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Level 6

Trial of 'female' traffic signals starts in Australia

9th March, 2017

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

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

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THE ARTICLE

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

Gender equality has reached the small human characters on traffic signals in Australia. Signals at ten pedestrian crossings in the city of Melbourne now depict walking red and green people in dresses. The initiative is part of a trial 12-month gender equality campaign unveiled by the city. The Minister for Women, Fiona Richardson, explained that the rationale behind the trial was to put 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 in the future.

The new signals have drawn a mixed response from citizens. Many critics say the new scheme is unnecessary and a waste of taxpayers' money. A leading critic is Melbourne's mayor Robert Doyle, who told reporters: "I'm all for doing anything we can for gender equity, but really?" He added: "Unfortunately, I think this sort of costly exercise is more likely to bring derision." Others said the new images were a sign of political correctness gone crazy. Social media users asked why the image of the woman has to wear a dress, when many women wear trousers. Others said the money could have been better used for 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>

WARM-UPS

1. TRAFFIC SIGNALS: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about traffic signals. 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?

gender equality / traffic signals / initiative / campaign / rationale / public space / mixed / response / waste / taxpayers' money / political correctness / dress / need

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

3. EQUALITY: Students A **strongly** believe pedestrian traffic signals should show men and women figures; Students B **strongly** believe not. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. PEDESTRIANS: What are the challenges pedestrians face and how they might be overcome? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Challenges	Solutions
Traffic signals		
Cars		
Pavements / Sidewalks		
Mobile phone users		
Cyclists		
Other pedestrians		

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

6. CROSSINGS: Rank these with your partner. Put the best things to keep pedestrians safe at crossings at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- male and female signals
- beeps when safe to cross
- countdown timer
- colourful signals
- all traffic stops
- road markings
- fences
- well-lit space

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

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

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

- a. There are 10 new female pedestrian traffic signals in Melbourne. **T / F**
- b. The traffic signals are part of a year-long trial. **T / F**
- c. The idea is to have more images of women in public places. **T / F**
- d. Men cannot cross at the female traffic signals. **T / F**
- e. The new signals are overwhelmingly popular. **T / F**
- f. The mayor of Melbourne said the signals are good for his city. **T / F**
- g. Many people say the signals are a good example of political correctness. **T / F**
- h. Social media users said the money should help people in need. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH:

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

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. depict | a. reaction |
| 2. initiative | b. insane |
| 3. unveiled | c. identical |
| 4. significant | d. scheme |
| 5. equal | e. ridicule |
| 6. response | f. important |
| 7. waste | g. represent |
| 8. derision | h. requiring help |
| 9. crazy | i. squandering |
| 10. in need | j. revealed |

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

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. gender | a. numbers |
| 2. The initiative is part of | b. behind the trial |
| 3. the rationale | c. correctness |
| 4. small, but symbolically | d. response from citizens |
| 5. equal | e. a trial |
| 6. The new signals have drawn a mixed | f. money |
| 7. a waste of taxpayers' | g. people in need |
| 8. more likely to bring | h. equality |
| 9. political | i. derision |
| 10. worthier projects that helped | j. significant ways |

GAP FILL

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

Gender equality has reached the small human (1) _____ on traffic signals in Australia. Signals at ten pedestrian (2) _____ in the city of Melbourne now (3) _____ walking red and green people in dresses. The initiative is part of a trial 12-month gender equality campaign (4) _____ by the city. The Minister for Women, Fiona Richardson, explained that the (5) _____ behind the trial was to put more images of women in public places. She said: "There are many small, but symbolically significant (6) _____ that women are excluded from public space. This is a wonderful way to make public space more (7) _____ for women." She hopes the city's signals will have (8) _____ numbers of male and female figures in the future.

unveiled
ways
characters
depict
equal
crossings
inclusive
rationale

The new signals have drawn a (9) _____ response from citizens. Many critics say the new scheme is unnecessary and a (10) _____ of taxpayers' money. A leading (11) _____ is Melbourne's mayor Robert Doyle, who told reporters: "I'm all for doing anything we can for gender equity, but really?" He added: "Unfortunately, I think this sort of (12) _____ exercise is more likely to bring derision." Others said the new images were a sign of (13) _____ correctness gone crazy. Social media (14) _____ asked why the image of the woman has to wear a dress, when many women wear trousers. Others said the money could have been better used for (15) _____ projects that helped people in (16) _____.

