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Level 6

High school changes 'sexist' Women's Studies course

18th April, 2017

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1704/170418-womens-studies.html>

Contents

The Article	2	Discussion (Student-Created Qs)	14
Warm-Ups	3	Language Work (Cloze)	15
Before Reading / Listening	4	Spelling	16
While Reading / Listening	5	Put The Text Back Together	17
Match The Sentences And Listen	6	Put The Words In The Right Order	18
Listening Gap Fill	7	Circle The Correct Word	19
Comprehension Questions	8	Insert The Vowels (a, e, i, o, u)	20
Multiple Choice - Quiz	9	Punctuate The Text And Add Capitals	21
Role Play	10	Put A Slash (/) Where The Spaces Are	22
After Reading / Listening	11	Free Writing	23
Student Survey	12	Academic Writing	24
Discussion (20 Questions)	13	Homework	25
		Answers	26

Please try Levels 5 and 4 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1704/170418-womens-studies.html>

A high school in Canada has come under fierce criticism on the Internet for a women's studies course it offered to its female students. The online backlash was because the course included what many believed to be sexist subjects that were unfit and inappropriate for women in the 21st century. These included 'polite conversation,' dinner party etiquette, and 'nail application skills'. There was also a subject titled: "How to enhance your style by using tips and tricks designed for your face and body shape." The course also had lessons on the basics of web design, reproductive health, the role of women in history, and a look at how beauty is seen by the media and different cultures around the world.

Among those who were shocked by the syllabus was actress and singer Siobhan Bryn. She wrote: "This is unbelievably sexist. Women's studies is not fashion and putting on a lunch." She asked: "Was this designed in the 1950's? Can you get someone who knows about women's studies to design this course?" Activist Meg Fenway said: "This is profoundly offensive and disrespectful." The school has since pulled the subjects from the syllabus. A spokesman said: "I know the way it comes across looks like we're supporting stereotyping girls....We want to do the best by our kids. We want them to have a positive image and build self-esteem. We want them to analyze things critically."

Sources: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4342910/High-school-offers-polite-conversation-classes-girls.html>
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-39348155>
<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/clyde-women-studies-pembina-school-1.4034711>

WARM-UPS

1. WOMEN'S STUDIES: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about women's studies. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

high school / criticism / women's studies / backlash / conversation / web design / shocked / syllabus / fashion / the 1950's / stereotyping / self-esteem / image

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

3. POLITE CONVERSATION: Students A **strongly** believe polite conversation should not be part of a course on women's studies; Students B **strongly** believe there's no problem with that. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. SYLLABUS: What might the students learn in these courses. How useful would they be? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	What?	Why?
Polite conversation		
Sinner party etiquette		
Nail application skills		
Basics of web design		
Reproductive health		
The role of women in history		

5. SEXIST: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "sexist". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

6. SCHOOL COURSES: Rank these with your partner. Put the best courses for kids to take at high school at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- web design
- guitar
- truth in the media
- nutrition
- parenting skills
- dinner party etiquette
- polite conversation
- respect in relationships

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1704/170418-womens-studies.html>

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

- a. A high school in England was criticized a lot on the Internet. **T / F**
- b. Critics said parts of a women's studies course were fitting for women. **T / F**
- c. One of the courses was 'nail application skills'. **T / F**
- d. Another course was advanced web design. **T / F**
- e. A singer said it would be better to study fashion and making lunch. **T / F**
- f. A singer likened the course to something from the 50's. **T / F**
- g. The school is no longer teaching the subjects people criticized. **T / F**
- h. The school said it wanted to students to build their self-esteem. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms. The words in **bold** are from the news article.

