

Breaking News English.com

Ready-to-Use English Lessons by Sean Banville

**"1,000 IDEAS & ACTIVITIES
FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS"**

breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html

**Thousands more free lessons
from Sean's other websites**

www.freematerials.com/sean_banville_lessons.html

Level 6

Australia broadband network under attack from birds

6th November, 2017

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1711/171106-broadband-cables.html>

Contents

The Article	2	Discussion (Student-Created Qs)	15
Warm-Ups	3	Language Work (Cloze)	16
Vocabulary	4	Spelling	17
Before Reading / Listening	5	Put The Text Back Together	18
Gap Fill	6	Put The Words In The Right Order	19
Match The Sentences And Listen	7	Circle The Correct Word	20
Listening Gap Fill	8	Insert The Vowels (a, e, i, o, u)	21
Comprehension Questions	9	Punctuate The Text And Add Capitals	22
Multiple Choice - Quiz	10	Put A Slash (/) Where The Spaces Are	23
Role Play	11	Free Writing	24
After Reading / Listening	12	Academic Writing	25
Student Survey	13	Homework	26
Discussion (20 Questions)	14	Answers	27

Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).

Twitter



twitter.com/SeanBanville

Facebook



www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176

Google +



<https://plus.google.com/+SeanBanville>

THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1711/171106-broadband-cables.html>

Australia's high-speed, state-of-the-art broadband network is under attack from thousands of birds. The birds doing the damage are Australia's ubiquitous and colourful cockatoos. They have taken a liking for chewing the broadband cables that criss-cross Australian towns and cities. They are causing hundreds of thousands of dollars in damage to the cables. The National Broadband Network (NBN) company that maintains the fibre-optic cables reports that they need to spend around \$60,000 each time they are called out to fix the cables. The birds' handiwork is also causing great frustration to Internet users across the country. Internet users have reported Internet outages and painfully slow speeds.

Cockatoos are a type of parrot which normally eats fruit, nuts, wood and bark. A spokeswoman from NBN said she was at a loss as to why the birds had become partial to chewing the cables. She guessed that it was the colourful plastic that encased the power lines and broadband cables. She told reporters: "They are constantly sharpening their beaks and as a result will attack and tear apart anything they come across. Unfortunately, they've developed a liking to our cables." She joked: "You wouldn't think it was possible, but these birds are unstoppable when in a swarm. I guess that's Australia for you; if the spiders and snakes don't get you, the cockatoos will."

Sources: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-australia-41857761>
<http://nation.com.pk/04-Nov-2017/australia-cockatoos-chew-billion-dollar-broadband>
<http://www.express.co.uk/news/nature/875085/Broadband-birds-damage-Australia-network>

WARM-UPS

1. BROADBAND CABLES: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about broadband cables. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

state-of-the-art / birds / broadband / cities / fibre-optic / handiwork / frustration / parrot / at a loss / chewing / power lines / result / swarm / joked / spiders / snakes

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. INVENTION: Students A **strongly** believe the Internet is the greatest invention ever; Students B **strongly** believe it isn't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. INTERNET: How could these things be improved? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Improvements	Possibility of this happening
Connection speed		
Security		
Wi-fi		
Passwords		
Accessibility		
Content		

5. BIRDS: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "birds". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

6. SITES: Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Google
- eBay
- Amazon
- Facebook
- Twitter
- Wikipedia
- BBC
- Breaking News English

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| 1. state-of-the-art | a. Present, appearing, or found everywhere. |
| 2. ubiquitous | b. Something that one has made or done. |
| 3. criss-cross | c. The use of thin flexible threads of glass to transmit light signals, mainly for telecommunications, Internet cables or for the internal examination of the body. |
| 4. fibre-optic | d. A pattern of straight lines or paths that move over each other. |
| 5. handiwork | e. The most recent stage in the development of a product, which has the newest ideas and the most modern features. |
| 6. frustration | f. Periods of time when a power supply or other service is not available or when equipment is closed down. |
| 7. outages | g. The feeling of being upset or annoyed, especially because of the inability to change or achieve something. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 8. bark | h. A bird's projecting jaws. |
| 9. at a loss | i. The tough, protective outer layer of the trunk, branches, and twigs of a tree. |
| 10. partial | j. Non-stop over a period of time. |
| 11. encased | k. A large number of people or things all in the same place. |
| 12. constantly | l. Having a liking for. |
| 13. beaks | m. Covered in something, usually for protection. |
| 14. swarm | n. Puzzled or uncertain what to think, say, or do. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1711/171106-broadband-cables.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. Australia's Internet is being attacked by thousands of birds. **T / F**
- b. The birds that are attacking cables are not at all colourful. **T / F**
- c. The article said the birds have caused millions of dollars of damage. **T / F**
- d. The birds' singing is painful for people nearby. **T / F**
- e. An Internet company said she knew why birds are chewing cables. **T / F**
- f. The fibre-optic cables are inside colourful plastic cases. **T / F**
- g. The company said the birds sharpen their beaks on the cables. **T / F**
- h. The company said cockatoos will get you if spiders and snakes don't. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms. The words in **bold** are from the news article.

