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Level 4

Trial of 'female' traffic signals starts in Australia

9th March, 2017

http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1703/170309-traffic_signals-4.html

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Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1703/170309-traffic-signals-4.html>

Ten traffic signals in an Australian city now have images of red and green people in dresses. The signals are part of a trial gender equality campaign. The Minister for Women said trial was to increase the number of images of women in public places. She said: "There are many small, but symbolically significant ways that women are excluded from public space." She wants the city's signals to have equal numbers of male and female figures.

There has been a mixed response to the signals. Critics call them unnecessary and a waste of taxpayers' money. The city mayor said: "I'm all for doing anything we can for gender equity, but...this sort of costly exercise is more likely to bring [ridicule]." Others said it was political correctness gone wrong. Social media users asked why the female image has a dress, when many women wear trousers. Others said the money should have helped people in need.

Sources: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-australia-39188096>
<http://www.smh.com.au/lifestyle/news-and-views/female-traffic-lights-in-melbourne-receive-mixed-response-20170307-gusjp7.html>
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-03-07/green-female-crossing-signal/8331320>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1703/170309-traffic-signals-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Ten traffic signals | a. space |
| 2. The signals are part of | b. campaign |
| 3. gender equality | c. in an Australian city |
| 4. increase the number of images | d. figures |
| 5. symbolically significant | e. numbers |
| 6. excluded from public | f. of women |
| 7. have equal | g. ways |
| 8. male and female | h. a trial |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| 1. There has been a mixed | a. money |
| 2. Critics call them | b. correctness |
| 3. a waste of taxpayers' | c. wear trousers |
| 4. The city | d. unnecessary |
| 5. more likely | e. in need |
| 6. political | f. response |
| 7. many women | g. to bring ridicule |
| 8. the money should have helped people | h. mayor |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1703/170309-traffic-signals-4.html>

Ten traffic signals in an Australian city now (1) _____ red and green people in dresses. The signals are (2) _____ gender (3) _____. The Minister for Women said trial was to increase the number of images of (4) _____ places. She said: "There are many small, but symbolically (5) _____ that women are excluded from public space." She wants the city's signals to (6) _____ of male and female figures.

There has (7) _____ response to the signals. Critics call them unnecessary (8) _____ taxpayers' money. The city mayor said: "(9) _____ anything we can for gender equity, but...this sort of costly (10) _____ likely to bring [ridicule]." Others said it was political correctness gone wrong. Social media users asked why the (11) _____ a dress, when many women wear trousers. Others said the money should have helped (12) _____.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1703/170309-traffic-signals-4.html>

Ten traffic signals in an Australian city now have images of red and green people in dresses. The signals are part of a trial gender equality campaign. The Minister for Women said the trial was to increase the number of images of women in public places. She said: "There are many small, but symbolically significant ways that women are excluded from public space." She wants the city's signals to have equal numbers of male and female figures. There has been a mixed response to the signals. Critics call them unnecessary and a waste of taxpayers' money. The city mayor said: "I'm all for doing anything we can for gender equity, but... this sort of costly exercise is more likely to bring [ridicule]." Others said it was political correctness gone wrong. Social media users asked why the female image has a dress, when many women wear trousers. Others said the money should have helped people in need.

TRAFFIC SIGNALS SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1703/170309-traffic signals-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about traffic signals 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.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

