

Presenters in trouble over sexism row

Level 2 • Intermediate

1 Key words

Fill the gaps in the sentences using these key words from the text. The paragraph numbers are given to help you.

official	sexist	ethos	suspended	banter
off-air	offside	offensive	officiating	unacceptable

- If you are _____ from a job, you are officially stopped from doing that job for a limited amount of time. (title)
- A _____ comment is one that suggests that men and women should be treated in a different way and are suited to different types of jobs and positions in society. (para 1)
- If you say something _____, you say it at a moment when a television or radio programme is not being broadcast. (para 1)
- If something is described as _____, it is seen as wrong or harmful, especially because it does not reach usual standards of behaviour. (para 1)
- In football, an _____ is either the referee or one of the assistant referees. (para 2)
- If you are _____ in football, you are in the wrong position according to the rules of the game. (para 3)
- The _____ of an organization is the set of attitudes and beliefs that are typical of it. (para 5)
- _____ behaviour is unpleasant or insulting and makes people feel upset or embarrassed. (para 5)
- If you have the job of _____ at a game or match, you are in charge and you make sure that the players obey the rules. (para 6)
- _____ is friendly conversation in which people tell jokes and laugh at each other. (para 8)

2 Correct the statements

Read these statements. There is a mistake in each one. Read the text and correct the mistakes.

- Two Sky Sports presenters have been suspended for making racist remarks.
- They were recorded on tape by a local newspaper.
- They have presented football programmes for more than 20 years.
- They thought their microphones were switched on.
- They agreed that male officials don't know the offside rule.

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Richard Keys and Andy Gray suspended from Sky game over sexism row

Owen Gibson
24 January, 2011

- 1 Two television presenters from Sky Sports, Richard Keys and Andy Gray, were recorded on tape making sexist comments off-air. As a result, they have been suspended from their jobs for the next live football match. Sky Sports said that both men had been clearly told that their comments were “totally unacceptable”.
- 2 Keys and Gray, were recorded on tape by a national newspaper criticizing the Premier League official Sian Massey and the West Ham vice-chairperson, Karren Brady. The two men were scheduled to present the next live game but will be replaced by another presenter. The programme will start 15 minutes later than planned and be presented direct from the stadium rather than from the Sky Sports studio.
- 3 The two men, who have presented Sky Sports football programmes for almost 20 years, commented on Massey’s appointment for a game between Wolverhampton Wanderers and Liverpool, when they thought their microphones were switched off. They agreed that female officials “don’t know the offside rule”, and Keys added: “I can guarantee you there’ll be a big mistake today. The Liverpool manager will go potty.” However, Massey made an important correct offside decision just before Liverpool’s first goal in the match.
- 4 Keys then referred to comments made by Brady in another newspaper about the amount of sexism in football by saying: “Did you see the charming Karren Brady this morning complaining about sexism? Yeah. Do me a favour, love.”
- 5 The Sky Sports managing director, Barney Francis, said he had spoken to both Keys and Gray personally. “I explained clearly to them that their comments were totally unacceptable. Those views are not part of our ethos as a business and employer, and will be offensive to many of our customers, our people and the general public,” he said. “They are unacceptable from anyone at Sky, no matter what their role is or how senior they are.”
- 6 Francis added: “We have dealt with this matter by taking immediate disciplinary action. However, it would not be right to go into detail [about this] but they have been clearly warned about their behaviour and reminded of their responsibilities.” The UK sports minister, Hugh Robertson, added his voice to the criticism. “It is very disappointing to hear these comments at a time when we are trying to get more women participating and officiating in sport, particularly football,” he said.
- 7 Brady said that the comments had made her “blood boil”. “Forget myself for a second, because what they said about me is a personal opinion and everyone can have a personal opinion. What really upsets me is the fact that only females in our industry are judged by their gender. And that is completely wrong,” she said.
- 8 “I’m really disappointed. I never thought that [Richard Keys and Andy Gray] had those views, whether public or private,” said Brady on BBC Radio. “It almost makes it worse that they’re speaking when the microphones are not on, because they have never really had the courage to say it publicly, they would only say it privately. I have heard it and I don’t believe it is just banter.”

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Note: Since this article was written, Gray has been fired from his job and Keys has resigned.

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3 Comprehension check

Are these statements true (T) or false (F) according to the information in the article?

1. Keys and Gray criticized two different women.
2. They believed the female official would make a big mistake during the match.
3. The female official made a big mistake during the match.
4. The managing director of Sky Sports waited for a few days before taking disciplinary action.
5. The government wants more women to participate and officiate in sport.
6. Karren Brady didn't care about the comments.

4 Find the word

Find the following words and phrases in the text.

1. two-word noun phrase meaning *deputy chairperson* (para 2)
2. a noun meaning *the fact of giving someone a new job or position of responsibility* (para 3)
3. a two-word colloquial expression meaning *to get very angry* (para 3)
4. a four-word colloquial expression meaning *I don't agree with you at all* (para 4)
5. a two-word phrasal verb meaning *to take action* (para 6)
6. a three-word expression meaning *to mention many facts about a situation* (para 6)
7. a four-word expression meaning *to make you feel very angry* (para 7)
8. a noun meaning *the fact of being either male or female* (para 7)

5 Verbs followed by prepositions

Complete the expressions using these prepositions.

to from in of about on

1. comment _____
2. participate _____
3. suspend _____
4. refer _____
5. complain _____
6. remind _____

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6 Word-building

Complete the table.

	verb	noun
1.	behave	
2.	comment	
3.	appoint	
4.	criticize	
	noun	adjective
5.	discipline	
6.	offence	

7 Discussion

Read the note at the end of the article again. Do you think it was right that Richard Keys and Andy Gray lost their jobs? Explain your answer.

Do you think women should be referees or assistant referees at men's football matches? Why? Why not?

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KEY

1 Key words

1. suspended
2. sexist
3. off-air
4. unacceptable
5. official
6. offside
7. ethos
8. offensive
9. officiating
10. banter

2 Correct the statements

1. Two Sky Sports presenters have been suspended for making sexist remarks.
2. They were recorded on tape by a national newspaper.
3. They have presented football programmes for almost 20 years.
4. They thought their microphones were switched off.
5. They agreed that female officials don't know the offside rule.

3 Comprehension check

1. T
2. T
3. F
4. F
5. T
6. F

4 Find the word

1. vice-chairperson
2. appointment
3. go potty
4. do me a favour
5. deal with
6. go into detail
7. make your blood boil
8. gender

5 Verbs followed by prepositions

1. on
2. in
3. from
4. to
5. about
6. of

6 Word-building

1. behaviour
2. comment
3. appointment
4. criticism
5. disciplinary
6. offensive