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. fierce | a. deeply |
| 2. criticism | b. unfitting / unsuitable |
| 3. inappropriate | c. function |
| 4. tips | d. created |
| 5. role | e. strong |
| 6. syllabus | f. incredibly |
| 7. unbelievably | g. self-respect |
| 8. designed | h. suggestions |
| 9. profoundly | i. curriculum |
| 10. self-esteem | j. disapproval |

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

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. come under fierce | a. esteem |
| 2. a women's studies course it | b. subjects |
| 3. sexist | c. critically |
| 4. unfit and inappropriate | d. by the media |
| 5. a look at how beauty is seen | e. offered |
| 6. designed in the | f. and disrespectful |
| 7. This is profoundly offensive | g. for women |
| 8. stereotyping | h. criticism on the Internet |
| 9. build self- | i. 1950's |
| 10. We want them to analyze things | j. girls |

GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1704/170418-womens-studies.html>

A high school in Canada has come under (1) _____ criticism on the Internet for a women's studies course it (2) _____ to its female students. The online (3) _____ was because the course included what many believed to be sexist subjects that were unfit and inappropriate for women in the 21st century. These included 'polite conversation,' dinner party (4) _____, and 'nail application skills'. There was also a subject titled: "How to (5) _____ your style by using tips and tricks designed for your face and body shape." The course also had lessons on the (6) _____ of web design, reproductive health, the (7) _____ of women in history, and a look at how beauty is seen by the (8) _____ and different cultures around the world.

etiquette

basics

offered

media

fierce

role

backlash

enhance

Among those who were shocked by the (9) _____ was actress and singer Siobhan Bryn. She wrote: "This is unbelievably sexist. Women's studies is not fashion and (10) _____ on a lunch." She asked: "Was this (11) _____ in the 1950's? Can you get someone who knows about women's studies to design this course?" Activist Meg Fenway said: "This is profoundly (12) _____ and disrespectful." The school has since (13) _____ the subjects from the syllabus. A spokesman said: "I know the way it comes across looks like we're supporting (14) _____ girls....We want to do the best by our kids. We want them to have a positive image and build self- (15) _____. We want them to analyze things (16) _____."

pulled

putting

critically

designed

offensive

esteem

syllabus

stereotyping

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1704/170418-womens-studies.html>

- 1) A high school in Canada has come _____ criticism
 - a. under farce
 - b. and a fierce
 - c. under these
 - d. under fierce
- 2) sexist subjects that were unfit and _____ women
 - a. inner pro pirate for
 - b. in a pro pirate for
 - c. inner prop rate for
 - d. inappropriate for
- 3) These included 'polite conversation,' dinner party etiquette, and 'nail _____'
 - a. app location skills
 - b. application skill
 - c. app locution skill
 - d. application skills
- 4) There was also a subject titled: "How to enhance your style by using _____"
 - a. trips and tricks
 - b. tips and ticks
 - c. tips and tricks
 - d. trips and ticks
- 5) and a look at how beauty is seen _____
 - a. buy the media
 - b. by these media
 - c. buy these media
 - d. by the media
- 6) This is unbelievably sexist. Women's studies is not fashion and _____
 - a. put in on a lunch
 - b. putting on a lunch
 - c. putting on a launch
 - d. putting on the lunch
- 7) Can you get someone who knows about women's studies to _____?
 - a. design this course
 - b. designs this course
 - c. design this because
 - d. design this cause
- 8) The school has since pulled the subjects _____
 - a. from the syllabus
 - b. from the silly bus
 - c. from the sill a bus
 - d. from the sill abacus
- 9) I know the way it comes across looks like we're supporting _____
 - a. stereotype in girls
 - b. stereotyping girls
 - c. stereo taping girls
 - d. stereo tape in girls
- 10) We want them to have a positive image and build _____
 - a. self-extreme
 - b. cell-extreme
 - c. self-esteem
 - d. self a stream

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1704/170418-womens-studies.html>

A high school in Canada (1) _____ fierce criticism on the Internet for a women's studies course (2) _____ female students. The online backlash was because the course included what many believed to be sexist subjects that (3) _____ inappropriate for women in the 21st century. These included 'polite conversation,' dinner (4) _____, and 'nail application skills'. There was also a subject titled: "How to enhance your style by using (5) _____ designed for your face and body shape." The course also had lessons on the basics of web design, (6) _____, the role of women in history, and a look at how beauty is seen by the media and different cultures around the world.

