

Breaking News English.com

Ready-to-Use English Lessons by Sean Banville

**"1,000 IDEAS & ACTIVITIES
FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS"**

breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html

**Thousands more free lessons
from Sean's other websites**

www.freeeslmaterials.com/sean_banville_lessons.html

Level 5

Australia broadband network under attack from birds

6th November, 2017

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1711/171106-broadband-cables-5.html>

Contents

The Reading	2
Phrase Matching	3
Listening Gap Fill	4
No Spaces	5
Survey	6
Writing and Speaking	7
Writing	8

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

Twitter



twitter.com/SeanBanville

Facebook



www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176

Google +



<https://plus.google.com/+SeanBanville>

THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1711/171106-broadband-cables-5.html>

Australia's high-speed, broadband network is being attacked by thousands of birds. The country's ubiquitous and colourful cockatoos have taken a liking for chewing the broadband cables that cross Australian towns and cities. This is causing hundreds of thousands of dollars in damage. The National Broadband Network (NBN) that maintains the fibre-optic cables spends around \$60,000 each time it is called out to fix the cables. The birds' handiwork is also causing frustration to Internet users across the country. Users have reported Internet outages and painfully slow speeds.

Cockatoos are a type of parrot. They normally eat fruit, nuts, wood and bark. An NBN spokeswoman said she was puzzled why the birds liked chewing the cables. She guessed that it was the colourful plastic that the broadband cables are inside. She told reporters: "They are constantly sharpening their beaks and as a result will attack and tear apart anything they come across. Unfortunately, they've developed a liking to our cables." She joked: "These birds are unstoppable...I guess that's Australia for you; if the spiders and snakes don't get you, the cockatoos will."

Sources: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-australia-41857761>
<http://nation.com.pk/04-Nov-2017/australia-cockatoos-chew-billion-dollar-broadband>
<http://www.express.co.uk/news/nature/875085/Broadband-birds-damage-Australia-network>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1711/171106-broadband-cables-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. attacked by thousands | a. to fix the cables |
| 2. ubiquitous and colourful | b. of birds |
| 3. chewing the broadband | c. speeds |
| 4. hundreds of thousands of dollars | d. cables |
| 5. fibre- | e. outages |
| 6. each time it is called out | f. in damage |
| 7. Users have reported Internet | g. cockatoos |
| 8. painfully slow | h. optic cables |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Cockatoos are a | a. unstoppable |
| 2. They normally | b. the cables |
| 3. An NBN spokeswoman said | c. their beaks |
| 4. the birds liked chewing | d. eat fruit |
| 5. plastic that the broadband cables | e. she was puzzled |
| 6. constantly sharpening | f. for you |
| 7. These birds are | g. are inside |
| 8. I guess that's Australia | h. type of parrot |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1711/171106-broadband-cables-5.html>

Australia's (1) _____ network is being attacked by thousands of birds. The country's (2) _____ colourful cockatoos have taken a liking for chewing the broadband cables that cross Australian towns and cities. This (3) _____ of thousands of dollars in damage. The National Broadband Network (NBN) that maintains the (4) _____ spends around \$60,000 each time it is called out to (5) _____. The birds' handiwork is also causing frustration to Internet users across the country. Users have reported Internet outages and (6) _____.

Cockatoos are a (7) _____. They normally eat fruit, nuts, wood and bark. An NBN spokeswoman said she (8) _____ the birds liked chewing the cables. She guessed that it was the colourful plastic that the broadband (9) _____. She told reporters: "They are constantly sharpening (10) _____ as a result will attack (11) _____ anything they come across. Unfortunately, they've developed a liking to our cables." She joked: "These birds are unstoppable...I guess that's Australia for you; if the (12) _____ don't get you, the cockatoos will."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1711/171106-broadband-cables-5.html>

Australia's high-speed, broadband network is being attacked by thousands of birds. The country's ubiquitous and colourful cockatoos have taken a liking for chewing the broadband cables that cross Australian towns and cities. This is causing hundreds of thousands of dollars in damage. The National Broadband Network (NBN) that maintains the fibre-optic cables spends around \$60,000 each time it is called out to fix the cables. The birds' handiwork is also causing frustration to Internet users across the country. Users have reported Internet outages and painfully slow speeds. Cockatoos are a type of parrot. They normally eat fruit, nuts, wood and bark. An NBN spokeswoman said she was puzzled why the birds liked chewing the cables. She guessed that it was the colourful plastic that the broadband cables are inside. She told reporters: "They are constantly sharpening their beaks and as a result will attack and tear apart anything they come across. Unfortunately, they've developed a liking to our cables." She joked: "These birds are unstoppable... I guess that's Australia for you; if the spiders and snakes don't get you, the cockatoos will."

BROADBAND CABLES SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1711/171106-broadband-cables-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about broadband cables 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) _____

Australia broadband network under attack from birds – 6th November, 2017
More free lessons at breakingnewsenglish.com

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

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

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