critic
worthier
mixed
political
need
waste
users
costly

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

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

- 1) Signals at ten pedestrian crossings in the city of Melbourne _____ red and green people
 - a. now depicts walking
 - b. now depicting walking
 - c. now depict walking
 - d. now depicted walking
- 2) The initiative is part of a trial 12-month gender equality campaign _____ city
 - a. and failed by the
 - b. unveiled by the
 - c. and bailed by the
 - d. unrivalled by the
- 3) The Minister for Women, Fiona Richardson, explained that the rationale _____
 - a. beyond the trial
 - b. behest the trial
 - c. beguiled the trial
 - d. behind the trial
- 4) This is a wonderful way to make public space _____
 - a. more reclusive
 - b. more inclusion
 - c. more decisive
 - d. more inclusive
- 5) the city's signals will have equal numbers of male and female _____ future
 - a. figures in a
 - b. figure sin the
 - c. figures on the
 - d. figures in the
- 6) The new signals have drawn a mixed response _____
 - a. from citizens
 - b. from citizenry
 - c. from city sins
 - d. from city's sins
- 7) Many critics say the new scheme is unnecessary and a _____ money
 - a. waste for taxpayers'
 - b. waste from taxpayers'
 - c. waste of taxpayers'
 - d. waste by taxpayers'
- 8) Unfortunately, I think this sort of costly exercise is more likely _____
 - a. to bring collision
 - b. to bring division
 - c. to bring delusion
 - d. to bring derision
- 9) Others said the new images were a sign of political correctness _____
 - a. gone crazily
 - b. gone crazed
 - c. gone crazy
 - d. gone crazies
- 10) Others said the money could have been better used for _____
 - a. worthy are projects
 - b. wealthier projects
 - c. worsen projects
 - d. worthier projects

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

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

Gender equality (1) _____ small human characters on traffic signals in Australia. Signals at ten pedestrian crossings in the city of Melbourne (2) _____ red and green people in dresses. The initiative is (3) _____ 12-month gender equality campaign unveiled by the city. The Minister for Women, Fiona Richardson, explained that the rationale behind the trial (4) _____ images of women in public places. She said: "There are many small, but symbolically significant ways that women (5) _____ public space. This is a wonderful way to make public space more inclusive for women." She hopes the city's signals (6) _____ numbers of male and female figures in the future.

The new signals have (7) _____ response from citizens. Many critics say the new scheme is unnecessary (8) _____ taxpayers' money. A leading critic is Melbourne's mayor Robert Doyle, who told reporters: "(9) _____ anything we can for gender equity, but really?" He added: "Unfortunately, I think this sort of costly exercise is more likely (10) _____." Others said the new images were a sign of political correctness gone crazy. Social media users asked (11) _____ the woman has to wear a dress, when many women wear trousers. Others said the money could have been better used for worthier projects that helped (12) _____.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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

1. How many traffic signals are there in Melbourne with female characters?
2. For how long will the traffic signal trial run?
3. Where did a minister want to put more images of women?
4. What did the minister say the signals would make public spaces?
5. What does the minister hope for male and female signals in the future?
6. What kind of response has the signals drawn from citizens?
7. What do critics say the signals are a waste of?
8. What did the mayor say the signals would bring to Melbourne?
9. What do critics think the signals are a crazy sign of?
10. What do people think the money would have been better spent on?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

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

- 1) How many traffic signals are there in Melbourne with female characters?
 - a) 14
 - b) 12
 - c) 10
 - d) 8
- 2) For how long will the traffic signal trial run?
 - a) a year
 - b) 6 months
 - c) 3 months
 - d) 2 weeks
- 3) Where did a minister want to put more images of women?
 - a) on the roads
 - b) in public places
 - c) in shopping malls
 - d) in museums
- 4) What did the minister say the signals would make public spaces?
 - a) a tourist attraction
 - b) a nicer place to have lunch
 - c) a colourful addition to the city
 - d) more inclusive for women
- 5) What does the minister hope for male and female signals in the future?
 - a) they will be holograms
 - b) they will have different clothes
 - c) they will be equal in number
 - d) they will be more colourful
- 6) What kind of response has the signals drawn from citizens?
 - a) riots in the streets
 - b) a mixed response
 - c) they love them
 - d) they haven't decided
- 7) What do critics say the signals are a waste of?
 - a) electricity
 - b) space
 - c) time
 - d) taxpayers' money
- 8) What did the mayor say the signals would bring to Melbourne?
 - a) tourists
 - b) derision
 - c) safer roads
 - d) gender equality
- 9) What do critics think the signals are a crazy sign of?
 - a) gender equality
 - b) political correctness
 - c) dangers on the road
 - d) the times
- 10) What do people think the money would have been better spent on?
 - a) people in need
 - b) more roads
 - c) trousers
 - d) big projects

ROLE PLAY

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

Role A – Countdown Timers

You think countdown timers are the best safety devices at pedestrian crossings. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their devices. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): colourful signals, beeps when it is safe to cross or fences.