Among those who were shocked (7) _____ was actress and singer Siobhan Bryn. She wrote: "This is unbelievably sexist. Women's studies is not fashion and (8) _____." She asked: "Was this designed (9) _____? Can you get someone who knows about women's studies to design this course?" Activist Meg Fenway said: "This is (10) _____ and disrespectful." The school has since pulled the subjects from the syllabus. A spokesman said: "I know the way it comes across looks like we're supporting (11) _____....We want to do the best by our kids. We want them to have a positive image and (12) _____. We want them to analyze things critically."

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1704/170418-womens-studies.html>

1. Where is the school that has come under criticism?
2. What did many people call the subjects on a women's studies course?
3. What kind of etiquette was taught on the course?
4. What could students also learn the basics of on the course?
5. What is taught as seen through the eyes of the media?
6. What did the singer Siobhan Bryn say women's studies was not?
7. What time period did she question the syllabus as being from?
8. What has the school done to the subjects people didn't like?
9. What did a spokesman say it looked like the school was doing to girls?
10. What did a spokesman say the school wanted to help students build?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1704/170418-womens-studies.html>

- 1) Where is the school that has come under criticism?
 - a) France
 - b) Canada
 - c) Namibia
 - d) Taiwan
- 2) What did many people call the subjects on a women's studies course?
 - a) appropriate
 - b) fitting
 - c) boring
 - d) sexist
- 3) What kind of etiquette was taught on the course?
 - a) dinner party
 - b) Internet
 - c) oral hygiene
 - d) business
- 4) What could students also learn the basics of on the course?
 - a) history
 - b) world cultures
 - c) web design
 - d) nails
- 5) What is taught as seen through the eyes of the media?
 - a) sexism
 - b) media
 - c) journalism
 - d) culture
- 6) What did the singer Siobhan Bryn say women's studies was not?
 - a) fashion
 - b) for men
 - c) fair
 - d) good
- 7) What time period did she question the syllabus as being from?
 - a) 24/7
 - b) 9 to 5
 - c) the 1950's
 - d) the Middle Ages
- 8) What has the school done to the subjects people didn't like?
 - a) pulled them
 - b) added to them
 - c) advertised them
 - d) analyzed them
- 9) What did a spokesman say it looked like the school was doing to girls?
 - a) stereotype them
 - b) hurting them
 - c) highlighting them
 - d) supporting them
- 10) What did a spokesman say the school wanted to help students build?
 - a) a career
 - b) a website
 - c) a new school
 - d) self-esteem

ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1704/170418-womens-studies.html>

Role A – Web Design

You think web design would be the best class for high school students to take. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their classes. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): guitar, dinner party etiquette or respect in relationships.

Role B – Guitar

You think guitar would be the best class for high school students to take. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their classes. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): web design, dinner party etiquette or respect in relationships.

Role C – Dinner Party Etiquette

You think dinner party etiquette would be the best class for high school students to take. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their classes. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): guitar, web design or respect in relationships.

Role D – Respect in Relationships

You think respect in relationships would be the best class for high school students to take. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their classes. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): guitar, dinner party etiquette or web design.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1704/170418-womens-studies.html>

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

dinner	party
---------------	--------------

- 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">• under• included• party• tips• basics• media	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• shocked• lunch• design• since• way• image
--	--

WOMEN'S STUDIES SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1704/170418-womens-studies.html>

Write five GOOD questions about women's studies 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.

WOMEN'S STUDIES DISCUSSION

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

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What springs to mind when you hear the word 'fierce'?
3. What do you think of the criticism?
4. What subjects should be in women's studies?
5. How would someone teach 'polite conversation'?
6. How polite is your conversation?
7. What would you learn in a dinner party etiquette course?
8. How useful is a course on nail application skills?
9. What do you think of a course on enhancing your style?
10. How sexist are the courses?

