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Australia mayor seeks 'ugly' women

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19th August, 2008

THE ARTICLE

The mayor of a remote Australian town has caused outrage among women across Australia. John Molony, the mayor of Mt. Isa, a mining town in the Australian Outback, has offended women by making sexist comments. He called on women who were "ugly ducklings" to come to his town to make its male citizens happy. Mt. Isa has a population of almost 25,000 and men outnumber women by a ratio of five to one. Mr. Molony proposed making the numbers more equal by saying: "If there are five [men] to every girl, we should find out where there are beauty-disadvantaged women and ask them to proceed to Mount Isa." He stated that "not so attractive" women were happy in his town because of a recent or upcoming date.

Many of Mt. Isa's female residents are up in arms at their mayor's comments. Patricia O'Callaghan from the Chamber of Commerce said Molony's remarks were offensive and that "there are a lot of women who are furious". Many women have hit back. Healthcare worker Catherine Willett said: "To be honest, there just aren't top quality men here....They are too busy drinking beer to notice the women and all they do is whistle or yell as you go past." Anna Warrick, an occupational therapist, added: "The guys don't make much of an effort with the girls. There isn't much wining and dining going on." Molony has refused to apologize, saying his comments were "twisted and warped" by the media. He insists he respects women.

WARM-UPS

1. BEAUTY: Walk around the class and talk to other students about beauty. Change partners often. After you finish, sit with your partner(s) and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

mayors / outrage / mining towns / sexist comments / population / going on a date / being up in arms / hitting back / healthcare workers / whistling / wining and dining

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

3. OFFENSIVE COMMENTS: Are you easily offended? Write what you would do if someone made really about comments to you. Change partners and share your ideas.

Comment about...	What I would do
My looks	
My body	
My family & friends	
My religion	
My intelligence	
My country	

4. ROMANCE: Students A strongly believe being romantic is the man's job; Students B strongly believe both partners have an equal responsibility to be romantic. Change partners again and talk about your roles and conversations.

5. GUYS 'N' GIRLS: Are guys better than girls or is it the other way round? With your partner(s), decide if guys or girls gets the highest score out of ten for the following:

Guys	Girls		Guys	Girls	
_____	_____	romance	_____	_____	honesty
_____	_____	intelligence	_____	_____	punctuality
_____	_____	courage	_____	_____	common sense
_____	_____	sense of humour	_____	_____	gentleness

6. FEMALE: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'female'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

1. TRUE / FALSE: Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

- | | |
|--|-------|
| a. An Australian mayor wants to meet and date women who aren't pretty. | T / F |
| b. The mayor's comments have upset many women in his town. | T / F |
| c. There are five times more women than men in the mayor's town. | T / F |
| d. The mayor suggested women come to his town to find a boyfriend. | T / F |
| e. Several women hit the mayor on his back. | T / F |
| f. One woman said the town's men were too interested in beer. | T / F |
| g. A female resident said the town's men rarely wined and dined women. | T / F |
| h. The mayor has apologized for his comments. | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article:

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| 1. remote | a. hurt |
| 2. outrage | b. press |
| 3. offended | c. furious |
| 4. proposed | d. swears |
| 5. proceed | e. isolated |
| 6. up in arms | f. fury |
| 7. offensive | g. romancing |
| 8. wining and dining | h. go |
| 9. insists | i. suggested |
| 10. media | j. insulting |

3. PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. The mayor of a remote | a. more equal |
| 2. offended women by | b. much of an effort |
| 3. men outnumber women by | c. back |
| 4. making the numbers | d. a ratio of five to one |
| 5. a recent or | e. making sexist comments |
| 6. female residents are up | f. drinking beer |
| 7. Many women have hit | g. and dining |
| 8. too busy | h. Australian town |
| 9. The guys don't make | i. upcoming date |
| 10. wining | j. in arms |

WHILE READING / LISTENING

GAP FILL: Put the words into the gaps in the text.

