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Train drivers in skirts after shorts ban

11th June, 2013

http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1306/130611-train_drivers.html

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THE ARTICLE

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130611-train_drivers.html

Male train drivers in Sweden have come up with a novel way of staying cool in the summer heat after their company banned the wearing of shorts. The men are instead wearing skirts to work as they do not appear on the list of banned clothing that forms the uniform code for rail staff. The drivers' employers, the transportation company Arriva, instilled the ban on shorts after it took over operations in January. Drivers had previously worn them for years when conditions got hot in the summer. The mercury in the drivers' cabin can reach 35 degrees, which is ten degrees above what the World Health Organisation deems to be a comfortable working environment.

Arriva's communications manager Tomas Hedenius told a local newspaper that the company did not mind men wearing skirts. He said: "Our thinking is that one should look decent and proper when representing Arriva and the present uniforms do that. If the man wants to wear a skirt, then that is OK." He added: "To tell them to do something else would be discrimination." Driver Martin Akersten said his passengers didn't seem to have any problems with his uniform. He said: "Of course people stare at you a little when you are on the platform, but you just have to put up with it....So far no-one has said anything." He added: "I don't mind as it's more about comfort." Arriva is set to discuss its dress code again later this year.

Sources: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-22828150>
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2338252/Male-train-drivers-Stockholm-wear-skirts-cool-shorts-ban.html#ixzz2VkshRRG0>
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/stockholm-male-train-drivers-get-around-shorts-ban-in-hot-weather-by-wearing-skirts-8650585.html>

WARM-UPS

1. SKIRTS: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about skirts. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

train drivers / staying cool / banned / shorts / uniform / hot conditions / comfortable / communications / decent / proper / discrimination / passengers / platform / dress code

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. UNIFORM: Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

Uniform for...	Most important thing	Why?	Alternative?
Schoolteacher			
Students			
Train driver			
Soldier			
Bank clerk			
Nurse			

4. DRESS CODE: Students A **strongly** believe men in any job can wear a skirt; Students B **strongly** believe not. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. MENSWEAR: Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the most OK things for men to wear/have at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- skirt
- lipstick
- stiletto shoes
- hair band
- wedding dress
- pink trousers
- designer handbag
- T-shirt with bows, ribbons & sequins

6. COOL: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'cool'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130611-train_drivers.html

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- | | |
|--|-------|
| a. All Swedish train drivers (male and female) must wear skirts to work. | T / F |
| b. Male drivers are allowed to wear skirts but not shorts. | T / F |
| c. Drivers have never been allowed to wear shorts. | T / F |
| d. The WHO says 25 degrees is best to work in. | T / F |
| e. The train company has no problem with men wearing skirts. | T / F |
| f. The company said smartness to the public was most important. | T / F |
| g. A train driver said he disliked people staring at his skirt. | T / F |
| h. The rail company will not talk about its dress code again. | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article.

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| 1. come up with | a. rather than |
| 2. novel | b. tolerate |
| 3. instead of | c. considers |
| 4. instilled | d. correct |
| 5. deems | e. original |
| 6. proper | f. gaze |
| 7. discrimination | g. implemented |
| 8. stare | h. rules |
| 9. put up with | i. thought of |
| 10. code | j. prejudice |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. come up with a novel | a. the list |
| 2. staying | b. at you a little |
| 3. they do not appear on | c. operations in January |
| 4. after it took over | d. cool |
| 5. The mercury in the drivers' cabin | e. up with it |
| 6. communications | f. code |
| 7. one should look decent | g. way |
| 8. people stare | h. and proper |
| 9. you just have to put | i. can reach 35 degrees |
| 10. dress | j. manager |