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. state-of-the-art | a. typically |
| 2. ubiquitous | b. annoyance |
| 3. causing | c. always |
| 4. frustration | d. leading to |
| 5. outages | e. like |
| 6. normally | f. cutting-edge |
| 7. at a loss | g. power failures |
| 8. partial to | h. ever-present |
| 9. constantly | i. flock |
| 10. swarm | j. puzzled |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. Australia's high-speed, state-of-the-art | a. colourful cockatoos |
| 2. Australia's ubiquitous and | b. sharpening their beaks |
| 3. fibre- | c. slow speeds |
| 4. The birds' handiwork is also causing | d. liking to our cables |
| 5. Internet outages and painfully | e. the cockatoos will |
| 6. she was at a | f. great frustration |
| 7. the birds had become partial | g. to chewing the cables |
| 8. They are constantly | h. broadband network |
| 9. they've developed a | i. loss as to why |
| 10. if the spiders and snakes don't get you, | j. optic cables |

GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1711/171106-broadband-cables.html>

Australia's high-speed, state-of-the-(1) _____ broadband network is under attack from thousands of birds. The birds doing the damage are Australia's (2) _____ and colourful cockatoos. They have taken a liking for (3) _____ the broadband cables that criss-cross Australian towns and cities. They are (4) _____ hundreds of thousands of dollars in damage to the cables. The National Broadband Network (NBN) company that maintains the fibre-(5) _____ cables reports that they need to spend around \$60,000 each time they are (6) _____ out to fix the cables. The birds' handiwork is also causing great (7) _____ to Internet users across the country. Internet users have reported Internet (8) _____ and painfully slow speeds.

causing

called

art

outages

chewing

optic

ubiquitous

frustration

Cockatoos are a type of parrot which () _____ eats fruit, nuts, wood and bark. A spokeswoman from NBN said she was at a (10) _____ as to why the birds had become (11) _____ to chewing the cables. She guessed that it was the colourful plastic that (12) _____ the power lines and broadband cables. She told reporters: "They are constantly sharpening their (13) _____ and as a result will attack and tear apart anything they come across. Unfortunately, they've (14) _____ a liking to our cables." She joked: "You wouldn't think it was possible, but these birds are (16) _____ when in a (15) _____. I guess that's Australia for you; if the spiders and snakes don't get you, the cockatoos will."

beaks

loss

unstoppable

normally

encased

swarm

partial

developed

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1711/171106-broadband-cables.html>

- 1) Australia's high-speed, state-of-the-art broadband network _____
 - a. is under a tack
 - b. asunder attack
 - c. asunder a tack
 - d. is under attack
- 2) The birds doing the damage are Australia's _____ colourful
 - a. tube quick with us and
 - b. you quickly tacks and
 - c. ubiquitous and
 - d. lube wick we tows and
- 3) a liking for chewing the broadband cables that _____ towns
 - a. crass cross Australian
 - b. crust cross Australian
 - c. criss-cross Australian
 - d. crisp-cross Australian
- 4) The National Broadband Network (NBN) company that _____-optic cables
 - a. maintain the fibre
 - b. maintains the fly bar
 - c. maintains the fry bar
 - d. maintains the fire bar
- 5) Internet users have reported Internet outages and _____
 - a. painfully slow speeding
 - b. painfully slow speeders
 - c. painfully slow speeds
 - d. painfully slow speeds up
- 6) Cockatoos are a type of parrot which normally eats fruit, _____
 - a. nuts, would and park
 - b. nuts, wooden bark
 - c. nuts, wood and bark
 - d. nuts, wood and park
- 7) NBN said she was at a loss as to why the birds had become _____
 - a. par shall to chewing
 - b. part all to chewing
 - c. pars all to chewing
 - d. partial to chewing
- 8) She guessed that it was the colourful plastic that _____ lines
 - a. encased the power
 - b. in case the power
 - c. encrust the power
 - d. in cased the power
- 9) sharpening their beaks and as a result will attack and _____
 - a. tear a part anything
 - b. tear app part anything
 - c. tear apart anything
 - d. there a part anything
- 10) You wouldn't think it was possible, but these birds are unstoppable _____
 - a. when inner swarm
 - b. when in a squirm
 - c. when in as warm
 - d. when in a swarm