The mayor of a remote Australian town has _____ outrage among women across Australia. John Molony, the mayor of Mt. Isa, a mining town in the Australian Outback, has _____ women by making _____ comments. He called on women who were "ugly ducklings" to come to his town to make its male _____ happy. Mt. Isa has a population of almost 25,000 and men outnumber women by a _____ of five to one. Mr. Molony proposed making the numbers more _____ by saying: "If there are five [men] to every girl, we should find out where there are beauty-disadvantaged women and ask them to proceed to Mount Isa." He stated that "not so _____" women were happy in his town because of a _____ or upcoming date.

attractive

sexist

citizens

caused

recent

ratio

offended

equal

Many of Mt. Isa's female residents are up in _____ at their mayor's comments. Patricia O'Callaghan from the Chamber of Commerce said Molony's remarks were _____ and that "there are a lot of women who are _____". Many women have hit _____. Healthcare worker Catherine Willett said: "To be honest, there just aren't top quality men here....They are too busy drinking beer to _____ the women and all they do is whistle or _____ as you go past." Anna Warrick, an occupational therapist, added: "The guys don't make much of an effort with the girls. There isn't much wining and _____ going on." Molony has refused to apologize, saying his comments were "twisted and warped" by the media. He insists he _____ women.

notice

offensive

furios

respects

dining

arms

back

yell

LISTENING: Listen and fill in the spaces.

The mayor of a remote Australian town _____ among women across Australia. John Molony, the mayor of Mt. Isa, a mining town in the Australian Outback, _____ by making sexist comments. He called on women who were "ugly ducklings" to come to his _____ male citizens happy. Mt. Isa has a population of almost 25,000 and men outnumber women _____ to one. Mr. Molony proposed making the _____ by saying: "If there are five [men] to every girl, we should find out where there are beauty-disadvantaged women and ask them to proceed to Mount Isa." He stated that "not so attractive" women were happy in his town because of a recent _____.

Many of Mt. Isa's female residents _____ at their mayor's comments. Patricia O'Callaghan from the Chamber of Commerce said Molony's remarks were offensive and that "there are a lot of women _____". Many women have hit back. Healthcare worker Catherine Willett said: "To be honest, there just _____ men here....They are too busy drinking beer to notice the women and all they do is whistle _____ past." Anna Warrick, an occupational therapist, added: "The guys don't make much of an effort with the girls. There isn't much _____ going on." Molony has refused to apologize, saying his comments were "_____ " by the media. He insists he respects women.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words '**wine**' and '**dine**'.

wine	dine

- 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">• outrage• sexist• ducklings• ratio• proceed• recent	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• arms• furious• hit• busy• wining• media
---	--

STUDENT BEAUTY SURVEY

Write five GOOD questions about beauty 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.

BEAUTY DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'ugly'?
- c) What do you think of the mayor's comments?
- d) Do you think beauty should be a factor in encouraging people to move to a town?
- e) Do you think John Molony should resign?
- f) What would people in your town say if your mayor made these comments?
- g) What do you think the mayor should do to make his town more attractive to all women?
- h) What do you think of Mr. Molony's term "beauty disadvantaged"?
- i) What do you think Mt. Isa is like?
- j) Why do you think the men of Mt. Isa greatly outnumber the women?

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BEAUTY DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) When was the last time you were up in arms about something?
- c) Have you ever hit back at someone for what they said?
- d) Do you think beauty is in the eye of the beholder?
- e) Do you think there's a relationship between beer drinking and the quality of a man?
- f) What do you think of men who whistle at women?
- g) Do you like the idea of wining and dining?
- h) What does "beauty is only skin deep" mean? Do you agree?
- i) Do you think John Molony really respects women?
- j) What questions would you like to ask John Molony?

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LANGUAGE

The mayor of a (1) _____ Australian town has caused outrage among women across Australia. John Molony, the mayor of Mt. Isa, a mining town in the Australian Outback, has (2) _____ women by making sexist comments. He called (3) _____ women who were "ugly ducklings" to come to his town to make its male citizens happy. Mt. Isa has a population of almost 25,000 and men outnumber women (4) _____ a ratio of five to one. Mr. Molony proposed making the numbers more (5) _____ by saying: "If there are five [men] to every girl, we should find out where there are beauty-disadvantaged women and ask them to proceed to Mount Isa." He stated that "not so attractive" women were happy in his town because of a recent or (6) _____ date.

