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## **Level 5**

### **Trial of 'female' traffic signals starts in Australia**

**9th March, 2017**

[http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1703/170309-traffic\\_signals-5.html](http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1703/170309-traffic_signals-5.html)

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**Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.**

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# THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1703/170309-traffic-signals-5.html>

There are now red and green images of people in dresses on traffic signals in the Australian city of Melbourne. The ten new signals are part of a trial gender equality campaign. The Minister for Women explained that the trial was so there could be more images of women in public places. She said: "There are many small, but symbolically significant ways that women are excluded from public space. This is a wonderful way to make public space more inclusive for women." She hopes the city's signals will have equal numbers of male and female figures on them in the future.

There has been a mixed response to the new signals. Many critics say the scheme is unnecessary and a waste of taxpayers' money. A leading critic is Melbourne's mayor, who told reporters: "I'm all for doing anything we can for gender equity, but....Unfortunately, I think this sort of costly exercise is more likely to bring derision." Others said it was a sign of 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 gone to worthier projects that 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-5.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                       |                        |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. The ten new signals are            | a. inclusive for women |
| 2. gender                             | b. figures             |
| 3. there could be more images         | c. equality            |
| 4. symbolically                       | d. future              |
| 5. make public space more             | e. of women            |
| 6. the city's signals will have equal | f. part of a trial     |
| 7. male and female                    | g. significant ways    |
| 8. in the                             | h. numbers             |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                  |                     |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. There has been a mixed        | a. anything we can  |
| 2. Many critics say the scheme   | b. money            |
| 3. a waste of taxpayers'         | c. correctness      |
| 4. I'm all for doing             | d. to wear trousers |
| 5. more likely                   | e. response         |
| 6. political                     | f. people in need   |
| 7. many women                    | g. bring derision   |
| 8. worthier projects that helped | h. is unnecessary   |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1703/170309-traffic signals-5.html>

There are now red and (1) \_\_\_\_\_ people in dresses on traffic signals in the Australian city of Melbourne. The ten new signals are (2) \_\_\_\_\_ gender equality campaign. The Minister for Women explained that the trial was (3) \_\_\_\_\_ more images of women in public places. She said: "There are many small, but symbolically (4) \_\_\_\_\_ that women are excluded from public space. This is a wonderful way to make public space (5) \_\_\_\_\_ women." She hopes the city's signals will have equal numbers of male and female (6) \_\_\_\_\_ the future.

There has (7) \_\_\_\_\_ response to the new signals. Many critics say the scheme is unnecessary (8) \_\_\_\_\_ taxpayers' money. A leading critic is Melbourne's mayor, who told reporters: "(9) \_\_\_\_\_ anything we can for gender equity, but....Unfortunately, I think (10) \_\_\_\_\_ exercise is more likely to bring derision." Others said it was a sign of political correctness gone wrong. Social media users asked why the (11) \_\_\_\_\_ dress, when many women wear trousers. Others said the money should have gone to worthier projects that helped (12) \_\_\_\_\_.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1703/170309-traffic-signals-5.html>

There are now red and green images of people in dresses on traffic signals in the Australian city of Melbourne. The ten new signals are part of a trial for an equality campaign. The Minister for Women explained that the trial was so there could be more images of women in public places. She said: "There are many small, but symbolically significant ways that women are excluded from public space. This is a wonderful way to make public space more inclusive for women." She hopes the city's signals will have equal numbers of male and female figures on them in the future. There has been a mixed response to the new signals. Many critics say the scheme is unnecessary and a waste of taxpayers' money. A leading critic is Melbourne's mayor, who told reporters: "I'm all for doing anything we can for gender equity, but... Unfortunately, I think this sort of costly exercise is more likely to bring derision." Others said it was a sign of 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 gone to worthwhile projects that 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) \_\_\_\_\_

*Trial of 'female' traffic signals starts in Australia – 9th March, 2017*  
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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) \_\_\_\_\_