High school changes 'sexist' Women's Studies course – 18th April, 2017
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WOMEN'S STUDIES DISCUSSION

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

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'criticism'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What three adjectives would you use to describe this story?
15. Why did someone compare the syllabus to the 1950s?
16. What do you think of the school for pulling the syllabus?
17. To what degree did the course stereotype girls?
18. What's the best way to teach kids about building self-esteem?
19. How good are you at analyzing things critically?
20. What questions would you like to ask the school?

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. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1704/170418-womens-studies.html>

A high school in Canada has come (1) _____ fierce criticism on the Internet for a women's studies course it offered to its female students. The online (2) _____ was because the course included what many believed to be sexist subjects that were (3) _____ and inappropriate for women in the 21st century. These included 'polite conversation,' dinner party (4) _____, and 'nail application skills'. There was also a subject titled: "How to enhance your style by using tips and (5) _____ designed for your face and body shape." The course also had lessons on the (6) _____ of web design, reproductive health, the role of women in history, and a look at how beauty is seen by the media and different cultures around the world.

Among those who were shocked (7) _____ the syllabus was actress and singer Siobhan Bryn. She wrote: "This is unbelievably sexist. Women's studies is not fashion and putting (8) _____ a lunch." She asked: "Was this designed in the 1950's? Can you get someone who knows about women's studies to design this course?" Activist Meg Fenway said: "This is profoundly (9) _____ and disrespectful." The school has (10) _____ pulled the subjects from the syllabus. A spokesman said: "I know the way it comes (11) _____ looks like we're supporting stereotyping girls....We want to do the best by our kids. We want them to have a positive image and build self-(12) _____. We want them to analyze things critically."

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1. | (a) top | (b) under | (c) inside | (d) over |
| 2. | (a) lash | (b) backlash | (c) slash | (d) whiplash |
| 3. | (a) fitted | (b) fittings | (c) fitting | (d) unfit |
| 4. | (a) croquette | (b) etiquette | (c) briquette | (d) coquette |
| 5. | (a) ticks | (b) tricks | (c) tacks | (d) tocks |
| 6. | (a) basic | (b) basically | (c) basics | (d) base |
| 7. | (a) on | (b) by | (c) of | (d) as |
| 8. | (a) by | (b) down | (c) on | (d) up |
| 9. | (a) pensive | (b) sieve | (c) defensive | (d) offensive |
| 10. | (a) since | (b) by | (c) for | (d) about |
| 11. | (a) across | (b) under | (c) down | (d) inside |
| 12. | (a) stream | (b) steam | (c) esteem | (d) streaming |

SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1704/170418-womens-studies.html>

Paragraph 1

1. come under ifecre criticism
2. The online hbkasalc
3. unfit and rrpipoinpeaat for women
4. dinner party ttqiteeeu
5. How to cnnheae your style
6. pcioedrruvte health

Paragraph 2

7. shocked by the blyassul
8. This is profoundly fesiovfен and disrespectful
9. noiretgpyste girls
10. have a piteivos image
11. build slef-seeemt
12. analyze things caiirlycl

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1704/170418-womens-studies.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () Among those who were shocked by the syllabus was actress and singer Siobhan Bryn. She wrote: "This is unbelievably
- () enhance your style by using tips and tricks designed for your face and body shape." The course also had lessons
- () pulled the subjects from the syllabus. A spokesman said: "I know the way it comes across looks like we're supporting
- () on the basics of web design, reproductive health, the role of women in history, and a look at how beauty
- () 1950's? Can you get someone who knows about women's studies to design this
- () is seen by the media and different cultures around the world.
- () stereotyping girls....We want to do the best by our kids. We want them to have a positive
- () sexist. Women's studies is not fashion and putting on a lunch." She asked: "Was this designed in the
- () image and build self-esteem. We want them to analyze things critically."
- () course?" Activist Meg Fenway said: "This is profoundly offensive and disrespectful." The school has since
- (**1**) A high school in Canada has come under fierce criticism on the Internet for a women's studies course it offered
- () be sexist subjects that were unfit and inappropriate for women in the 21st century. These included 'polite
- () conversation,' dinner party etiquette, and 'nail application skills'. There was also a subject titled: "How to
- () to its female students. The online backlash was because the course included what many believed to