Many of Mt. Isa's female residents are up in (7) _____ at their mayor's comments. Patricia O'Callaghan from the Chamber of Commerce said Molony's remarks were offensive and that "there are a lot of women who are (8) _____". Many women have hit back. Healthcare worker Catherine Willett said: "To be honest, there just aren't top quality men here....They are too busy drinking beer (9) _____ notice the women and all they do is whistle or yell as you go past." Anna Warrick, an occupational (10) _____, added: "The guys don't make much of an effort with the girls. There isn't much (11) _____ and dining going on." Molony has refused to apologize, saying his comments were "twisted and warped" by the media. He insists he (12) _____ women.

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. | (a) remote | (b) remotely | (c) remoter | (d) remoteness |
| 2. | (a) offensive | (b) offends | (c) offended | (d) offending |
| 3. | (a) off | (b) of | (c) in | (d) on |
| 4. | (a) of | (b) by | (c) at | (d) to |
| 5. | (a) equity | (b) equation | (c) equality | (d) equal |
| 6. | (a) incoming | (b) oncoming | (c) upcoming | (d) coming |
| 7. | (a) elbows | (b) arms | (c) wrists | (d) biceps |
| 8. | (a) furious | (b) furiously | (c) fury | (d) furry |
| 9. | (a) to | (b) at | (c) for | (d) so |
| 10. | (a) therapy | (b) treatment | (c) therapist | (d) therapeutic |
| 11. | (a) whinging | (b) whining | (c) winning | (d) wining |
| 12. | (a) respect | (b) respects | (c) respectable | (d) respectful |

WRITING:

Write about **beauty** for 10 minutes. Correct your partner's paper.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

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 the Australian Outback mining town Mt. Isa. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. MY TOWN: Make a poster about your town. Advertise all the good things about it to attract people to go and live there. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. OFFENSIVE: Write a magazine article about a meeting between Mayor Molony and the women of Mt. Isa. What happened next? Include imaginary interviews with the mayor and a woman from the article. What do they think of each other?

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. DIARY / JOURNAL: You are your town's mayor. Write about one day in your life. Read your entry to your classmates in the next lesson.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

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

SYNONYM MATCH:

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| 1. remote | a. isolated |
| 2. outrage | b. fury |
| 3. offended | c. hurt |
| 4. proposed | d. suggested |
| 5. proceed | e. go |
| 6. up in arms | f. furious |
| 7. offensive | g. insulting |
| 8. wining and dining | h. romancing |
| 9. insists | i. swears |
| 10. media | j. press |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. The mayor of a remote | a. Australian town |
| 2. offended women by | b. making sexist comments |
| 3. men outnumber women by | c. a ratio of five to one |
| 4. making the numbers | d. more equal |
| 5. a recent or | e. upcoming date |
| 6. female residents are up | f. in arms |
| 7. Many women have hit | g. back |
| 8. too busy | h. drinking beer |
| 9. The guys don't make | i. much of an effort |
| 10. wining | j. and dining |

GAP FILL:

Australia mayor seeks 'ugly' women

The mayor of a remote Australian town has **caused** outrage among women across Australia. John Molony, the mayor of Mt. Isa, a mining town in the Australian Outback, has **offended** women by making **sexist** comments. He called on women who were "ugly ducklings" to come to his town to make its male **citizens** happy. Mt. Isa has a population of almost 25,000 and men outnumber women by a **ratio** of five to one. Mr. Molony proposed making the numbers more **equal** by saying: "If there are five [men] to every girl, we should find out where there are beauty-disadvantaged women and ask them to proceed to Mount Isa." He stated that "not so **attractive**" women were happy in his town because of a **recent** or upcoming date.

Many of Mt. Isa's female residents are up in **arms** at their mayor's comments. Patricia O'Callaghan from the Chamber of Commerce said Molony's remarks were **offensive** and that "there are a lot of women who are **furious**". Many women have hit **back**. Healthcare worker Catherine Willett said: "To be honest, there just aren't top quality men here....They are too busy drinking beer to **notice** the women and all they do is whistle or **yell** as you go past." Anna Warrick, an occupational therapist, added: "The guys don't make much of an effort with the girls. There isn't much wining and **dining** going on." Molony has refused to apologize, saying his comments were "twisted and warped" by the media. He insists he **respects** women.

LANGUAGE WORK

- 1 - a 2 - c 3 - d 4 - b 5 - d 6 - c 7 - b 8 - a 9 - a 10 - c 11 - d 12 - b