

# Smoking in the workplace

New no smoking laws are coming in everywhere, with many countries banning smoking in pubs, restaurants, shopping centres and the workplace.

1 Which of the following are banned in your country?

cigarette advertising on TV / cinema	smoking in the workplace
smoking in airports	smoking in restaurants

2 Read the two letters sent to the World Health Organization. Summarise each viewpoint.

**(A)** Dear Sir,  
 I work in a paint factory and there are many more dangerous fumes than cigarette smoke. Many of our employees voluntarily smoke outside anyway. Government legislation is not the answer – it is much better for each company to choose themselves what to do at work. It is easy to introduce smoke free areas for example. We shouldn't forget that tobacco duties make a significant contribution to government revenues. I believe it is wrong to ban smoking in pubs and restaurants. People go there to socialize, to drink and to have a smoke. People should have freedom of choice – non-smokers can choose if they wish to go there or not.  
 Yours faithfully,  
 David Marks

**(B)** Dear Sir or Madam,  
 Congratulations for organizing WNTD (World No Tobacco Day). It helped remind us that tobacco is one of the world's biggest killers. I completely agree with the new laws to ban smoking in public places – it should be banned in pubs and restaurants in order to protect people in the entertainment industry. Passive smoking is dangerous and non-smokers should not have to inhale the ill-effects of other people's smoking. Many smokers would give up if smoking was banned at work, which would be better for their health. This would also save the health service money. Although in New York, I believe people are now quite happy to smoke outside their office building!  
 Regards,  
 Mary Kidd

3 Find words or expressions in the letters from the following definitions.

- (a) a law or a set of laws (Letter A)
- (b) smoke or gas that has an unpleasant smell and may be harmful (Letter A)
- (c) doing something you choose to, not because you have to (Letter A)
- (d) income from tax (Letter A)
- (e) the act of breathing other people's tobacco smoke into your lungs (Letter B)
- (f) negative results of something (Letter B)

(Definitions from or based on *Macmillan Essential Dictionary* Text © Bloomsbury Publishing Plc 2003)

4 Complete the questionnaire and compare your answers in small groups. Give reasons for your answers.

## Questionnaire

Should smoking be banned:

	Yes	No	Not sure
at the office or workplace?			
in pubs and clubs?			
in indoor shopping centres?			
in restaurants and cafes?			
in outdoor places, such as parks?			