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1711/171106-broadband-cables.html>

Australia's high-speed, (1) _____ broadband network is under attack from thousands of birds. The birds doing the damage are Australia's (2) _____ colourful cockatoos. They have taken a liking for chewing the broadband cables (3) _____ Australian towns and cities. They are causing hundreds of thousands of (4) _____ to the cables. The National Broadband Network (NBN) company that maintains the (5) _____ reports that they need to spend around \$60,000 each time they are called out to fix the cables. The birds' handiwork is also causing great frustration to Internet users across the country. Internet users have reported Internet outages and (6) _____.

Cockatoos are a type of parrot (7) _____ fruit, nuts, wood and bark. A spokeswoman from NBN said she was (8) _____ as to why the birds had become (9) _____ the cables. She guessed that it was the colourful plastic that encased the power lines and broadband cables. She told reporters: "They are (10) _____ their beaks and as a result will attack (11) _____ anything they come across. Unfortunately, they've developed a liking to our cables." She joked: "You wouldn't think it was possible, but these birds are unstoppable when in a swarm. I guess that's Australia for you; if the (12) _____ don't get you, the cockatoos will."

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1711/171106-broadband-cables.html>

1. How many birds is the broadband network under attack from?
2. What have the birds taken a liking to chewing?
3. Where do broadband cables criss-cross?
4. How much does it cost each time cables are fixed?
5. What kind of Internet speeds have users reported?
6. What type of bird are cockatoos?
7. What are the power lines and broadband cables encased in?
8. What are the cockatoos always sharpening?
9. When are the cockatoos unstoppable?
10. What might get you in Australia if spiders and snakes don't?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1711/171106-broadband-cables.html>

- 1) How many birds is the broadband network under attack from?
 - a) millions
 - b) hundreds of thousands
 - c) tens of thousands
 - d) thousands
- 2) What have the birds taken a liking to chewing?
 - a) computers
 - b) broadband cables
 - c) wifi towers
 - d) the Internet
- 3) Where do broadband cables criss-cross?
 - a) cockatoo nests
 - b) the Pacific ocean
 - c) the NBN
 - d) towns and cities
- 4) How much does it cost each time cables are fixed?
 - a) exactly \$60,000
 - b) just over \$60,000
 - c) about \$60,000
 - d) just less than \$60,000
- 5) What kind of Internet speeds have users reported?
 - a) super-fast speeds
 - b) 10 Mbps
 - c) non-existent speeds
 - d) slow speeds
- 6) What type of bird are cockatoos?
 - a) eagles
 - b) emus
 - c) parrots
 - d) penguins
- 7) What are the power lines and broadband cables encased in?
 - a) colourful plastic
 - b) rubber
 - c) silicon
 - d) wooden boxes
- 8) What are the cockatoos always sharpening?
 - a) their flying skills
 - b) knives
 - c) their beaks
 - d) their claws
- 9) When are the cockatoos unstoppable?
 - a) at red lights
 - b) when they are in a swarm
 - c) in Winter
 - d) in breeding season
- 10) What might get you in Australia if spiders and snakes don't?
 - a) cockatoos
 - b) kangaroos
 - c) koalas
 - d) wombats

ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1711/171106-broadband-cables.html>

Role A – Google

You think Google is the best website. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their websites. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): Amazon, Wikipedia or Facebook.

Role B – Amazon

You think Amazon is the best website. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their websites. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): Google, Wikipedia or Facebook.

Role C – Wikipedia

You think Wikipedia is the best website. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their websites. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): Amazon, Google or Facebook.

Role D – Facebook

You think Facebook is the best website. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their websites. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): Amazon, Wikipedia or Google.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1711/171106-broadband-cables.html>

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'Internet' and 'network'.

Internet	network
-----------------	----------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• art• damage• towns• maintains• great• slow	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• type• loss• power• result• joked• snakes
---	---

BROADBAND CABLES SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1711/171106-broadband-cables.html>

Write five GOOD questions about broadband cables 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.