GAP FILL

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130611-train_drivers.html

Male train drivers in Sweden have come (1) _____ with a novel way of staying cool (2) _____ the summer heat after their company banned the wearing of shorts. The men are (3) _____ wearing skirts to work as they do not appear on the list of banned clothing that (4) _____ the uniform code for rail staff. The drivers' employers, the transportation company Arriva, instilled the (5) _____ on shorts after it took over operations in January. Drivers had (6) _____ worn them for years when conditions got hot in the summer. The mercury in the drivers' cabin can (7) _____ 35 degrees, which is ten degrees above what the World Health Organisation (8) _____ to be a comfortable working environment.

reach
forms
deems
in
ban
up
previously
instead

Arriva's communications manager Tomas Hedenius told a local newspaper that the company did not (9) _____ men wearing skirts. He said: "Our thinking is that one should look (10) _____ and proper when representing Arriva and the (11) _____ uniforms do that. If the man wants to wear a skirt, then that is OK." He added: "To tell them to do something else would be (12) _____." Driver Martin Akersten said his passengers didn't seem to have any problems with his uniform. He said: "Of course people (13) _____ at you a little when you are on the platform, but you just have to put (14) _____ with it...So far no-one has said anything." He added: "I don't mind as it's more about (15) _____." Arriva is set to discuss its dress (16) _____ again later this year.

up
decent
comfort
discrimination
stare
mind
code
present

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130611-train_drivers.html

- 1) Male train drivers in Sweden have come _____ of staying cool
 - a. up with a novel way
 - b. uppity with a novel way
 - c. upped with a novel way
 - d. ups with a novel way
- 2) the list of banned clothing that forms _____
 - a. the uniformed code
 - b. the uniformly code
 - c. the uniform code
 - d. the uniforms code
- 3) instilled the ban on shorts after it _____
 - a. took over operation
 - b. took over operations
 - c. took over operational
 - d. took over operatives
- 4) The _____ drivers' cabin can reach 35 degrees
 - a. mercurial in the
 - b. mercury in the
 - c. miracle curry in the
 - d. mercenary in the
- 5) the World Health Organisation _____ comfortable working environment
 - a. seems to be a
 - b. teems to be a
 - c. means to be a
 - d. deems to be a
- 6) the company did _____ wearing skirts
 - a. not mend men
 - b. not mined men
 - c. not mind men
 - d. not minder men
- 7) Our thinking is that one should _____ when representing Arriva
 - a. look decent and properly
 - b. look decent and proper
 - c. look decent and propeller
 - d. look decent and prosper
- 8) To tell them to do something else would _____
 - a. be discrimination
 - b. be discriminating
 - c. be discriminatory
 - d. be discriminated
- 9) Of course people _____ little when you are on the platform
 - a. glare at you a
 - b. stare at you a
 - c. swear at you a
 - d. spare at you a
- 10) Arriva is set to discuss its _____ later this year
 - a. dressed code again
 - b. dresses code again
 - c. dress code again
 - d. dressing code again

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LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130611-train_drivers.html

Male train drivers in Sweden have come (1) _____ of staying cool in the summer heat after their company banned the wearing of shorts. The men (2) _____ skirts to work as they do not appear on the list of banned clothing that (3) _____ for rail staff. The drivers' employers, the transportation company Arriva, instilled the ban on shorts (4) _____ operations in January. Drivers had previously worn them for years when conditions got hot in the summer. The (5) _____ cabin can reach 35 degrees, which is ten degrees above what the World Health Organisation (6) _____ working environment.

Arriva's communications manager Tomas Hedenius told a local newspaper that the company (7) _____ wearing skirts. He said: "Our thinking is that one should (8) _____ when representing Arriva and the present uniforms do that. If the man wants to wear a skirt, then that is OK." He added: "To tell them (9) _____ would be discrimination." Driver Martin Akersten said his passengers didn't seem (10) _____ with his uniform. He said: "Of course people stare at you a little when you are on the platform, but you just have to put up with it....So (11) _____ anything." He added: "I don't mind as it's more about comfort." Arriva is (12) _____ code again later this year.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130611-train_drivers.html