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1704/170418-womens-studies.html>

1. criticism school has fierce high Canada under A in come .
2. be The what to subjects included believed sexist course many .
3. to subject . "How a style" also your was enhance titled: There
4. the course of also web had design lessons The basics on .
5. media at is the look beauty by A how seen .
6. and a studies fashion on Women's not putting lunch is .
7. Someone studies who to knows design about this women's .
8. has the the school pulled from The since subjects syllabus .
9. want and a them esteem build positive to We self- image have .
10. want to things We them analyze critically .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1704/170418-womens-studies.html>

A high school in Canada has come *under / above* fierce criticism on the Internet for a women's studies course it *offering / offered* to its female students. The online *backlash / whiplash* was because the course *inclusion / included* what many believed to be sexist subjects that were *fitting / unfit* and inappropriate for women in the 21st century. These included 'polite conversation,' dinner party *etiquette / epitaph*, and 'nail application skills'. There was also a subject titled: "How to *enhance / ensconce* your style by using tips and *tricksters / tricks* designed for your face and body shape." The course also had lessons on the *basics / basic* of web design, reproductive health, the role of women in history, and a look at how beauty is *looked / seen* by the media and different cultures around the world.

Among those who were *shocking / shocked* by the syllabus was actress and singer Siobhan Bryn. She wrote: "This is *unbelievably / unbelievable* sexist. Women's studies is not fashion and *putting / patting* on a lunch." She asked: "Was this designed in the 1950's? Can you get someone who *known / knows* about women's studies to design this course?" Activist Meg Fenway said: "This is *profoundly / profound* offensive and disrespectful." The school has since *pulled / pulls* the subjects from the syllabus. A spokesman said: "I know the way it comes *through / across* looks like we're supporting *stereotyping / stereotype* girls...We want to do the best *as / by* our kids. We want them to have a positive image and *erect / build* self-esteem. We want them to analyze things critically."

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/1704/170418-womens-studies.html>

__ h_g h sch__ l __ n C_n_d_ h_s c_m_ __nd_r f__rc_
cr_t_c_sm __n th_ __nt_rn_t f_r __ w_m_n's st_d__s
c__rs_ __t __ff_r_d t_ __ts f_m_l_ st_d_n_t_s. Th_ __nl_n_
b_ckl_sh w_s b_c__s_ th_ c__rs_ __ncl_d_d wh_t m_ny
b_l__v_d t_ b_ s_x_st s_bj_cts th_t w_r_ __nf_t __nd
__n_ppr_pr__t_ f_r w_m_n __n 21st c__nt_ry. Th_s_
__ncl_d_d 'p_l_t_ c_nv_r_s_t__n,' d__nn_r p_rty
__t_q__tt_, __nd 'n__l __ppl_c_t__n sk_lls'. Th_r_ w_s
__ls_ __ s_bj_ct t_tl_d: "H_w t_ __nh_nc_ y__r styl_ by
__s_ng t_ps __nd tr_cks d_s_gn_d f_r y__r f_c_ __nd b_dy
sh_p_." Th_ c__rs_ __ls_ h_d l_ss_n_s __n th_ b_s_cs_ f
w_b d_s_gn, r_pr_d_ct_v_ h__lth, th_ r_l_ f_w_m_n
__n h_st_ry, __nd __l_k_ t_h_w b__ty __s_s__n by th_
m_d__ __nd d_ff_r_nt c_l_t_r_s_ r__nd th_ w_rld.