BROADBAND CABLES DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'Internet'?
3. What do you think of the Internet?
4. How does the Internet work?
5. Are you happy with your connection speeds?
6. What damage can birds do to the things around us?
7. Is the Internet good value for money?
8. What frustrations do you have with the Internet?
9. What would life be like without the Internet?
10. What do you do when the Internet is very slow?

Australia broadband network under attack from birds – 6th November, 2017
Thousands more free lessons at breakingnewsenglish.com

BROADBAND CABLES DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'cable'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What do you know about cockatoos?
15. What can go wrong to cause problems with the Internet?
16. How can the company solve this problem?
17. Why isn't the whole of the Internet cable-less and wireless?
18. What will the Internet be like in 20 years from now?
19. What does the last line of the article mean?
20. What questions would you like to ask the company?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

Copyright © breakingnewsenglish.com 2017

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1711/171106-broadband-cables.html>

Australia's high-speed, state-of-the-(1) _____ broadband network is under attack from thousands of birds. The birds doing the damage are Australia's (2) _____ and colourful cockatoos. They have taken a (3) _____ for chewing the broadband cables that criss-cross Australian towns and cities. They are causing hundreds of thousands of dollars (4) _____ damage to the cables. The National Broadband Network (NBN) company that maintains the fibre-optic cables reports that they need to spend around \$60,000 each time they are (5) _____ out to fix the cables. The birds' handiwork is also causing great frustration to Internet users across the country. Internet users have reported Internet (6) _____ and painfully slow speeds.

Cockatoos are a type of parrot which (7) _____ eats fruit, nuts, wood and bark. A spokeswoman from NBN said she was at a (8) _____ as to why the birds had become partial to chewing the cables. She guessed that it was the colourful plastic that (9) _____ the power lines and broadband cables. She told reporters: "They are constantly sharpening their beaks and as a (10) _____ will attack and tear apart anything they come across. Unfortunately, they've (11) _____ a liking to our cables." She joked: "You wouldn't think it was possible, but these birds are unstoppable when in a swarm. I guess that's Australia (12) _____ you; if the spiders and snakes don't get you, the cockatoos will."

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|--------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| 1. | (a) artistic | (b) artistry | (c) artist | (d) art |
| 2. | (a) ubiquitousness | (b) ubiquitously | (c) ubiquity | (d) ubiquitous |
| 3. | (a) licking | (b) liking | (c) likening | (d) likely |
| 4. | (a) at | (b) of | (c) in | (d) by |
| 5. | (a) spoken | (b) whispered | (c) called | (d) shouted |
| 6. | (a) outages | (b) outrages | (c) potages | (d) stages |
| 7. | (a) normality | (b) normally | (c) normalcy | (d) normalize |
| 8. | (a) loss | (b) lost | (c) loser | (d) loses |
| 9. | (a) ensconced | (b) encased | (c) encapsulated | (d) encashed |
| 10. | (a) sequel | (b) grade | (c) result | (d) outcome |
| 11. | (a) enveloped | (b) redevelop | (c) developed | (d) envelop |
| 12. | (a) at | (b) by | (c) as | (d) for |

SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1711/171106-broadband-cables.html>

Paragraph 1

1. high-speed, etats-fo-eth-rat broadband
2. Australia's iiquuuotbs and colourful cockatoos
3. cables that rcsis-osrsc Australian towns
4. The birds' hndiwokar
5. causing great toutrnirfas to Internet users
6. Internet gouteas

Paragraph 2

7. cockatoos are a type of rprtoa
8. atalirp to chewing the cables
9. plastic that esndcae the power lines
10. snncltatyo sharpening their beaks
11. they've eddleovep a liking to our cables
12. unstoppable when in a marws