1. What adjective described the way of staying cool?

2. What list is a skirt not on?

3. When did the ban on shorts come into effect?

4. For how long had drivers been wearing shorts in summer?

5. What does the WHO say is a good working temperature?

6. What does Arriva think of male drivers in skirts?

7. How should drivers look, according to Arriva?

8. What would it be if Arriva said no to men in skirts?

9. What do some passengers do when they see a male driver in a skirt?

10. What will the company discuss later?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130611-train_drivers.html

1. What adjective described the way of staying cool?
 - a) noble
 - b) novel
 - c) knowledgeable
 - d) newish
2. What list is a skirt not on?
 - a) a poll of comfortable work clothes
 - b) a shopping list
 - c) things a man can wear
 - d) the list of banned clothing
3. When did the ban on shorts come into effect?
 - a) after January
 - b) last week
 - c) March
 - d) 2011
4. For how long had drivers been wearing shorts in summer?
 - a) 3 months
 - b) two-and-a-half hours
 - c) years
 - d) a lifetime
5. What does the W.H.O. say is a good working temperature?
 - a) 35 degrees
 - b) 25 degrees
 - c) 30 degrees
 - d) 20 degrees
6. What does Arriva think of male drivers in skirts?
 - a) it wants all male drivers in skirts
 - b) it said skirts must be black
 - c) it doesn't mind
 - d) it said OK, but no miniskirts
7. How should drivers look, according to Arriva?
 - a) comfortable
 - b) modern
 - c) very professional
 - d) decent and proper
8. What would it be if Arriva said no to men in skirts?
 - a) discrimination
 - b) a waste of time
 - c) a matter for the courts
 - d) embarrassing
9. What do some passengers do when they see a male driver in a skirt?
 - a) stare
 - b) smile
 - c) whistle
 - d) look away
10. What will the company discuss later?
 - a) selling male skirts
 - b) its dress code
 - c) special skirts for men
 - d) a new timetable

ROLE PLAY

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130611-train_drivers.html

Role A – Happy male train driver

You don't care about the ban on shorts. Tell the others three reasons why. The most important thing for you is to be cool in the summer heat. You think a skirt is much cooler than shorts and are happy to wear a skirt. You will also follow the company dress code. Tell the other driver he is over-reacting.

Role B – Angry male train driver

You are furious that your company has banned male drivers from wearing shorts. Tell the others three reasons why. You want all men to go on strike until shorts are not banned. You can't believe the other driver is happy. Tell the rail boss the company is harming your human rights.

Role C – Rail company boss

You think ban on shorts is perfectly acceptable. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell the angry driver that a skirt is cooler in hot weather than shorts. Tell him bank workers and other professionals do not wear shorts to work. Tell the passenger wearing shorts is not a human right.

Role D – Human rights passenger

You are angry with the rail company for banning shorts. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell the boss (s)he does not care for the health of the drivers. Other workers wear shorts in hot weather. Shorts are smart and professional looking. Encourage a drivers' strike to bring back shorts.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130611-train_drivers.html

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'shorts' and 'skirt'.

shorts	skirt
---------------	--------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• up• appear• January• conditions• 35• WHO	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• manager• look• tell• seem• stare• code
---	---

SKIRTS SURVEY

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130611-train_drivers.html

Write five GOOD questions about SKIRTS in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

SKIRTS DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'ban'?
- c) What do you think about what you read?
- d) Why do you think the company banned shorts?
- e) Will the drivers be cooler in skirts?
- f) Do you think it's OK for male train drivers to wear skirts?
- g) Should the company make special skirts for men?
- h) How might skirts for men and women be designed differently?
- i) What looks smarter, a skirt or trousers?
- j) In what other jobs might it be better for a man to wear a skirt?

