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*This is not a word for word transcript.*

- Sean:** Hello and welcome to 6 Minute English from BBC Learning English, the programme where we discuss a topical subject and introduce you to some of the interesting vocabulary connected to that topic. I'm Sean and with me is Rosie.
- Rosie:** Hi there.
- Sean:** So - Rosie, you're a girl!
- Rosie:** Yes, I am!
- Sean:** Well, then I'm guessing you played with dolls when you were younger?
- Rosie:** And your guess is right. I did indeed play with dolls but not only girls play with dolls... there's nothing wrong with boys playing with dolls too!
- Sean:** Not at all... in fact, I can remember playing with a doll myself... a doll with red hair.... but today's story is about another kind of doll which is causing some controversy in Sweden. We'll hear all about that in a minute, but of course we'll start as usual with a quiz question. Are you ready Rosie?
- Rosie:** Yes I am.
- Sean:** Okay. This may give everyone a bit of a clue to the subject of today's story. Here is the quiz question: Which of these sports is NOT in the Paralympic Games: Basketball? Cricket? Football?
- Rosie:** Well, I'm going to say cricket. I don't think cricket is in the Paralympic Games.
- Sean:** Okay, any particular reason?
- Rosie:** Well, I just think that only certain countries really appreciate cricket.
- Sean:** So, Rosie, have you ever played cricket?
- Rosie:** Well no I haven't. I am one of those people who doesn't really understand the rules.
- Sean:** Hmm. OK. And you're English.
- Rosie:** I know.

**Sean:** But, anyway we'll find out the answer at the end of the programme.

**Rosie:** So, we were talking about dolls.

**Sean:** Yes, and one doll in particular that has been causing controversy in Gothenburg Sweden. It's controversial because it's a disabled doll.

**Rosie:** A disabled doll. That is controversial. A controversy is a debate or argument with people expressing different opinions. So if something is controversial it means it's causing or likely to cause some argument.

**Sean:** And that's because this doll has irregular facial features and twisted arms of someone with a disability... It's meant to encourage debate about the treatment of people with disabilities. But now, listen to the first part of a report from the BBC's Jo Fidgen about the CP doll. What does she say the letters CP are short for?

**BBC correspondent Jo Fidgen:**

*It's called the CP Doll, CP being short for cerebral palsy, but also a common insult meaning someone or something that isn't functioning properly. The slogan on the packaging reads, "Treat her like a real retard." The group behind the idea, The Gothenburg Cooperative for Independent Living, provides personal assistance for the disabled.*

**Sean:** Jo Fidgen in Sweden. She says that the group behind the idea of the CP doll provides personal assistance for the disabled. And...

**Rosie:** And she said CP is short for cerebral palsy, a condition causing disability.

**Sean:** That's right. It's an abbreviation for cerebral palsy but in Sweden it has another meaning as well. It's an insult meaning someone or something isn't functioning –isn't working- properly. The insult is on the packaging as well

**Rosie:** Yes 'retard' is used as an insult; a term of abuse. So this doll has offended people – they are shocked.

**Sean:** Yes, they are shocked but the director of the organisation that produced the doll, Andush Vestia, who uses a wheelchair, says that he got fed up with what he calls "degrading kindness" Here he talks about what often happens when he goes shopping. Listen out for how he says people treat him.

**Andush Vestia:**

*Often times when I go shopping people tap me on my head and tell me "Oh it's great for you to be able to shop by yourself." People treat you more or less like a child. That is something that we are tired of. We would like to be treated as regular people and the doll is a means for us to be able to bring this topic to the surface.*

**Sean:** The Director of the Gothenburg Cooperative for Independent Living, which helps disabled people. He doesn't like people's attitudes. He says it's degrading.

**Rosie:** He calls it 'degrading kindness'. – taking away his dignity. Or patronising.

**Sean:** Yes and he gave the example of people patting him on the head and saying that it is great that he shops by himself. Did you catch how he says people treat him?

**Rosie:** Yes, he said that people treat him more or less like a child.

**Sean:** And that is degrading. So, back to the story of the doll: the CP doll is meant to raise awareness of people's attitudes to the disabled. It has been policy in Sweden that the disabled have the same opportunities and access as everyone else.

**Rosie:** Which brings us back to the quiz question you asked at the beginning of the programme.

**Sean:** That's right it does. So, did you get it? Which of these sports is NOT in the Paralympic Games?  
Basketball  
Cricket  
Football  
So, Rosie?

**Rosie:** I said cricket.

**Sean:** You did. You said cricket. Are you sticking with cricket?

**Rosie:** I did. Is it right?

**Sean:** It is right. Gold medal to Rosie.

**Sean:** And with that cricket is not in Paralympic Games coming to London very soon. But for now we've come to the end of the programme. So, Rosie, just please remind us of some of the words we heard today.

**Rosie:** controversial  
cerebral palsy  
insult  
retard  
degrading  
look down on

**Sean:** That's all we have time for today but do join us again for more 6 Minute English. Bye for now!

**Rosie:** Bye! Bye!

## Vocabulary and definitions

<b>controversial</b>	causing or likely to cause argument or offence
<b>cerebral palsy</b>	a physical condition in which muscles tighten. Caused by damage to the brain around the time of birth.
<b>insult</b>	something that causes offence, often a remark or action
<b>retard</b>	offensive slang for a mentally disabled person
<b>degrading</b>	humiliating, affecting someone's dignity
<b>look down on</b>	to regard with scorn or disdain, to feel superior to someone or something

**BBC story on disabled toys:**

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/7494451.stm>

**Read this story online:**

<http://www.goteborgdaily.se/news/cerebral-palsy-doll-fights-for-equal-treatment>

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