

## Paris Metro fines woman for walking wrong way

5th March, 2018



A pregnant woman got into trouble while she was using the Metro in Paris. She was given a 60-euro fine for walking the wrong way along a station platform. Sixty euros is about \$74. The woman said she

took a shortcut because she wanted to save some time on her journey. However, inspectors at Concorde station caught her and immediately fined her. A spokesman for the Paris Metro told the AFP news agency that the woman correctly got a fine for not following the rules. He said the rules were there to control the flow of people so everyone can get to trains or out of stations more quickly. He added that the "walk this way" systems are clearly marked with easy-to-see signs in the stations.

The incident has got lots of people talking on social media. Many users are angry that a pregnant woman was fined because she didn't want to walk a long way. A spokesman for a passenger group said the fine was "completely stupid" and that the rules needed to change. A woman on social media complained with a similar story. She said: "I was the only person in the corridor when they stopped me. It's unacceptable." The Metro responded to complaints with a message that read: "I am sorry that this situation surprises you, but these are the current regulations. In the same way that if a car drives in a prohibited area, the car's driver (who is breaking the law) receives a fine."

Sources: [news24.com](http://news24.com) / [thesun.co.uk](http://thesun.co.uk) / [rt.com](http://rt.com)

## Writing

People should always follow the rules. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

pregnant / trouble / the wrong way / shortcut / journey / rules / flow / stations / social media / passenger / stupid / similar / corridor / complaints / surprises / law

## True / False

- a) A woman got a \$60 fine for walking the wrong way in the Paris Metro. T / F
- b) The woman took a shortcut to reduce her journey time. T / F
- c) Station inspectors fined the woman a week after they caught her. T / F
- d) The Paris Metro admitted that "Walk this way" signs were hard to see. T / F
- e) The article said many social media users wanted the fine to be higher. T / F
- f) A passenger group said the fine was "completely stupid". T / F
- g) The Paris Metro apologized for people's surprise at the fine. T / F
- h) The Paris Metro compared the fine to a car driver's fine. T / F

## Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                       |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. <b>given</b>       | a. obeying      |
| 2. <b>immediately</b> | b. protested    |
| 3. <b>following</b>   | c. happening    |
| 4. <b>flow</b>        | d. straightaway |
| 5. <b>clearly</b>     | e. forbidden    |
| 6. <b>incident</b>    | f. handed       |
| 7. <b>completely</b>  | g. rules        |
| 8. <b>complained</b>  | h. movement     |
| 9. <b>regulations</b> | i. obviously    |
| 10. <b>prohibited</b> | j. totally      |

## Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of rules?
- b) Should people get fined for walking the wrong way?
- c) Why are there rules in train stations?
- d) How important are shortcuts?
- e) What do you think of people who do not follow rules?
- f) Someone once said rules were made to be broken. Do you agree?
- g) What rules do you break?
- h) What rules do you hate?

# BreakingNewsEnglish - The Mini Lesson

## Phrase Match

- |   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. A pregnant woman got                 | a. in the corridor        |
| 2. she took a                           | b. signs                  |
| 3. she wanted to save                   | c. surprises you          |
| 4. rules were there to control the flow | d. shortcut               |
| 5. marked with easy-to-see              | e. stupid                 |
| 6. The incident has got                 | f. into trouble           |
| 7. the fine was completely              | g. prohibited area        |
| 8. I was the only person                | h. lots of people talking |
| 9. I am sorry that this situation       | i. some time              |
| 10. if a car drives in a                | j. of people              |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- Are people right to be angry about this?
- What would happen if no one followed rules?
- Do you think the fine was "completely stupid"?
- Should there be more caring rules for pregnant women?
- What do you think of metro systems?
- Is the walking rule similar to rules for car drivers?
- What questions would you like to ask the woman?

## Spelling

- A rnanpget woman
- got into ruolbte
- save some time on her eoyujrn
- caught her and ymldtaeiime fined her
- the woman ctryerloc got a fine
- lecarly marked with easy-to-see signs
- The nciitend has got lots of people talking
- a sarnpsgee group
- the fine was completely usiptd
- The Metro responded to itoclpmnsa
- these are the crteunr regulations
- if a car drives in a bitiorphde area

### Answers – Synonym Match

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

## Role Play

### Role A – Walking the Wrong Way

You think walking the wrong way should get the biggest fine. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why fines for their things shouldn't be so high. Also, tell the others which of these should get no fine (and why): spitting in public, swearing in public or noise pollution.

### Role B – Spitting in Public

You think spitting in public should get the biggest fine. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why fines for their things shouldn't be so high. Also, tell the others which of these should get no fine (and why): walking the wrong way, swearing in public or noise pollution.

### Role C – Swearing in Public

You think swearing in public should get the biggest fine. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why fines for their things shouldn't be so high. Also, tell the others which of these should get no fine (and why): spitting in public, walking the wrong way or noise pollution.

### Role D – Noise Pollution

You think noise pollution should get the biggest fine. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why fines for their things shouldn't be so high. Also, tell the others which of these should get no fine (and why): spitting in public, swearing in public or walking the wrong way.

## Speaking – Fines

Rank these with your partner. Put the things we should fine most at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                   |                         |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| • anger in public | • walking the wrong way |
| • speeding        | • jaywalking            |
| • noise pollution | • spitting              |
| • Internet abuse  | • swearing              |

### Answers – True False

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