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SKIRTS DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- b) Who decided skirts are for women and trousers for men?
- c) How "revolutionary" was it for women to start wearing trousers?
- d) What might be beneficial for men wearing a skirt?
- e) If a man was told "no skirt" in another job, would it be discrimination?
- f) Why did women start wearing skirts way back in history?
- g) Are skirts more practical than trousers?
- h) Will men wearing skirts become common in the future?
- i) What questions would you like to ask one of the drivers?
- j) What do you think his answers might be?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

MULTIPLE CHOICE - LANGUAGE

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130611-train_drivers.html

Male train drivers in Sweden have come (1) _____ with a novel way of staying cool in the summer heat after their company banned (2) _____ wearing of shorts. The men are instead wearing skirts to work as they do not appear on the list of banned clothing that forms the uniform code for rail staff. The drivers' employers, the transportation company Arriva, (3) _____ the ban on shorts after it took over (4) _____ in January. Drivers had previously worn them for years when conditions got hot in the summer. The (5) _____ in the drivers' cabin can reach 35 degrees, which is ten degrees above what the World Health Organisation (6) _____ to be a comfortable working environment.

Arriva's communications manager Tomas Hedenius told a local newspaper that the company did not (7) _____ men wearing skirts. He said: "Our thinking is that one should look decent and (8) _____ when representing Arriva and the present uniforms do that. If the man wants to wear a skirt, then that is OK." He added: "To tell them to do something else would (9) _____ discrimination." Driver Martin Akersten said his passengers didn't seem to have any problems with his uniform. He said: "Of course people (10) _____ at you a little when you are on the platform, but you just have to put (11) _____ with it....So far no-one has said anything." He added: "I don't mind as it's more about comfort." Arriva is (12) _____ to discuss its dress code again later this year.

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|----------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. | (a) over | (b) down | (c) in | (d) up |
| 2. | (a) a | (b) its | (c) not | (d) the |
| 3. | (a) distilled | (b) instilled | (c) tilled | (d) milled |
| 4. | (a) operatives | (b) operation | (c) operations | (d) operational |
| 5. | (a) Mars | (b) earth | (c) mercury | (d) solar |
| 6. | (a) deems | (b) teems | (c) reams | (d) seems |
| 7. | (a) mend | (b) mind | (c) matter | (d) figure |
| 8. | (a) proper | (b) prosper | (c) prosperous | (d) properly |
| 9. | (a) do | (b) be | (c) act | (d) appear |
| 10. | (a) stair | (b) store | (c) stare | (d) star |
| 11. | (a) on | (b) down | (c) up | (d) all |
| 12. | (a) get | (b) met | (c) let | (d) set |

SPELLING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130611-train_drivers.html

Paragraph 1

1. a vleon way of staying cool
2. men are neasdti wearing skirts
3. the rnfuoim code
4. spyivlrueo worn them for years
5. the myeucrr in the drivers' cabin
6. working oteirnmnevn

Paragraph 2

7. mticaionmsucno manager
8. one should look ndecte and proper
9. something else would be ntocasdniriimi
10. rgesessapn didn't seem to have any
11. people sreta at you
12. it's more about ofocmtr

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130611-train_drivers.html

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () previously worn them for years when conditions got hot in the summer. The mercury
- () deems to be a comfortable working environment.
- () in the drivers' cabin can reach 35 degrees, which is ten degrees above what the World Health Organisation
- () on the list of banned clothing that forms the uniform code for rail staff. The drivers' employers, the transportation
- (**1**) Male train drivers in Sweden have come up with a novel way of staying cool in the summer heat after their company
- () proper when representing Arriva and the present uniforms do that. If the man wants to wear a skirt, then
- () company did not mind men wearing skirts. He said: "Our thinking is that one should look decent and
- () company Arriva, instilled the ban on shorts after it took over operations in January. Drivers had
- () anything." He added: "I don't mind as it's more about comfort." Arriva is set to discuss its dress code again later this year.
- () people stare at you a little when you are on the platform, but you just have to put up with it....So far no-one has said
- () his passengers didn't seem to have any problems with his uniform. He said: "Of course
- () banned the wearing of shorts. The men are instead wearing skirts to work as they do not appear
- () Arriva's communications manager Tomas Hedenius told a local newspaper that the
- () that is OK." He added: "To tell them to do something else would be discrimination." Driver Martin Akersten said

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130611-train_drivers.html

1. with way cool up novel staying Come a of.

