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Level 5 – 22nd June 2026

Hydration breaks booed at World Cup

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2606/260622-hydration-breaks-world-cup-5.html>

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

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2606/260622-hydration-breaks-world-cup-5.html>

Football fans are not happy about the new hydration breaks at the World Cup. Spectators in stadiums have been expressing their dissatisfaction with the breaks by booing. They are not the only ones to express their unhappiness. Players and managers are less than happy. France's manager complained about the breaks disrupting the free-flowing nature and momentum of games. He said: "It's almost four quarters, and before we had two halves." A Netherlands defender said the breaks were unnecessary. He said they were "not really" something he wanted in football.

Football's governing body introduced the concept of water breaks last year. It said they would be in every game, regardless of temperatures. Some games in the USA have been held in climate-controlled conditions. Critics argue that the breaks are mainly for commercial reasons. The BBC reported that an average 30-second World Cup ad slot on Fox Sports costs up to \$750,000. Fox came back late from a commercial break during the tournament opener between Mexico and South Africa. The BBC added that: "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-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Football | a. halves |
| 2. Spectators in | b. dissatisfaction |
| 3. expressing their | c. flowing nature |
| 4. They are not the | d. he wanted |
| 5. managers are | e. fans are not happy |
| 6. disrupting the free- | f. less than happy |
| 7. before we had two | g. only ones |
| 8. they were "not really" something | h. stadiums |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Football's governing body | a. controlled conditions |
| 2. regardless | b. a commercial break |
| 3. held in climate- | c. of temperatures |
| 4. the breaks are mainly | d. ad slot |
| 5. an average 30-second World Cup | e. opener |
| 6. Fox came back late from | f. introduced the concept |
| 7. during the tournament | g. term feature |
| 8. the breaks will remain a long- | h. for commercial reasons |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2606/260622-hydration-breaks-world-cup-5.html>

(1) _____ not happy about the new hydration breaks at the World Cup. (2) _____ have been expressing their dissatisfaction with the (3) _____. They are not the only ones to express their unhappiness. Players and (4) _____ than happy. France's manager complained about the breaks disrupting the (5) _____ and momentum of games. He said: "It's almost four quarters, and before we (6) _____." A Netherlands defender said the breaks were unnecessary. He said they were "not really" something he wanted in football.

Football's governing body introduced (7) _____ water breaks last year. It said they would be in every game, (8) _____. Some games in the USA have been held in climate-controlled conditions. (9) _____ the breaks are mainly for commercial reasons. The BBC reported that an average 30-second World Cup (10) _____ Fox Sports costs up to \$750,000. Fox came back late (11) _____ break during the tournament opener between Mexico and South Africa. The BBC added that: "It is highly likely that the breaks will (12) _____-term feature."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2606/260622-hydration-breaks-world-cup-5.html>

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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) _____

