

Anti-tobacco treaty begins (Mon 28 Feb)

WARM-UPS

CHAT: Talk in pairs or groups about cigarettes / cigars / smoking / Marlboro / tobacco advertising / ...Change topic / partner frequently to energize the class.

CIGARETTE BRAINSTORM: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'cigarette'. Share your words with your partner / group and talk about them.

2-MINUTE DEBATES:

- a. Smoking should not be banned in public places vs. Oh yes it should.
- b. Smokers have rights vs. Oh no they don't.
- c. Passive smoking doesn't kill people vs. Oh yes it does.
- d. Smoking doesn't kill you; vs. Oh yes it does.
- e. You can't ban smoking in pubs and bars vs. Oh yes you can.
- f. This treaty will not work. vs. Oh yes it will.
- g. Smoking will completely disappear one day. vs. Oh no it won't.
- h. This treaty isn't fair on smokers. vs. Tough.

'FILTHY' HABIT: Talk about other 'filthy' / bad / unsociable / unhealthy habits. Compare the following with smoking:

- a. drinking (alcohol)
- b. spitting in the street
- c. graffiti
- d. showing gum as you chew it
- e. peeing (urinating) in the street
- f. littering
- g. using a loud Walkman on the train
- h. wearing strong perfume in a crowded area
- i. talking loudly on a mobile phone
- j. using bad language

SMOKERS I KNOW: Write down the names of three smokers you know. Tell each other about these smokers.

PRE-READING IDEAS

WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... of the words 'anti' and 'tobacco'.

TRUE FALSE: Guess whether the following statements about the article are true or false:

- a. Every country in the world has signed up to an anti-tobacco treaty. T / F
- b. The United States of America has signed up to an anti-tobacco treaty. T / F
- c. The treaty means it will become law in the countries that ratify it. T / F
- d. The treaty outlines strict controls on smoking in public places. T / F
- e. Adults will be persuaded to kick the habit. T / F
- f. Smoking is the leading cause of preventable deaths in the world.. T / F
- g. Fifty million people a year die because of smoking. T / F
- h. The WHO is confident that this treaty is going to save lives. T / F

SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article:

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| (a) treaty | quit |
| (b) ratify | harness |
| (c) overall | talked out of |
| (d) legally binding | rubber stamp |
| (e) regulations | millstone |
| (f) kick the habit | controls |
| (g) dissuaded | agreement |
| (h) preventable | stoppable |
| (i) curb | general |
| (j) burden | the law |

PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases based on the article:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| (a) went into | effectiveness |
| (b) The US and China are still | for five million deaths a year |
| (c) raises | yet to ratify it |
| (d) overall | habit |
| (e) legally | deaths |
| (f) kick the | to do so |
| (g) smoking accounts | effect yesterday |
| (h) preventable | moment |
| (i) It is an historical | binding |
| (j) it is going to continue | fears |

GAP FILL

Anti-tobacco treaty begins (Mon 28 Feb)

BNE: The world's first anti-tobacco _____, the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, went into effect yesterday with 167 countries signed up to it and 57 countries ratifying it. The United States and China are still yet to ratify it, which _____ fears the overall effectiveness of the treaty may be weakened. Ratifying it means the Framework is legally binding and countries must follow _____ regulations for tobacco products, including banning advertising and controlling smoking in public places. It is hoped that the treaty will greatly reduce the number of deaths from smoking worldwide. Adults will be _____ to kick the habit and children will be _____ from starting it. The World Health Organization believes smoking accounts for five million deaths a year. It is the second leading cause of _____ deaths. The WHO's coordinator of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, Douglas Bettcher, says the treaty could do much to reduce global passion for smoking, "It is an historical moment and we are very confident that this treaty is going to save lives. ... It has already started off a _____ process globally and we are very confident that it is going to continue to do so and it is going to prove itself as a very effective public health tool to really _____ this unacceptable burden of disease and death."

strict dissuaded powerful raises treaty curb preventable persuaded

DISCUSSION:

- a. What do you think of this article?
- b. Will the treaty work?
- c. Why haven't the United States and China ratified the treaty?
- d. Should tobacco be classed as an illegal drug?
- e. What thing do you hate most about smoking?
- f. What do you do / think when your friends smoke?
- g. Does smoking look cool?
- h. Why are tobacco ads full of sexy, healthy-looking people doing exercise?
- i. Are tobacco companies killers?
- j. Where is the worst place to smell cigarette smoke?
- k. Are there any people you really want to persuade to kick the habit?
- l. How would you feel if a younger brother / sister started to smoke?
- m. Teacher / Student additional questions.

HOMEWORK

- 1. VOCAB EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.
- 2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find more information on the treaty. Share your findings with your class next lesson.
- 3. LETTER:** Write a letter to a tobacco company executive explaining your views on cigarettes.
- 4. PUBLIC POLICY:** You are the leader of your country. Create a list of rules about when and where smokers can smoke, complete with penalties for not following these rules.

FULL TEXT

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