

## Beijing introduces tough smoking ban

3rd June, 2015



A tough new smoking ban has been introduced in China's capital city Beijing. It coincides with World No Tobacco Day and was welcomed by the World Health Organization

(WHO). The ban came into effect on June the 1st and is the toughest anti-smoking law to be implemented anywhere in China. It prohibits smoking in all indoor public places, on public transport and in workplaces. Unlike other bans in China, this one is backed up by hefty fines for anyone lighting up indoors in public. Restaurants will have a big part to play in implementing the ban. Restaurant owners will face a heavy fine if they do not stop people smoking. The public is also being encouraged to report anyone breaking the law.

The WHO rewarded Beijing with a special prize. A WHO spokesperson said: "We applauded Beijing for its strong and determined leadership in protecting the health of its people by making public places smoke-free. We are delighted to be formally recognizing the Beijing Municipal Government with a WHO World No Tobacco Day Award." China still has a long way to go to get its population to stop smoking. The country is the world's largest tobacco producer and consumer. There are around 300 million smokers in China, which is almost the same size as the population of the USA. More than one million Chinese die each year from smoking-related diseases.

Sources: Xinhuanet / Bloomberg / The Guardian

## Writing

Smoking should be made illegal. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

*smoking / ban / capital city / toughest / public transport / heavy fines / encouraged / rewarded / applauded / determined / leadership / smoke-free / population / diseases*

## True / False

- The smoking ban started on World No Tobacco Day. T / F
- The ban is the toughest to be imposed anywhere in the world. T / F
- It is still OK to smoke in the workplace in Beijing. T / F
- Beijing authorities want the public to report people who break the ban. T / F
- The World Health Organisation gave Beijing a prize. T / F
- China is both the largest tobacco producer and consumer in the world. T / F
- More people smoke in China than there are people in the USA. T / F
- Over ten million Chinese people die each year from smoking. T / F

## Synonym Match

- |                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 1. tough            | a. bans          |
| 2. came into effect | b. acknowledging |
| 3. prohibits        | c. inform on     |
| 4. backed up        | d. started       |
| 5. report           | e. award         |
| 6. prize            | f. strict        |
| 7. determined       | g. annually      |
| 8. recognising      | h. firm          |
| 9. stop             | i. supported     |
| 10. each year       | j. quit          |

## Discussion – Student A

- Are you happy that cigarette advertising is banned in many countries?
- Should restaurants have a smoking section?
- Smoking kills. Why don't people understand this?
- Do you get angry about passive smoking?
- Should Hollywood, Bollywood, etc. show smoking in movies?
- Do you think smoking will ever disappear?
- What does smoking do to your health?
- What questions would you like to ask Beijing's leader?

## Phrase Match

- |   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1. China's capital                      | a. implemented anywhere      |
| 2. It coincides                         | b. and consumer              |
| 3. The ban came into                    | c. breaking the law          |
| 4. the toughest anti-smoking law to be  | d. free                      |
| 5. report anyone                        | e. with World No Tobacco Day |
| 6. We applauded                         | f. related diseases          |
| 7. strong and                           | g. Beijing                   |
| 8. smoke-                               | h. effect on June the 1st    |
| 9. the world's largest tobacco producer | i. determined leadership     |
| 10. smoking-                            | j. city                      |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of smoking?
- Why do people smoke?
- Why do many people think it looks cool to smoke?
- What laws are there in your city regarding smoking?
- What should happen on World No Tobacco Day?
- What do you think of Beijing's initiative?
- How else can we get people to stop smoking, besides fines?
- Would you report someone for smoking in public?

## Spelling

- A oguht new smoking ban
- It dneioccsi with World No Tobacco Day
- to be npldeemmit anywhere in China
- public prrstotan
- backed up by htefy fines
- also being erdneaguoc to
- The WHO wdereard Beijing
- We eulpdapda Beijing
- rdidneemte leadership
- We are edhletdgi
- producer and ermnsouc
- smoking-related aieesdss

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. d	3. a	4. i	5. c
6. e	7. h	8. b	9. j	10. g

## Role Play

### Role A – Smoking

You think smoking is the top thing to be banned. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least harmful of these (and why): fast food, guns or Internet pop-ups.

### Role B – Fast food

You think fast food is the top thing to be banned. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least harmful of these (and why): smoking, guns or Internet pop-ups.

### Role C – Guns

You think guns are the top things to be banned. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least harmful of these (and why): fast food, smoking or Internet pop-ups.

### Role D – Internet pop-ups

You think Internet pop-ups are the top things to be banned. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least harmful of these (and why): fast food, guns or smoking.

## Speaking – Bans

Rank these with your partner. Put the best things to ban at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- smoking
- swearing
- fast food
- violence in movies
- alcohol
- guns
- energy drinks
- Internet pop-ups

### Answers – True False

a	T	b	F	c	F	d	T	e	T	f	T	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.