

Smoking ban

Live from London podcasts

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Level: Upper-intermediate
Age: Teenagers / adults
Time needed: 30 minutes approx
Language and skills: Smoking vocabulary, listening for gist and specific information, focus on features of spoken English



Warm up

Tell the students you are going to read them a series of ingredients of something. They should listen and write down what they think it is. Read out the following:

Carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, hydrogen cyanide, ammonia and more than 500 other additives.

Ask what people wrote down. The correct answer is a cigarette.

Stage 1

Distribute the worksheet and ask students to do the crossword puzzle first on their own. They can then check in pairs. Go through the answers, clarifying if there are any words they do not understand.

Answers:

Across

3. pipe 5. cigarette 6. cigar 7. smoke

Down

1. tobacco 2. give up 3. put out 4. lighter

6. cancer

Stage 2

Tell students to read the information in the box in Exercise 2 and ask them what they think. Do this open class, but keep it brief as they will be able to discuss it further after the listening.

Stage 3

Let students read the instructions for the first listening activity and then play the podcast, pausing after each speaker and allowing students to confer in pairs.

Answers:

Speaker 1 – sort of in favour; Speaker 2 – sort of in favour; Speaker 3 – sort of against; Speaker 4 – sort of against; Speaker 5 – completely in favour; Speaker 6 – completely in favour; Speaker 7 – sort of against; Speaker 8 – sort of against.

Stage 4

Play the podcast again, and ask students to choose the correct answer. This time play it all the way through without stopping.

Answers:

1. Speaker 1 likes to smoke **when he is drinking**.
2. Speaker 2 **wants to stop** smoking.
3. Speaker 3 thinks that smoking should be **banned** in eating areas.
4. Speaker 4 doesn't like to smoke if he thinks **it will bother other people**.
5. Speaker 5 is a **non-smoker**.
6. Speaker 6's hair **used to smell** of smoke after a night out.
7. Speaker 7 thinks that smoking is banned in **too many places** now.
8. Speaker 8 prefers going out with friends for a drink in **Germany**.

Stage 5

Now distribute copies of the transcript and allow students to read it. When they have finished, ask them to match the underlined expressions to their meanings in exercise 5. Tell them to make a note of these expressions as they should try to use them in the next exercise.

Answers: a)3,8,11 b)1 c)4 d)2,9 e)5,6,7,10

Stage 6

Tell students to work individually and choose one of the topics in exercise 6, or a topic of their own that they could comfortably express different opinions on. Give them some time to prepare this. Then put the students in pairs and ask each one to take turns presenting their topic and arguments. The other student should listen and ask questions or express their own opinions on the topic. Students switch roles and repeat the exercise at the end.

Transcript

Introduction

Welcome to Onestopenglish's Live from London podcast. In Live from London we go to different parts of London to ask locals and visitors questions about their daily lives. Today Live from London reports from outside Euston station. We asked people the question, 'What do you think about the new smoking ban in the UK?'

Speaker 1 (male, UK)

Um... kind of on the fence (1) with regards to the smoking ban to be honest. I'm one of these annoying social smokers that have a cigarette when I've got a pint in my hand but apart from that I don't really smoke during the day. Umm... so I do kind of (2) miss having the freedom to have a cigarette when I'm drinking. But, that being said, (3) it's actually quite nice to go in bars and clubs now and not having it being blown in your face. So, I think I'm coming round to the idea now of ... the smoking ban being in place.

Speaker 2 (female, UK)

Umm... I don't mind there being a ban because... umm... I'm looking to give up anyway. I think it would be a shame (4) if it's... they start to ban us outside.

Speaker 3 (male, UK)

Hi... um... I think it could have been implemented in a different way maybe more segregation... and banning in eating areas rather than a wholesale ban.

Speaker 4 (male, Italy)

As a smoker I don't like to smoke in public places where it gives problems to other people. I don't like extremes though, and there should be some more smoking areas for those who want to smoke.

Speaker 5 (female, UK)

Well, neither of us smoke and we think the ban is a very very (5) good idea.

Speaker 6 (female, UK)

I'm really (6) pleased about the smoking ban because I've got really long hair and when I wake up after having had a night out it just really really (7) smells of smoke. But now it smells really nice and fresh.

Speaker 7 (female, UK)

I think it's a good thing in one way but in another (8) I think they should have made it a choice thing that whether, you know, like, smoking pubs or non-smoking pubs. Quite agree in restaurants and where people are eating. I don't even like it myself but I think it's such a sweeping ban it's... ummm... takes away sort of (9) some of your rights really.

Speaker 8 (female, Germany)

Umm... I can understand why people wouldn't want to be in smoky places if they don't smoke but I really really (10) like going out and having a drink and a cigarette and just, you know, be in a social situation with friends and smoke. Um... And we don't have a smoking ban in Germany so I really prefer going out there at the moment. But on the other hand (11) you meet lots of nice friendly smokers outside smoking now, in England.