2. wearing their of company shorts banned the After.

3. The skirts men to are work instead wearing.

4. for them worn previously had Drivers years.

5. The the can in cabin 35 mercury drivers' reach.

6. mind The men company wearing did skirts not.

7. is decent that one Our should thinking look.

8. Of you course a people little stare at.

9. I more don't about mind comfort as it's.

10. later Arriva is set to discuss its dress code again.

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130611-train_drivers.html

Male train drivers in Sweden have come up with a *book / novel* way of staying cool in the summer *hot / heat* after their company *banned / binned* the wearing of shorts. The men are *instead / rather* wearing skirts to work as they do not appear *on / at* the list of banned clothing that forms the *uniform / uniformly* code for rail staff. The drivers' employers, the transportation company Arriva, *distilled / instilled* the ban on shorts after it took *under / over* operations in January. Drivers had previously worn them for years when conditions got *hot / heat* in the summer. The mercury in the drivers' cabin can reach 35 degrees, which is ten degrees above what the World Health Organisation *deems / seems* to be a comfortable working environment.

Arriva's communications manager Tomas Hedenius told a *locally / local* newspaper that the company did not *mend / mind* men wearing skirts. He said: "Our thinking is *this / that* one should look *decent / descent* and proper when representing Arriva and the *currant / present* uniforms do that. If the man wants to wear a skirt, then that is OK." He added: "To tell them to do something else would *be / do* discrimination." Driver Martin Akersten said his passengers didn't *seem / seam* to have any problems with his uniform. He said: "Of course people *stare / staring* at you a little when you are on the platform, but you just have to put *out / up* with it....So far no-one has said anything." He added: "I don't mind as it's more about comfort." Arriva is *get / set* to discuss its dress code again later this year.

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130611-train_drivers.html

M_l_ tr__n dr_v_rs _n Sw_d_n h_v_ c_m_ _p w_th _
n_v_l w_y _f st_y_ng c__l _n th_ s_mm_r h__t _ft_r
th__r c_mp_ny b_nn_d th_ w__r_ng _f sh_rts. Th_ m_n
r _nst__d w__r_ng sk_rts t_ w_rk _s th_y d_ n_t
_pp__r _n th_ l_st _f b_nn_d cl_th_ng th_t f_rms th_
_n_f_rm c_d_ f_r r__l st_ff. Th_ dr_v_rs' _mpl_y_rs,
th_ tr_nsp_rt_t__n c_mp_ny _rr_v_, _nst_ll_d th_ b_n
_n sh_rts _ft_r _t t__k _v_r _p_r_t__ns _n J_n__ry.
Dr_v_rs h_d pr_v__sly w_rn th_m f_r y__rs wh_n
c_nd_t__ns g_t h_t _n th_ s_mm_r. Th_ m_rc_ry _n th_
dr_v_rs' c_b_n c_n r__ch 35 d_gr__s, wh_ch _s t_n
d_gr__s _b_v_ wh_t th_ W_rld H__lth _rg_n_s_t__n
d__ms t_ b__ c_mf_rt_bl_ w_rk_ng _nv_r_nm_nt.

