

NEWS REPORT

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

Football (1) _____ not happy about the introduction of hydration breaks at the World Cup. (2) _____ stadiums have been expressing their dissatisfaction with the breaks in play by booing and jeering. They are not the only ones to express their consternation. Players and managers are (3) _____. French manager Didier Deschamps complained about breaks disrupting the (4) _____ and momentum of games. He said: "It's (5) _____, and before we had two halves." Netherlands defender Virgil van Dijk said that the stoppages were unnecessary. He lamented the sudden (6) _____ breaks on TV, saying it was "not really" something he wanted in football.

Football's governing body FIFA introduced (7) _____ water breaks last December. It said they would be in every game, regardless of temperatures. Some games in the USA have been (8) _____, in climate-controlled conditions. Critics argue that the breaks (9) _____ commercial reasons. The BBC reported that an average 30-second World Cup ad slot on Fox Sports costs up to \$750,000 during (10) _____. Fox came back late from a commercial break during (11) _____ between Mexico and South Africa. The BBC added that: "Given the financial benefits... it is highly likely that the breaks will remain a (12) _____."

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. |