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Level 4 – 22nd June 2026

Hydration breaks booed at World Cup

FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2606/260622-hydration-breaks-world-cup-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/2606/260622-hydration-breaks-world-cup-4.html>

Football fans are not happy about the new hydration breaks at the World Cup. Spectators in stadiums have been booing the breaks. They are not the only unhappy ones. Players and managers are also less than happy. France's manager said the breaks disrupted free-flowing football. He said: "It's almost four quarters, and before we had two halves." A Netherlands defender said the breaks were "not really" something he wanted in football.

FIFA introduced the idea of water breaks last year. It said they would be in every game, regardless of temperatures. Some games have been held in climate-controlled conditions. Critics say the breaks are for commercial reasons. The BBC reported that an average 30-second World Cup ad slot costs up to \$750,000. One TV channel came back late from a commercial break. The BBC said: "It is highly likely that the breaks will remain a long-term feature."

Sources: https://www.espn.com/soccer/story/_/id/48945011/why-there-drinks-breaks-2026-world-cup-fifa-criticised
<https://sports.yahoo.com/soccer/article/2026-world-cup-unnecessary-hydration-breaks-draw-criticism-from-players-coaches-and-fans-054032743.html>
<https://www.bbc.com/sport/football/articles/cp3xqn9zxdgo>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2606/260622-hydration-breaks-world-cup-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Football fans are | a. football |
| 2. Spectators in | b. ones |
| 3. They are not the only unhappy | c. quarters |
| 4. managers are also less than | d. stadiums |
| 5. the breaks disrupted free-flowing | e. he wanted |
| 6. It's almost four | f. halves |
| 7. before we had two | g. not happy |
| 8. breaks were "not really" something | h. happy |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. FIFA introduced the idea | a. back late |
| 2. regardless | b. commercial reasons |
| 3. held in climate- controlled | c. term feature |
| 4. the breaks are for | d. conditions |
| 5. World Cup ad | e. break |
| 6. One TV channel came | f. of temperatures |
| 7. a commercial | g. of water breaks |
| 8. breaks will remain a long- | h. slot |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2606/260622-hydration-breaks-world-cup-4.html>

Football fans are (1) _____ the new hydration breaks at the World Cup. Spectators (2) _____ been booing the breaks. They are not the only unhappy ones. Players and managers are also (3) _____. France's manager said the breaks disrupted (4) _____. He said: "It's almost four quarters, and before we (5) _____." A Netherlands defender said the breaks were (6) _____ he wanted in football.

FIFA introduced the (7) _____ breaks last year. It said they would be in every (8) _____ temperatures. Some games have been held in (9) _____. Critics say the breaks are for commercial reasons. The BBC reported that an average 30-second World Cup (10) _____ up to \$750,000. One TV channel came back late (11) _____ break. The BBC said: "It is highly likely that the breaks will remain a (12) _____."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2606/260622-hydration-breaks-world-cup-4.html>

FootballfansarenothappyaboutthenewhydrationbreaksattheWorldCup. Spectatorsinstadiumshavebeenbooingthebreaks. Theyarenottheonlyunhappyones. Playersandmanagersarealsolessthanhappy. France'smanagersaidthebreaksdisruptedfree-flowingfootball. Hesaid: "It'salmostfourquarters, andbeforewehadtwohalves." ANetherlandsdefendersaidthebreakswere"notreally"somethinghewantedinfootball. FIFAintroducedtheideaofwaterbreakslastyear. Itsaidtheywouldbein everygame, regardlessotemperatures. Somegameshavebeenheldin climate-controlledconditions. Criticssaythebreaksareforcommercial reasons. TheBBCreportedthatanaverage30-secondWorldCupadslo tcostsupto\$750,000. OneTVchannelcamebacklatefromacommercial break. TheBBCsaid: "Itishighlylikelythatthebreakswillremainalong-termfeature."

WORLD CUP SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2606/260622-hydration-breaks-world-cup-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about World Cup 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) _____

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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) _____