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1711/171106-broadband-cables.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () dollars in damage to the cables. The National Broadband Network (NBN) company that maintains the fibre-
- () from NBN said she was at a loss as to why the birds had become partial to chewing the cables. She guessed that it
- () joked: "You wouldn't think it was possible, but these birds are unstoppable
- () optic cables reports that they need to spend around \$60,000 each time they are called out to fix
- () apart anything they come across. Unfortunately, they've developed a liking to our cables." She
- () the cables. The birds' handiwork is also causing great frustration to Internet users across
- () chewing the broadband cables that criss-cross Australian towns and cities. They are causing hundreds of thousands of
- () reporters: "They are constantly sharpening their beaks and as a result will attack and tear
- (**1**) Australia's high-speed, state-of-the-art broadband network is under attack from thousands
- () Cockatoos are a type of parrot which normally eats fruit, nuts, wood and bark. A spokeswoman
- () was the colourful plastic that encased the power lines and broadband cables. She told
- () when in a swarm. I guess that's Australia for you; if the spiders and snakes don't get you, the cockatoos will."
- () the country. Internet users have reported Internet outages and painfully slow speeds.
- () of birds. The birds doing the damage are Australia's ubiquitous and colourful cockatoos. They have taken a liking for

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1711/171106-broadband-cables.html>

1. state- Australia's the- , network speed broadband of- art high- .
2. liking a Taken cables broadband the chewing for .
3. of damage cables thousands in the of dollars to Hundreds .
4. \$60,000 spend each They to around time need .
5. frustration great causing also is handiwork birds' The .
6. which parrot of type A fruit eats normally .
7. at A NBN was loss from she a spokeswoman said .
8. the become cables partial The to birds chewing had .
9. anything apart tear and Attack across come they .
10. when unstoppable are birds These swarm a in .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1711/171106-broadband-cables.html>

Australia's high-speed, state-of-the-art broadband network is *over / under* attack from thousands of birds. The birds doing the *damaged / damage* are Australia's ubiquitous and colourful cockatoos. They have taken a liking *to / for* chewing the broadband cables *that / what* criss-cross Australian towns and cities. They are *causing / casing* hundreds of thousands of dollars in damage to the cables. The National Broadband Network (NBN) company that *maintains / maintained* the fibre-optic cables reports that they need to spend around \$60,000 *each / whole* time they are called out to fix the cables. The birds' handiwork is also causing great *frustrating / frustration* to Internet users across the country. Internet *users / usage* have reported Internet *outages / outrages* and painfully slow speeds.

Cockatoos are a type of parrot which *normally / normal* eats fruit, nuts, wood and bark. A spokeswoman from NBN said she was at a *lost / loss* as to why the birds had become *partial / part* to chewing the cables. She guessed that it was the *colourful / colourfully* plastic that encased the *powerful / power* lines and broadband cables. She told reporters: "They are *constantly / constant* sharpening their beaks and as a result will attack and tear *apart / appear* anything they come *crossing / across*. Unfortunately, they've developed a liking to our cables." She joked: "You wouldn't think it was possible, but these birds are unstoppable when in a *squirm / swarm*. I guess that's Australia for you; if the spiders and snakes don't get you, the cockatoos *will / do*."

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1711/171106-broadband-cables.html>

__str_l__'s h_gh-sp__d, st_t_-_f-th_-_rt br__db_nd
n_tw_rk _s _nd_r _tt_ck fr_m th__s_nds _f b_rds. Th_
b_rds d__ng th_ d_m_g_ _r_ __str_l__'s _b_q__t__s
_nd c_l__rf_l c_ck_t__s. Th_y h_v_ t_k_n _l_k_ng f_r
ch_w_ng th_ br__db_nd c_bl_s th_t cr_ss-cr_ss
__str_l__n t_wns _nd c_t__s. Th_y _r_ c__s_ng
h_ndr_ds _f th__s_nds _f d_ll_rs _n d_m_g_ t_ th_
c_bl_s. Th_ N_t__n_l Br__db_nd N_tw_rk (NBN)
c_m_p_ny th_t m__nt__ns th_ f_br_-_pt_c c_bl_s
r_p_rts th_t th_y n__d t_ sp_nd _r__nd \$60,000 __ch
t_m_ th_y _r_ c_ll_d __t t_ f_x th_ c_bl_s. Th_ b_rds'
h_nd_w_rk _s _ls_ c__s_ng gr__t fr_str_t__n t_
_nt_rn_t_s_rs _cr_ss th_ c__ntry. _nt_rn_t_s_rs h_v_
r_p_rt_d _nt_rn_t __t_g_s _nd p__nf_lly sl_w sp__ds.

