

## Presenters in trouble over sexism row

### Level 3 • Advanced

#### 1 Key words

Fill the gaps in the sentences using these key words from the text.

<b>sexist</b>	<b>inexcusable</b>	<b>ethos</b>	<b>official</b>	<b>suspend</b>	<b>offside</b>
<b>banter</b>	<b>broadcaster</b>	<b>off-air</b>	<b>build-up</b>	<b>concur</b>	<b>vice-chair</b>

- If you \_\_\_\_\_ someone from a job, you officially stop them from doing that job for a limited amount of time.
- 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.
- If a comment is made \_\_\_\_\_, it is made at a moment when a television or radio programme is not being broadcast.
- A \_\_\_\_\_ is a television or radio company.
- If behaviour is described as \_\_\_\_\_, it is so bad or rude that you cannot forgive the person who behaved in that way.
- In football, an \_\_\_\_\_ is either the referee or one of the assistant referees.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ is the second most senior person in charge of a company.
- If you \_\_\_\_\_, you agree with what someone says.
- If you are \_\_\_\_\_ in football, you are in the wrong position according to the rules of the game.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ to a sporting event is the time before it when people are talking about it and preparing for it.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ of an organization is the set of attitudes and beliefs that are typical of it.
- \_\_\_\_\_ is friendly conversation in which people tell jokes and laugh at each other.

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

Owen Gibson  
24 January, 2011

- 1 The Sky Sports presenters Richard Keys and Andy Gray, heavily criticized after being caught on tape making sexist comments off-air, have been suspended from presenting the next live match and will be subject to further disciplinary action. The broadcaster said that it had made clear to both that their comments were "totally unacceptable".
- 2 Keys and Gray, caught on tape by a national newspaper criticizing the Premier League official Sian Massey and the West Ham vice-chair Karren Brady, were due to front coverage of Bolton against Chelsea but have been replaced by the former Sky Sports News presenter, Dave Jones. The programme will start 15 minutes later than originally planned and be presented from Bolton rather than from the Sky Sports studio.
- 3 The pair, who have fronted Sky Sports football coverage for almost two decades, commented on Massey's appointment for a recent game between Wolverhampton Wanderers and Liverpool, when they thought their microphones were switched off. They concurred that female officials "don't know the offside rule", with Keys adding: "I can guarantee you there'll be a big one today. [Liverpool manager] Kenny [Dalglish] will go potty." Instead, Massey crucially made a correct borderline call in the build-up to Liverpool's first goal in the match.
- 4 Keys also went on to remark on comments made by Brady in another newspaper about the level of sexism in football by saying: "See 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. "It has been made clear to each of them that their comments were totally unacceptable. Those views are entirely inconsistent with our ethos as a business and employer, and will rightly offend many of our customers, our people and the wider public," he said. "They are inexcusable from anyone at Sky, regardless of their role or seniority."
- 6 Francis added: "We have dealt with this matter by taking immediate disciplinary action. As with any employee, it would not be right to go into detail on those proceedings. However, they have been clearly warned about their behaviour and reminded of their responsibilities." The UK sports minister, Hugh Robertson, also joined the chorus of 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 was said about me is a personal opinion and everyone is entitled to that. What really upsets me is the fact that only females in our industry are judged by their gender. And that is categorically wrong," she said.
- 8 "I'm genuinely disappointed. It never would have occurred to me that [Richard Keys and Andy Gray] had those views, whether public or private," added Brady on BBC Radio. "It almost makes it worse that they're speaking when the microphones are not on, as opposed to when they are on, because [they have] never really had the brass neck 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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#### 2 Comprehension check

Choose the best answer according to the text.

1. The two men were suspended from their jobs because ...
  - a. ... they made sexist comments on live television.
  - b. ... they made sexist comments off-air.
  - c. ... they made sexist comments in a newspaper interview.
2. The two men were unhappy that ...
  - a. ... a female official had made a bad mistake in an important match.
  - b. ... a female official had been appointed to officiate in an important match.
  - c. ... a female official didn't know the offside rule.
3. How did the Sky Sports managing director describe the comments?
  - a. he said they were inconsistent
  - b. he said they were offensive
  - c. he said they were totally unacceptable
4. How did Karren Brady react to the comments?
  - a. she was surprised and disappointed
  - b. she was surprised and angry
  - c. she was angry and disappointed

#### 3 Find the word

Find the following words and phrases in the text.

1. a two-word expression meaning *measures taken to punish someone for breaking the rules of their employment* (para 1)
2. a verb meaning *to be the main person appearing in a television programme, telling people what is happening in each part of the programme* (para 2)
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 expression meaning *not in accordance with* (para 5)
6. a verb meaning *to be in charge of a game or match and check that the players obey the rules* (para 6)
7. a four-word expression meaning *to make you feel very angry* (para 7)
8. a two-word expression meaning *rude and confident behaviour that makes someone capable of doing something that most people would be too embarrassed to do* (para 8)

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#### 4 Adverbs

Match the adverbs in the box with the words from the text that they qualify.

heavily

genuinely

totally

entirely

clearly

categorically

1. \_\_\_\_\_ wrong
2. \_\_\_\_\_ inconsistent
3. \_\_\_\_\_ warned
4. \_\_\_\_\_ criticized
5. \_\_\_\_\_ unacceptable
6. \_\_\_\_\_ disappointed

#### 5 Word-building

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the word in brackets at the end of each sentence.

1. The two men were subject to \_\_\_\_\_ action. [DISCIPLINE]
2. The two men were unhappy about the \_\_\_\_\_ of a female official. [APPOINT]
3. Karren Brady complained about the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ in football. [SEX]
4. The comments have been described as \_\_\_\_\_. [EXCUSE]
5. Brady said it was \_\_\_\_\_ wrong to judge people by their gender. [CATEGORY]
6. The men made the comments \_\_\_\_\_ rather than publicly. [PRIVATE]

#### 6 Discussion

Do you think it is right for people to lose their jobs for remarks they made in a conversation they thought was private? 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. suspend
2. sexist
3. off-air
4. broadcaster
5. inexcusable
6. official
7. vice-chair
8. concur
9. offside
10. build-up
11. ethos
12. banter

#### 2 Comprehension check

1. b
2. b
3. c
4. c

#### 3 Find the word

1. disciplinary action
2. front
3. go potty
4. do me a favour
5. inconsistent with
6. officiate
7. make your blood boil
8. brass neck

#### 4 Adverbs

1. categorically
2. entirely
3. clearly
4. heavily
5. totally
6. genuinely

#### 5 Word-building

1. disciplinary
2. appointment
3. sexism
4. inexcusable
5. categorically
6. privately