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Level 5

School says Hello Kitty Christmas tree can stay

25th December, 2015

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1512/151225-christmas-tree-5.html>

Contents

The Reading	2
Matching	3
Listening Gap Fill	4
Survey	5
Discussion	6
Writing	7

Please try Level 4 (easier) and the 26–page Level 6 (harder).

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1512/151225-christmas-tree-5.html>

A teacher at a school in the USA has been allowed to keep her pink Hello Kitty Christmas tree in her classroom. The teacher, Catherine Gordon, was ordered by the school principal Paul Butler to remove it from her classroom. Mr Butler decided it was an "inappropriate" Christmas decoration. He explained to ABC News that the tree did not fit with the way the school celebrated the different religious events happening at this time of the year. He said: "A concern was shared with me regarding an inconsistency with our balanced approach to holiday observances."

Ms Gordon said she didn't think her tree was offensive. She said it had no religious symbols such as crosses or angels on it. Her story went viral on Facebook. Ms Gordon wrote that she thought society was becoming too worried about upsetting people. She said she thought her experience with her tree was "definitely a turning point in our society when everything offends everyone all the time". She added that: "It just sucks the joy out of everything." She told a newspaper that: "It just seems that in our quest to be tolerant of everything, we've become intolerant to everything."

Sources: <http://abcnews.go.com/US/hs-teacher-told-remove-kitty-christmas-tree-classroom/story?id=35908832>
<http://www.buzzfeed.com/mbvd/teacher-asked-to-remove-hello-kitty-christmas-tree-from-clas#.lmqaZqqK6>
<http://fox4kc.com/2015/12/22/after-forcing-teacher-to-remove-christmas-tree-school-backs-down/>

MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1512/151225-christmas-tree-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. A teacher at a school in the USA | a. events |
| 2. the school | b. has been allowed |
| 3. Christmas | c. inconsistency |
| 4. the tree did | d. principal |
| 5. different religious | e. approach |
| 6. happening at this | f. not fit |
| 7. regarding an | g. time of the year |
| 8. our balanced | h. decoration |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. she didn't think her | a. symbols |
| 2. religious | b. of everything |
| 3. Her story went | c. tree was offensive |
| 4. worried about upsetting | d. everything |
| 5. definitely a turning | e. people |
| 6. everything offends everyone | f. point in our society |
| 7. It just sucks the joy out | g. viral on Facebook |
| 8. intolerant to | h. all the time |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1512/151225-christmas-tree-5.html>

A teacher at a school in the USA (1) _____ to keep her pink Hello Kitty Christmas tree in her classroom. The teacher, Catherine Gordon, (2) _____ the school principal Paul Butler to remove it from her classroom. Mr Butler (3) _____ an "inappropriate" Christmas decoration. He explained to ABC News (4) _____ did not fit with the way the school celebrated the different religious events happening (5) _____ the year. He said: "A concern was shared with me regarding an inconsistency with (6) _____ to holiday observances."

Ms Gordon said she didn't think her (7) _____. She said it had no religious symbols (8) _____ or angels on it. Her story went viral on Facebook. Ms Gordon wrote that she thought society was becoming too worried about (9) _____. She said she thought her experience with her tree was "definitely (10) _____ in our society when everything offends everyone all the time". She added that: "It just sucks the joy (11) _____." She told a newspaper that: "It just seems that (12) _____ be tolerant of everything, we've become intolerant to everything."

CHRISTMAS TREES SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1512/151225-christmas-tree-5.html>

Write five GOOD questions about Christmas trees 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) _____
- g) _____
- h) _____

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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) _____
- g) _____
- h) _____

FREE WRITING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1512/151225-christmas-tree-5.html>

Write about **Christmas trees** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner’s paper.