Role B – Colourful Signals

You think colourful signals are the best safety devices at pedestrian crossings. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their devices. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): countdown timers, beeps when it is safe to cross or fences.

Role C – Beeps When Safe to Cross

You think beeps when it is safe to cross are the best safety devices at pedestrian crossings. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their devices. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): colourful signals, countdown timers or fences.

Role D – Fences

You think fences are the best safety devices at pedestrian crossings. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their devices. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): colourful signals, beeps when it is safe to cross or countdown timers.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

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

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

traffic	signal
----------------	---------------

- 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">• reached• depict• 12• behind• wonderful• future	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• mixed• waste• all• sort• why• need
---	---

TRAFFIC SIGNALS SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1703/170309-traffic signals.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.

TRAFFIC SIGNALS 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 'gender'?
3. Should pedestrian traffic signals show male and female images?
4. How important is this initiative for gender equality?
5. Are images of people the best things to have on traffic signals?
6. How could signals at pedestrian crossings be improved?
7. Should there be more images of women in public spaces?
8. Do you agree with Ms Richardson that women are 'excluded'?
9. Will the female figures on the signals make it more 'inclusive' for women?
10. How will an equal number of male and female figures change society?

Trial of 'female' traffic signals starts in Australia – 9th March, 2017
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TRAFFIC SIGNALS 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 'equality'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. Why have the new signals drawn a mixed response?
15. What would the reaction be in your town to this scheme?
16. Do you think this scheme is a waste of taxpayers' money?
17. Why might this initiative 'bring derision' to Melbourne?
18. Should the images be of a unisex figure?
19. Should the money have gone to worthier projects?
20. What questions would you like to ask the city's mayor?

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/1703/170309-traffic-signals.html>

Gender (1) _____ has reached the small human characters on traffic signals in Australia. Signals at ten pedestrian crossings in the city of Melbourne now (2) _____ walking red and green people (3) _____ dresses. The initiative is part of a trial 12-month gender equality campaign unveiled by the city. The Minister for Women, Fiona Richardson, explained that the rationale (4) _____ the trial was to put more images of women in public places. She said: "There are many small, but symbolically significant ways that women are excluded (5) _____ public space. This is a wonderful way to make public space more (6) _____ for women." She hopes the city's signals will have equal numbers of male and female figures in the future.

The new signals have drawn a (7) _____ response from citizens. Many critics say the new scheme is unnecessary and a (8) _____ of taxpayers' money. A leading critic is Melbourne's mayor Robert Doyle, who told reporters: "I'm (9) _____ for doing anything we can for gender equity, but really?" He added: "Unfortunately, I think this sort of (10) _____ exercise is more likely to bring derision." Others said the new images were a sign of political correctness (11) _____ crazy. Social media users asked why the image of the woman has to wear a dress, when many women wear trousers. Others said the money could have been better used for (12) _____ projects that helped people in need.

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1. | (a) equality | (b) equal | (c) equals | (d) equally |
| 2. | (a) depart | (b) depose | (c) depict | (d) depend |
| 3. | (a) by | (b) on | (c) in | (d) of |
| 4. | (a) posterior | (b) back | (c) rear | (d) behind |
| 5. | (a) at | (b) as | (c) from | (d) to |
| 6. | (a) includes | (b) inclusive | (c) included | (d) inclusion |
| 7. | (a) assort | (b) mixed | (c) stirred | (d) combine |
| 8. | (a) garbage | (b) waste | (c) rubbish | (d) trash |
| 9. | (a) whole | (b) entire | (c) all | (d) complete |
| 10. | (a) accosted | (b) costs | (c) cost | (d) costly |
| 11. | (a) had | (b) taken | (c) been | (d) gone |
| 12. | (a) wither | (b) wealthier | (c) worse | (d) worthier |

SPELLING

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

Paragraph 1

1. Gender tiulaqey
2. asediptrne crossings
3. The iitveianit is part of a trial
4. campaign evdliuen by the city
5. the rieaanolt behind the trial
6. make public space more eicisvlnu for women

Paragraph 2

7. drawn a mixed response from itscnzie
8. A leading rtcici
9. Melbourne's raomy
10. more likely to bring isneoid
11. iaiolptcl correctness gone crazy
12. better used for rtioerhw projects

