

# Smoking Laws



Everyone knows that cigarettes are very unhealthy. Illness and deaths from smoking-related diseases are very costly. To make their citizens healthier, many governments are trying to stop or reduce smoking. They have made many different laws about the sale and use of cigarettes. Many of **these** are very strict and impose **harsh** fines on people who fail to obey them.

In Singapore, for example, smoking is **illegal** in most public areas such as pubs and playgrounds. Smokers who **violate** these rules can be fined up to 1000 Singapore dollars. Recently, anti-smoking advocates have pushed for a new law to be passed. This legislation would prevent stores from selling tobacco products to anyone born from the year 2000.

Australia also has some very strict anti-smoking and tobacco sales laws. Companies must not advertise tobacco products in many places. Also, cigarette and cigar packages must be plain and in dark brown colors. **They** must not have any markings other than the product's name and brand. Companies must put on a large warning label that covers much of the package. Smoking is banned in all public places, such as restaurants and nightclubs.

The strictest anti-smoking measures in the world are found in Costa Rica. In this country, it is illegal to advertise tobacco products anywhere. Smoking is banned in work places and their parking lots. Smokers cannot light up in any public places. The fines for breaking the laws start at a hefty \$355. In addition, the government and some companies have been encouraging smokers with posters and TV commercials about the many benefits of quitting.



1. According to the article, what are many governments trying to do to make people healthier?
  - a) they are trying to make cigarettes healthier
  - b) they are trying to prevent people from smoking
  - c) they are trying to make it fine for people smoking
  - d) they are trying to reduce the diseases caused by smoking
  
2. The word “these” in paragraph 1 refers to:
  - a) sales
  - b) laws
  - c) penalties
  - d) cigarettes
  
3. The word “harsh” in paragraph 1 is closest in meaning to:
  - a) hard
  - b) light
  - c) tough
  - d) vague
  
4. The word “illegal” in paragraph 2 is closest in meaning to:
  - a) okay
  - b) allowed
  - c) unlucky
  - d) banned
  
5. The word “violate” in paragraph 2 is closest in meaning to:
  - a) break
  - b) create
  - c) discuss
  - d) observe
  
6. According to the article, what color are cigarette packages in Australia?
  - a) blue
  - b) green
  - c) brown
  - d) white
  
7. The word “they” in paragraph 3 refers to:
  - a) Australian people
  - b) tobacco packaging
  - c) tobacco companies
  - d) anti-smoking laws
  
8. According to the article, which country has the toughest anti-smoking laws?
  - a) Costa Rica
  - b) America
  - c) Australia
  - d) Singapore

Answers: 1. (b) 2. (b) 3. (c) 4. (d) 5. (a) 6. (c) 7. (b) 8. (a)