

# Video meeting fails!

Source: Daily Mail & BBC news

Zoom is proving to be the tech solution for the pandemic, being widely used in schools and businesses. But things don't always go according to plan as these stories clearly show.

## The driver

A senior councillor who joined a virtual council meeting while driving a lorry has been blasted for putting himself and other road users in a 'dangerous situation'. Councillor David Brown – who held the tourism, arts and culture brief on Boston Borough Council – appeared at the cabinet meeting on Wednesday, September 9 from the cab of his moving vehicle. His dangerous actions have been captured in a video which shows him driving while using a device to connect to the meeting and has sparked outrage. He is seen looking at the screen and adjusting it on several occasions as he drives and at one point even takes his hand off the wheel to wave at the device to show his attendance when he discovers his microphone is muted. He drove for at least 20 minutes before disappearing from sight – and then reappeared on the screen for the rest of the meeting after he seemingly parked up. He has since quit his job with the council and the matter is being investigated by Lincolnshire Police and the council.



## The robbery

In another story, a schoolgirl was robbed during a Zoom lesson in Ecuador as horrified teacher and students watched helplessly. The attack on the girl, named as Maria Jose, took place while she was on the Zoom chat with 25 others including her teacher in the city of Ambato in Tungurahua, central Ecuador, on Friday. The thieves were apparently unaware that their threats against the student were being filmed, which allowed her classmates to alert authorities and the victim's family, and cops were able to detain four suspects after they fled the scene. During the robbery, one of the pupils says: 'Does anyone have the address or the number of her parents?' Another replies: 'I have her mother's number'. A third classmate then says 'call her straight away'. The image appears to freeze on the screen after one of the thieves closes down the laptop in order to steal it together with other valuables from the property.

## The passion

And in a final story, a couple were caught having sex during a Rio de Janeiro council video conference. Rio de Janeiro city council were discussing guaranteeing food for students in municipal system. The meeting was chaired by a member of the Socialism and Liberty Party, Leonel Brizola, who continued the discussion despite the scenes being relayed through the video feed. It was a meeting for the Rio de Janeiro city council, which local newspaper Metropoles reported was about how to guarantee food for students in the municipal system during the pandemic. The footage shows how the Zoom participant in the middle row on the right-hand side of the screen 'left' the meeting and started having sex on the bed in the background. The meeting reportedly continued for another four hours without further interruption. The other councillors in the meeting reportedly noticed the scenes but decided to ignore it and continue to discuss the matter at hand. In a statement, Brizola said the episode was an 'involuntary indiscretion' and regretted that the actual topic of the meeting was not being highlighted in media reports.

## Lesson notes

### Warmer

What problems have you had with zoom or other video conferencing systems? What went wrong? Why? How did you resolve it?

Watch the video on Zoom mishaps. What goes wrong? What happens? Why is there a problem? What are the people trying to do? Why can't they proceed normally?



### Article build

Complete the article extract with the correct words.

A senior councillor who **j**\_\_\_\_\_ a virtual council meeting while **d**\_\_\_\_\_ a lorry has been blasted for putting himself and other road users in a 'dangerous situation'. Councillor David Brown – who **h**\_\_\_\_\_ the tourism, arts and culture brief on Boston Borough Council – **a**\_\_\_\_\_ at the cabinet meeting on Wednesday, September 9 from the cab of his moving vehicle. His dangerous actions have been **c**\_\_\_\_\_ in a video which shows him driving while using a device to **c**\_\_\_\_\_ to the meeting and has sparked outrage. He is seen **l**\_\_\_\_\_ at the screen and adjusting it on several occasions as he **d**\_\_\_\_\_ and at one point even takes his hand off the wheel to **w**\_\_\_\_\_ at the device to show his attendance when he discovers his microphone is **m**\_\_\_\_\_. He drove for at least 20 minutes before **d**\_\_\_\_\_ from sight – and then reappeared on the screen for the rest of the meeting after he seemingly **p**\_\_\_\_\_ up. He has since **q**\_\_\_\_\_ his job with the council and the matter is being **i**\_\_\_\_\_ by Lincolnshire Police and the council.

### Speaking

For this task you'll be giving an oral summary of one of the stories. Listen to your teacher's instructions on which story you need to summarise. Make notes that you can use to do this. However, don't write out full sentences. Try to use at least 6-8 of the key words and expressions from the story that you're assigned. Good luck and have fun!

### New words and expressions

Make a list of any new words or expressions, or ones that you'd like to remember for future use.