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

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

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () of taxpayers' money. A leading critic is Melbourne's mayor Robert Doyle, who told reporters: "I'm all for
- (**1**) Gender equality has reached the small human characters on traffic signals in Australia. Signals at ten pedestrian
- () exercise is more likely to bring derision." Others said the new images were a sign of political
- () wear a dress, when many women wear trousers. Others said the money could have
- () numbers of male and female figures in the future.
- () small, but symbolically significant ways that women are excluded from public space. This is a wonderful
- () that the rationale behind the trial was to put more images of women in public places. She said: "There are many
- () of a trial 12-month gender equality campaign unveiled by the city. The Minister for Women, Fiona Richardson, explained
- () way to make public space more inclusive for women." She hopes the city's signals will have equal
- () The new signals have drawn a mixed response from citizens. Many critics say the new scheme is unnecessary and a waste
- () doing anything we can for gender equity, but really?" He added: "Unfortunately, I think this sort of costly
- () correctness gone crazy. Social media users asked why the image of the woman has to
- () been better used for worthier projects that helped people in need.
- () crossings in the city of Melbourne now depict walking red and green people in dresses. The initiative is part

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

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

1. Signals city the in crossings pedestrian ten at .
2. trial month campaign a - equality of 12 gender Part .
3. images more put to was trial The places public in women of .
4. space public from excluded are women that Ways .
5. male figures future of female the numbers and in Equal .
6. citizens signals a from new drawn response The have mixed .
7. critics Many unnecessary is scheme new the say .
8. costly exercise is more likely to bring derision This sort of .
9. correctness gone crazy The new images were a sign of political .
10. been for The have used projects could better worthier money .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

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

Gender *equality* / *equally* has reached the small human characters on traffic signals in Australia. Signals at ten pedestrian *crosses* / *crossings* in the city of Melbourne now *picturing* / *depict* walking red and green people in dresses. The initiative is part of a *trial* / *trail* 12-month gender equality campaign unveiled by the city. The Minister for Women, Fiona Richardson, explained that the *ration* / *rationale* behind the trial was to put more images of women in *public* / *publicly* places. She said: "There are many small, but *symbols* / *symbolically* significant ways that women are *excluded* / *exclusively* from public space. This is a wonderful way *for* / *to* make public space more inclusive for women." She hopes the city's signals will have equal numbers of male and female figures *in* / *on* the future.

The new signals have *drawing* / *drawn* a mixed response from citizens. Many critics say the new scheme is unnecessary and a *wastage* / *waste* of taxpayers' money. A leading *critic* / *critique* is Melbourne's mayor Robert Doyle, who told reporters: "I'm *all* / *whole* for doing anything we can for gender equity, but *reality* / *really*?" He added: "Unfortunately, I think this sort of costly *exercise* / *exercising* is more likely to bring derision." Others said the new images were a sign of political *wrongness* / *correctness* gone crazy. Social media *users* / *usage* asked why the image of the woman has to wear a dress, when many women wear trousers. Others said the money could have been better used for *worth* / *worthier* projects that helped people *in need* / *needy*.

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/1703/170309-traffic-signals.html>

G_ nd_ r _ q_ _l_ ty h_ s r_ _ch_ d th_ sm_ ll h_ m_ n
ch_ r_ ct_ rs _ n tr_ ff_ c s_ gn_ ls _ n _ _str_ l_ . S_ gn_ ls _ t
t_ n p_ d_ str_ _ n cr_ ss_ ngs _ n th_ c_ ty _ f M_ lb_ _rn_ _ n w
d_ p_ ct w_ lk_ ng r_ d _ nd gr_ _ n p_ _pl_ _ n dr_ ss_ s. Th_
_ n_ t_ t_ v_ _ s p_ rt _ f _ tr_ _l 12-m_ nth g_ nd_ r
_ q_ _l_ ty c_ mp_ _gn _ nv_ _l_ d by th_ c_ ty. Th_ M_ n_ st_ r
f_ r W_ m_ n, F_ _n_ R_ ch_ rds_ n, _ xpl_ _n_ d th_ t th_
r_ t_ _n_ l_ b_ h_ nd th_ tr_ _l w_ s t_ p_ t m_ r_ _ m_ g_ s _ f
w_ m_ n _ n p_ bl_ c pl_ c_ s. Sh_ s_ _d: "Th_ r_ _ r_ m_ ny
sm_ ll, b_ t symb_ l_ c_ lly s_ gn_ f_ cnt w_ ys th_ t w_ m_ n
_ r_ _ xcl_ d_ d fr_ m p_ bl_ c sp_ c_ . Th_ s_ _ s_ w_ nd_ rf_ l
w_ y t_ m_ k_ p_ bl_ c sp_ c_ m_ r_ _ ncl_ s_ v_ f_ r w_ m_ n."
Sh_ h_ p_ s th_ c_ ty's s_ gn_ ls w_ ll h_ v_ _ q_ _l_ n_ mb_ rs
_ f m_ l_ _ nd f_ m_ l_ f_ g_ r_ s _ n th_ f_ t_ r_ .