C_ck_t__s _r_ __typ_ _f p_rr_t wh_ch n_rm_lly __ts
fr__t, n_ts, w__d _nd b_rk. _sp_k_sw_m_n fr_m NBN
s__d sh_w_s_t _l_ss_s t_ why th_ b_rds h_d b_c_m_
p_rt__l t_ ch_w_ng th_ c_bl_s. Sh_ g__ss_d th_t t_
w_s th_ c_l__rf_l pl_st_c th_t _nc_s_d th_ p_w_r_l_n_s
_nd br__db_nd c_bl_s. Sh_ t_ld r_p_rts: "Th_y _r_
c_nst_ntly sh_rp_n_ng th__r b__ks _nd _s _r_s lt_w_ll
_tt_ck _nd t__r _p_rt _nyth_ng th_y c_m_ _cr_ss.
_nf_rt_n_t_ly, th_y'v_ d_v_l_p_d _l_k_ng t_ __r
c_bl_s." Sh_ j_k_d: "Y__ w__ldn't th_nk _t w_s
p_ss_bl_, b_t th_s_ b_rds _r_ _nst_pp_bl_ wh_n _n_
sw_rm. _g__ss th_t's __str_l__ f_r y__; _f th_
sp_d_rs _nd sn_k_s d_n't g_t y__, th_ c_ck_t__s w_ll."

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1711/171106-broadband-cables.html>

australia's high-speed state-of-the-art broadband network is under attack from thousands of birds the birds doing the damage are australia's ubiquitous and colourful cockatoos they have taken a liking for chewing the broadband cables that criss-cross australian towns and cities they are causing hundreds of thousands of dollars in damage to the cables the national broadband network (nbn) company that maintains the fibre-optic cables reports that they need to spend around \$60000 each time they are called out to fix the cables the birds' handiwork is also causing great frustration to internet users across the country internet users have reported internet outages and painfully slow speeds

cockatoos are a type of parrot which normally eats fruit nuts wood and bark a spokeswoman from nbn said she was at a loss as to why the birds had become partial to chewing the cables she guessed that it was the colourful plastic that encased the power lines and broadband cables she told reporters "they are constantly sharpening their beaks and as a result will attack and tear apart anything they come across unfortunately they've developed a liking to our cables" she joked "you wouldn't think it was possible but these birds are unstoppable when in a swarm i guess that's australia for you if the spiders and snakes don't get you the cockatoos will"

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1711/171106-broadband-cables.html>

Australia's high-speed, state-of-the-art broadband network is under attack from thousands of birds. The birds doing the damage are Australia's ubiquitous and colourful cockatoos. They have taken a liking for chewing the broadband cables that criss-cross Australian towns and cities. They are causing hundreds of thousands of dollars in damage to the cables. The National Broadband Network (NBN) company that maintains the fibre-optic cables reports that they need to spend around \$60,000 each time they are called out to fix the cables. The birds' handiwork is also causing great frustration to Internet users across the country. Internet users have reported Internet outages and painfully slow speeds. Cockatoos are a type of parrot which normally eats fruit, nuts, wood and bark. A spokeswoman from NBN said she was at a loss as to why the birds had become partial to chewing the cables. She guessed that it was the colourful plastic that encased the power lines and broadband cables. She told reporters: "They are constantly sharpening their beaks and as a result will attack and tear apart anything they come across. Unfortunately, they've developed a liking to our cables." She joked: "You wouldn't think it was possible, but these birds are unstoppable when in a swarm. I guess that's Australia for you; if the spiders and snakes don't get you, the cockatoos will."

HOMework

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about this news. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. BROADBAND CABLES: Make a poster about broadband cables. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. INTERNET: Write a magazine article about the Internet being the most important invention in history. Include imaginary interviews with people who agree and disagree with this.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to an expert on broadband cables. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your ideas on how to keep the Internet infrastructure safer. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. e 2. a 3. d 4. c 5. b 6. g 7. f
8. i 9. n 10. l 11. m 12. j 13. h 14. k

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- a T b F c F d F e F f T g T h T

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1. state-of-the-art | a. cutting-edge |
| 2. ubiquitous | b. ever-present |
| 3. causing | c. leading to |
| 4. frustration | d. annoyance |
| 5. outages | e. power failures |
| 6. normally | f. typically |
| 7. at a loss | g. puzzled |
| 8. partial to | h. like |
| 9. constantly | i. always |
| 10. swarm | j. flock |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. Thousands
2. Broadband cables
3. Australian towns and cities
4. \$60,000
5. Painfully slow speeds
6. Parrots
7. Colourful plastic
8. Their beaks
9. When they are in a swarm
10. Cockatoos

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. d 2. b 3. d 4. c 5. d 6. c 7. a 8. c 9. b 10. a

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)