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## Level 4

### Australia broadband network under attack from birds

6th November, 2017

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

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Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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# THE READING

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

Australia's broadband network is being attacked by birds. Thousands of colourful cockatoos are chewing the broadband cables that cross Australian towns. This is causing hundreds of thousands of dollars in damage. Australia's National Broadband Network (NBN) maintains the fibre-optic cables. It spends thousands of dollars to fix each cable. The birds are causing frustration to Internet users. They have reported Internet outages and very slow speeds.

Cockatoos are a type of parrot. They normally eat fruit and nuts. An NBN spokeswoman was puzzled why the birds liked the cables. She guessed that it was their colourful plastic covers. She told reporters: "They are constantly sharpening their beaks and as a result will attack and tear apart anything they come across." 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-4.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                     |                        |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Australia's broadband network is | a. causing frustration |
| 2. broadband cables that cross      | b. being attacked      |
| 3. hundreds of thousands of dollars | c. speeds              |
| 4. fibre-optic                      | d. Australian towns    |
| 5. fix each                         | e. outages             |
| 6. The birds are                    | f. cables              |
| 7. Internet                         | g. in damage           |
| 8. very slow                        | h. cable               |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                   |                     |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Cockatoos are a type           | a. puzzled          |
| 2. They normally eat fruit        | b. are unstoppable  |
| 3. An NBN spokeswoman was         | c. their beaks      |
| 4. colourful plastic              | d. they come across |
| 5. They are constantly sharpening | e. of parrot        |
| 6. tear apart anything            | f. covers           |
| 7. These birds                    | g. for you          |
| 8. I guess that's Australia       | h. and nuts         |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

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

Australia's broadband network is (1) \_\_\_\_\_ birds.

Thousands of colourful cockatoos (2) \_\_\_\_\_ broadband

cables that cross Australian towns. (3) \_\_\_\_\_ hundreds of

thousands of (4) \_\_\_\_\_. Australia's National Broadband

Network (NBN) maintains the fibre-optic cables. It spends thousands of

dollars (5) \_\_\_\_\_ cable. The birds are causing frustration

to Internet users. They have reported Internet outages and

(6) \_\_\_\_\_.

Cockatoos are a (7) \_\_\_\_\_. They normally eat fruit and

nuts. An NBN spokeswoman (8) \_\_\_\_\_ the birds

(9) \_\_\_\_\_. She guessed that it was their colourful plastic

covers. She told reporters: "They are constantly sharpening

(10) \_\_\_\_\_ as a result will attack and tear apart anything

(11) \_\_\_\_\_." 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-4.html>

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# 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*  
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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) \_\_\_\_\_