Th_ n_ w s_ gn_ ls h_ v_ dr_ wn _ m_ x_ d r_ sp_ ns_ fr_ m
c_ t_ z_ ns. M_ ny cr_ t_ cs s_ y th_ n_ w sch_ m_ _ s
_ nn_ c_ ss_ ry _ nd _ w_ st_ _ f t_ xp_ y_ rs' m_ n_ y. _
l_ _d_ ng cr_ t_ c_ s M_ lb_ _rn_ 's m_ y_ r R_ b_ rt D_ yl_ ,
wh_ t_ ld r_ p_ rt_ rs: "'m_ ll f_ r d_ _ng _nyth_ ng w_ c_ n
f_ r g_ nd_ r _ q_ _ty, b_ t r_ _lly?" H_ _dd_ d:
"_nf_ rt_ n_ t_ ly, _ th_ nk th_ s s_ rt_ f_ c_ stly _ x_ rc_ s_ _ s
m_ r_ l_ k_ ly t_ br_ ng d_ r_ s_ _n." _ th_ rs s_ _d th_ n_ w
_ m_ g_ s w_ r_ _ s_ gn_ _ f p_ l_ t_ c_ l c_ rr_ ctn_ ss g_ n_
cr_ zy. S_ c_ l m_ d_ _ s_ rs _ sk_ d why th_ _ m_ g_ _ f th_
w_ m_ n h_ s t_ w_ _r _ dr_ ss, wh_ n m_ ny w_ m_ n w_ _r
tr_ _s_ rs. _ th_ rs s_ _d th_ m_ n_ y c_ _ld h_ v_ b_ _n
b_ tt_ r _ s_ d f_ r w_ rth_ _r pr_ j_ cts th_ t h_ lp_ d p_ _pl_
_ n n_ _d.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

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

gender equality has reached the small human characters on traffic signals in australia signals at ten pedestrian crossings in the city of melbourne now depict walking red and green people in dresses the initiative is part of a trial 12-month gender equality campaign unveiled by the city the minister for women fiona richardson explained that the rationale behind the trial was to put 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 in the future

the new signals have drawn a mixed response from citizens many critics say the new scheme is unnecessary and a waste of taxpayers' money a leading critic is melbourne's mayor robert doyle who told reporters "i'm all for doing anything we can for gender equity but really" he added "unfortunately i think this sort of costly exercise is more likely to bring derision" others said the new images were a sign of political correctness gone crazy social media users asked why the image of the woman has to wear a dress when many women wear trousers others said the money could have been better used for worthier projects that helped people in need

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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

Gender equality has reached the small human characters on traffic signals in Australia. Signals at ten pedestrian crossings in the city of Melbourne now depict walking red and green people in dresses. The initiative is part of a 12-month gender equality campaign unveiled by the city. The Minister for Women, Fiona Richardson, explained that the rationale behind the trial was to put 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 an equal number of male and female figures in the future. The new signals have drawn a mixed response from citizens. Many critics say the new scheme is unnecessary and a waste of taxpayers' money. A leading critic is Melbourne's mayor Robert Doyle, who told reporters: "I'm all for doing anything we can for gender equity, but really?" He added: "Unfortunately, I think this sort of costly exercise is more likely to bring derision." Others said the new images were a sign of political correctness gone crazy. Social media users asked why the image of the woman has to wear a dress, when many women wear trousers. Others said the money could have been better used for worthwhile projects that helped people in need.

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 Melbourne's new traffic signals. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. TRAFFIC SIGNALS: Make a poster about traffic signals. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. GENDER IMAGES: Write a magazine article about the need for there to be an equal number of male and female images in society. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

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 traffic signals. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your ideas on how to make them safer. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

a T b T c T d F e F f F g F h T

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| 1. depict | a. represent |
| 2. initiative | b. scheme |
| 3. unveiled | c. revealed |
| 4. significant | d. important |
| 5. equal | e. identical |
| 6. response | f. reaction |
| 7. waste | g. squandering |
| 8. derision | h. ridicule |
| 9. crazy | i. insane |
| 10. in need | j. requiring help |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. Ten
2. One year
3. In public places
4. More inclusive for women
5. They become equal in number
6. A mixed response
7. Taxpayers' money
8. Derision
9. Political correctness
10. People in need

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

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

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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