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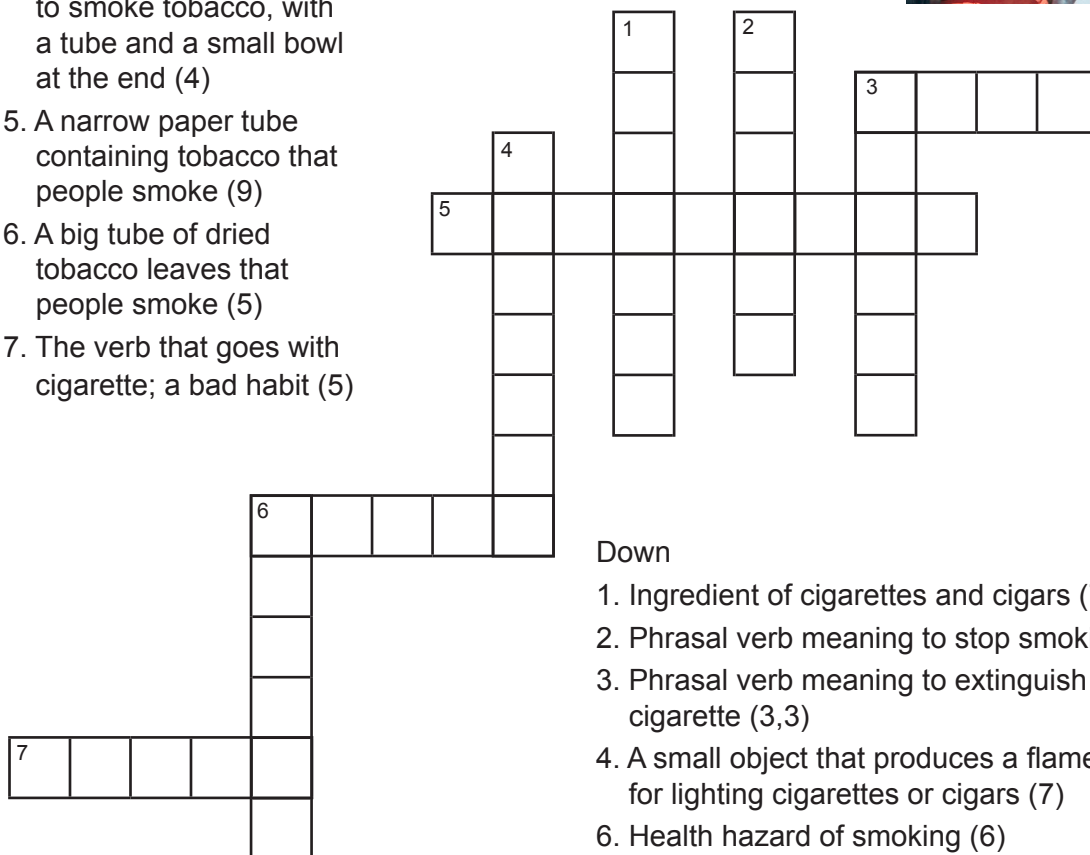
Vocabulary

1. Do the crossword puzzle. All the words are connected to the theme of **SMOKING**.



Across

3. Something people use to smoke tobacco, with a tube and a small bowl at the end (4)
5. A narrow paper tube containing tobacco that people smoke (9)
6. A big tube of dried tobacco leaves that people smoke (5)
7. The verb that goes with cigarette; a bad habit (5)



Down

1. Ingredient of cigarettes and cigars (7)
2. Phrasal verb meaning to stop smoking (4,2)
3. Phrasal verb meaning to extinguish a cigarette (3,3)
4. A small object that produces a flame, used for lighting cigarettes or cigars (7)
6. Health hazard of smoking (6)

Reading

2. Read the information about a new law in England. Do you think this is a good idea?



On July 1st 2007, England introduced a new law to make virtually all enclosed public places and workplaces in England smoke free. A smoke free England ensures a healthier environment, so everyone can socialize, relax, travel, shop and work free from secondhand smoke.

(taken from www.smokefreeengland.co.uk)

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Listening



3. You are going to listen to eight different people talking about what they think of the new smoking law in England. Decide if each speaker is:

- a) completely in favour
- b) sort of in favour
- c) sort of against the new law.

4. Listen again and choose the correct answer.

Speaker 1 likes to smoke *when he is with friends / when he is drinking*.

Speaker 2 *wants to stop smoking / has stopped smoking*.

Speaker 3 thinks that smoking should be *banned / allowed* in eating areas.

Speaker 4 doesn't like to smoke if he thinks *it is against the law / it will bother other people*.

Speaker 5 is a *non-smoker / smoker*.

Speaker 6's hair *smells / used to smell* of smoke after a night out.

Speaker 7 thinks that smoking is banned in *not enough / too many* places now.

Speaker 8 prefers going out with friends for a drink in *England / Germany*.

5. Look at the underlined expressions in the tapescript. Which expressions do the speakers use...

- a) to express a different opinion than one they said before?
- b) to show they haven't decided on an opinion?
- c) to express disapproval?
- d) to soften a statement?
- e) for emphasis?

6. Choose one of the topics below. Think of reasons for and against.

- No smoking in any public places
- No liquids through security at airports
- People paying extra money to drive inside the city limits
- Having the Olympics in the capital of your country
- No alcohol for people under 21 years old
- Obligatory military service for men and women when they are 18 years old

Work in pairs. Tell your partner your reasons for and against your topic. Use the expressions from 5 to help you.