_rr_v_'s c_mm_n_c_t__ns m_n_g_r T_m_s H_d_n__s
t_ld _l_c_l_n_wsp_p_r th_t th_ c_mp_ny d_d_n_t m_nd
m_n w__r_ng sk_rts. H_ s__d: "_r th_nk_ng _s th_t
n sh__ld l__k d_c_nt _nd pr_p_r wh_n r_pr_s_nt_ng
_rr_v_ _nd th_ pr_s_nt _n_f_rms d_ th_t. _f th_ m_n
w_nts t_ w__r _sk_rt, th_n th_t _s _K." H_ _dd_d: "T_
t_ll_ th_m_ t_ _d_ s_m_th_ng _ls_ w__ld b_
d_scr_m_n_t__n." Dr_v_r M_rt_n _k_rst_n s__d h_s
p_ss_ng_rs d_dn't s__m t_ h_v_ _ny pr_bl_ms w_th h_s
_n_f_rm. H_ s__d: "_f c__rs _p__pl_ st_r_ _t y__ _
l_ttl_ wh_n y__ _r_ _n th_ pl_tf_rm, b_t y__ j_st h_v_
t_ p_t _p w_th _t...S_ f_r n_ _n_ h_s s__d _nyth_ng."
H_ _dd_d: "_d_n't m_nd _s_t's m_r_ _b__t c_mf_rt."
_rr_v_ _s s_t t_ d_sc_ss _ts dr_ss c_d_ _g__n l_t_r
th_s y__r.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130611-train_drivers.html

male train drivers in sweden have come up with a novel way of staying cool in the summer heat after their company banned the wearing of shorts the men are instead wearing skirts to work as they do not appear on the list of banned clothing that forms the uniform code for rail staff the drivers' employers the transportation company arriva instilled the ban on shorts after it took over operations in january drivers had previously worn them for years when conditions got hot in the summer the mercury in the drivers' cabin can reach 35 degrees which is ten degrees above what the world health organisation deems to be a comfortable working environment

arriva's communications manager tomas hedenius told a local newspaper that the company did not mind men wearing skirts he said "our thinking is that one should look decent and proper when representing arriva and the present uniforms do that if the man wants to wear a skirt then that is ok" he added "to tell them to do something else would be discrimination" driver martin akersten said his passengers didn't seem to have any problems with his uniform he said "of course people stare at you a little when you are on the platform but you just have to put up with it...so far no-one has said anything" he added "i don't mind as it's more about comfort" arriva is set to discuss its dress code again later this year

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1306/130611-train_drivers.html

Male train drivers in Sweden have come up with a novel way of staying cool in the summer heat after their company banned the wearing of shorts. They are instead wearing skirts to work as they do not appear on the list of banned clothing that forms the uniform code for rail staff. The drivers' employers, the transportation company Arriva, instilled the ban on shorts after it took over operations in January. Drivers had previously worn them for years when conditions got hot in the summer. The mercury in the drivers' cabins can reach 35 degrees, which is ten degrees above what the World Health Organisation deems to be a comfortable working environment. Arriva's communications manager Tomas Hedenius told a local newspaper that the company did not mind men wearing skirts. He said: "Our thinking is that one should look decent and proper when representing Arriva and the present uniforms do that. If the man wants to wear a skirt, then that is OK." He added: "To tell them to do something else would be discrimination." Driver Martin Akerstén said his passengers didn't seem to have any problems with his uniform. He said: "Of course people stare at you a little when you are on the platform, but you just have to put up with it.... So far no one has said anything." He added: "I don't mind as it's more about comfort." Arriva is set to discuss its dress code again later this year.

HOMework

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about men wearing skirts. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. UNIFORMS: Make a poster about uniforms. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. DRIVERS: Write a magazine article about the train drivers wearing skirts. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and those who think drivers should wear shorts.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to the rail company boss. Ask him/her three questions about the company's dress code. Give him/her three of your opinions. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

a F b T c F d T e T f T g F h F

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| 1. come up with | a. thought of |
| 2. novel | b. original |
| 3. instead of | c. rather than |
| 4. instilled | d. implemented |
| 5. deems | e. considers |
| 6. proper | f. correct |
| 7. discrimination | g. prejudice |
| 8. stare | h. gaze |
| 9. put up with | i. tolerate |
| 10. code | j. rules |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. Novel
2. The list of banned clothing
3. Some time after January
4. Years
5. 25 degrees
6. It doesn't mind
7. Decent and proper
8. Discrimination
9. Stare a little
10. Its dress code

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

1. b 2. d 3. a 4. c 5. b 6. c 7. d 8. a 9. a 10. b

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)