

NEWS REPORT LISTENING ACTIVITY

GAP FILL

Football fans worldwide are not happy about the (1) _____ of hydration breaks at the World Cup. Spectators in the stadiums have been (2) _____ their dissatisfaction with the breaks in play by booing and (3) _____. They are not the only ones to express their (4) _____. Players and managers are less than happy. French manager Didier Deschamps complained about breaks disrupting the free-flowing nature and (5) _____ of games. He said: "It's almost four quarters, and before we had two (6) _____." Netherlands defender Virgil van Dijk said that the (7) _____ were unnecessary. He lamented the sudden interruptions for (8) _____ breaks on TV, saying it was "not really" something he wanted in football.

momentum
jeering
introduction
ad
consternation
stoppages
expressing
halves

Football's governing body FIFA introduced the (9) _____ of water breaks last December. It said they would be in every game, (10) _____ of temperatures. Some games in the USA have been held under roofs, in climate- (11) _____ conditions. Critics argue that the breaks exist (12) _____ for commercial reasons. The BBC reported that an average 30-second World Cup ad (13) _____ on Fox Sports costs up to \$750,000 during high-profile matches. Fox came back late from a commercial break during the tournament (14) _____ between Mexico and South Africa. The BBC added that: "Given the (15) _____ benefits... it is highly likely that the breaks will remain a long-term (16) _____."

slot
controlled
primarily
feature
concept
financial
regardless
opener

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Where have fans been expressing their dissatisfaction?
2. What are fans doing besides booing?
3. How do players and managers feel about the hydration breaks?
4. What did France's coach say there are nearly four of?
5. What did a Dutch defender say about the stoppages for water?
6. When did FIFA first announce the breaks?
7. What percentage of games are the hydration breaks in?
8. How much can a 30-second ad cost on Fox Sports?
9. What did Fox Sports come back late for due to an ad break?
10. What did the BBC say about the future of hydration breaks?

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

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|------------------|---|
| 1. spectators | a. Said that something was sad or disappointing. |
| 2. jeering | b. Shouting unkind words to show dislike or disapproval. |
| 3. consternation | c. Causing something to stop or not continue normally. |
| 4. disrupting | d. People who watch an event, game, or show. |
| 5. momentum | e. Times when something is stopped for a short time. |
| 6. lamented | f. A feeling of great surprise, worry, or confusion. |
| 7. interruptions | g. The force or energy that helps something keep moving or making progress. |

Paragraph 2

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| 8. governing body | h. Mostly; more than anything else. |
| 9. regardless | i. People who express negative opinions about something. |
| 10. critics | j. A period of time during a TV or radio broadcast when an advertisement is shown. |
| 11. primarily | k. The group that controls and makes rules for an activity or organization. |
| 12. commercial (adjective) | l. Without being affected by something. |
| 13. ad slot | m. An important part or characteristic of something. |
| 14. feature (noun) | n. Related to buying, selling, or making money. |