to tackle misuse while encouraging healthy discussion. According to experts, temporary disruptions may happen during backend changes, feature tests, or moderation upgrades. In fact, YouTube has even experimented with hiding comments by default in its mobile apps, making users click a "Comments" button to view them, part of its effort to clean up toxic comment sections.

When All Else Fails

If nothing works:

- Check DownDetector for YouTube-wide outages.
- Wait for Fixes: Some bugs resolve on their own after internal updates.
- Send Feedback to YouTube: Click your profile icon -> Help & Feedback -> Send Feedback.

Conclusion

YouTube comments not loading can be caused by anything from a minor cache issue to complex backend changes. Whether you're a regular viewer or a creator, following the methods outlined above should help you bring back the comment section and continue engaging with the community. Staying updated, practicing digital hygiene, and understanding how YouTube's moderation works will go a long way in preventing future issues.

References

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