__m_ng th_s_ wh_ w_r_ sh_ck_d by th_ syll_b_s w_s
__ctr_ss __nd s_ng_r S__bh_n Bryn. Sh_ wr_t_: "Th_s_ s
__nb_l__v_bly s_x_st. W_m_n's st_d__s_ s_n_t f_sh__n
__nd p__tt_ng __n __l_nch." Sh_ __sk_d: "W_s th_s
d_s_gn_d __n th_ 1950's? C_n y__g_t s_m__n wh_
kn_ws __b__t w_m_n's st_d__s t_ d_s_gn th_s c__rs_?"
__ct_v_st M_g F_nw_y s__d: "Th_s_ s pr_f__ndly
__ff_n_s_v_ __nd d_sr_sp_ctf_l." Th_ sch__l h_s s_nc_
p_ll_d th_ s_bj_cts fr_m th_ syll_b_s. __sp_k_sm_n
s__d: "__kn_w th_ w_y __t c_m_s __cr_ss l__ks l_k_
w_'r_ s_pp_r_t_ng st_r__typ_ng g_rls...W_ w_nt t_ d_
th_ b_st by __r k_ds. W_ w_nt th_m t_ h_v_ __
p_s_t_v_ __m_g __nd b__ld s_lf-st__m. W_ w_nt th_m
t_ __n_lyz_ th_ngs cr_t_c_lly."

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1704/170418-womens-studies.html>

a high school in canada has come under fierce criticism on the internet for a women's studies course it offered to its female students the online backlash was because the course included what many believed to be sexist subjects that were unfit and inappropriate for women in the 21st century these included 'polite conversation' dinner party etiquette and 'nail application skills' there was also a subject titled "how to enhance your style by using tips and tricks designed for your face and body shape" the course also had lessons on the basics of web design reproductive health the role of women in history and a look at how beauty is seen by the media and different cultures around the world

among those who were shocked by the syllabus was actress and singer siobhan bryn she wrote "this is unbelievably sexist women's studies is not fashion and putting on a lunch" she asked "was this designed in the 1950's can you get someone who knows about women's studies to design this course" activist meg fenway said "this is profoundly offensive and disrespectful" the school has since pulled the subjects from the syllabus a spokesman said "i know the way it comes across looks like we're supporting stereotyping girls...we want to do the best by our kids we want them to have a positive image and build self-esteem we want them to analyze things critically"

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1704/170418-womens-studies.html>

A high school in Canada has come under fierce criticism on the Internet for a women's studies course it offered to its female students. The online backlash was because the course included what many believed to be sexist subjects that were unfit and inappropriate for women in the 21st century. These included 'polite conversation,' 'dinner party etiquette,' and 'nail application skills'. There was also a subject titled: "How to enhance your style by using tips and tricks designed for your face and body shape". The course also had lessons on the basics of web design, reproductive health, the role of women in history, and a look at how beauty is seen by the media and different cultures around the world. Among those who were shocked by the syllabus was actress and singer Siobhan Bryn. She wrote: "This is unbelievably sexist. Women's studies is not fashion and putting on a lunch." She asked: "Was this designed in the 1950's? Can you get someone who knows about women's studies to design this course?" Activist Meg Fenway said: "This is profoundly offensive and disrespectful." The school has since pulled the subjects from the syllabus. A spokesman said: "I know the way it comes across looks like we're resupporting stereotyping girls.... We want to do the best by our kids. We want them to have a positive image and build self-esteem. We want them to analyze things critically."

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 this story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. WOMEN'S STUDIES: Make a poster about women's studies. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. ETIQUETTE: Write a magazine article about the need to teach dinner party etiquette at high school. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against it.

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 an expert on women's studies. Ask him/her three questions about the subject. Give him/her three of your ideas on the most important subjects that should be on the syllabus. 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 F c T d F e F f T g T h T

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. fierce | a. strong |
| 2. criticism | b. disapproval |
| 3. inappropriate | c. unfitting / unsuitable |
| 4. tips | d. suggestions |
| 5. role | e. function |
| 6. syllabus | f. curriculum |
| 7. unbelievably | g. incredibly |
| 8. designed | h. created |
| 9. profoundly | i. deeply |
| 10. self-esteem | j. self-respect |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. Canada
2. Sexist
3. Dinner party etiquette
4. Web design
5. Beauty
6. Fashion
7. The 1950's
8. Pulled them
9. Stereotyping them
10. Self-esteem

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

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

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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