

Cigarettes

Pre-Reading

A. Warm-Up Questions

1. Do you or any members of your family smoke?
2. Do you know how many people around the world die every year from smoking?
3. Which countries are the largest tobacco producers?
4. Is smoking allowed in public buildings in your city?
5. What does it mean to "sue someone"?
6. Explain the meaning of "secondhand smoke."



B. Vocabulary Preview

Match up as many words and meanings as you can.

Check this exercise again after seeing the words in context on page 2.

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|----------------------|---|
| _____ 1. wrap | a) something that is not allowed |
| _____ 2. slim | b) to get back to previous condition, to get better |
| _____ 3. ingredient | c) proof |
| _____ 4. harmful | d) to put around, to cover |
| _____ 5. addictive | e) to give an approximate size or amount |
| _____ 6. risk | f) to hide |
| _____ 7. stroke | g) thin |
| _____ 8. miscarriage | h) something that tells someone about possible danger |
| _____ 9. deformity | i) one part of a mixture |
| _____ 10. estimate | j) causing a habit that is difficult to control |
| _____ 11. warning | k) a sudden attack of illness in the brain |
| _____ 12. ban | l) causing damage, hurt, or injury |
| _____ 13. evidence | m) the loss of a baby before it is born |
| _____ 14. cover up | n) the possibility of danger, loss, or injury |
| _____ 15. recover | o) something that is not made or formed correctly |

Reading

1. Cigarettes are dried, finely cut leaves of the tobacco plant **wrapped** in **slim**, white-paper rolls. Some have added **ingredients** and may be treated with chemicals. Cigarette smoke has 4,000 chemicals, most of them **harmful** to people's health.
2. Tobacco leaves contain nicotine, an **addictive** drug that makes it very hard for people to stop smoking. Smoking cigarettes, or inhaling secondhand smoke from them, increases people's **risk** for lung and other cancers, lung diseases such as emphysema, and heart attacks and **strokes**. Pregnant women risk **miscarriages** or giving birth to babies who are underweight or have **deformities**.
3. In the 1500s, explorer Christopher Columbus saw Native peoples in the Americas smoking tobacco in pipes and brought dried tobacco back to Spain with him. Cigarette smoking wasn't common in Western Europe, though, until British soldiers in the Crimean War (1854–56) picked it up from their Turkish allies. In the US, Northern soldiers fighting in the Civil War (1861–65) tried hand-rolling cigarettes made from Southern tobacco. After the war, they brought the habit north with them and it spread.
4. China, India, Brazil, and the US are among the world's biggest tobacco producers. Over a billion people worldwide are **estimated** to smoke cigarettes, and more than a million likely die from it each year.
5. In the US and Canada, health **warnings** are found on cigarette packages, and cigarettes cannot be advertised on television or sold to minors. Smoking **bans** in public places are now common in many states and provinces.
6. Many US states have also sued the tobacco industry for **covering up evidence** that cigarettes cause cancer and not telling the American public the full truth about the risks of smoking. Courts awarded hundreds of millions of dollars to these states to make up for all the money they have had to spend caring for people with smoking-related illnesses. The industry may never **recover** financially from these lawsuits.

*Smoking is
the leading
preventable cause
of death in the US.*

—Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention

Comprehension

A. True or False?

Read the statements below.

If the statement is true, write T beside the sentence.

If it is false, write F and correct the information.

- _____ 1. People can get sick from just being around cigarette smoke.
- _____ 2. It is not difficult to quit smoking.
- _____ 3. Pregnant mothers who smoke often have very heavy babies.
- _____ 4. More than a million people die every year from cigarette smoke.
- _____ 5. Cigarette smoking became common in Western Europe in the 1500s.

B. Ask and Answer

Practice asking and answering the following questions with your partner.

Then write your answers in complete sentences in your notebook.

- 1. What are cigarettes?
- 2. What are some of the dangers involved in smoking?
- 3. How did Christopher Columbus help spread cigarette smoking?
- 4. How did smoking become common in Western Europe?
- 5. What makes cigarette smoking so addictive?
- 6. Name four countries that are among the world's largest tobacco producers.
- 7. How have the Canadian and US governments tried to reduce smoking in their countries?

Vocabulary Review

Choose the word or phrase with the closest meaning to the underlined word or phrase in the following sentences.

1. Inhaling second-hand smoke increases the risk of getting many diseases.
a) smelling
b) breathing in
c) being close to
2. Smoking became common in Western Europe after the Crimean War.
a) costly
b) banned
c) usual
3. After the American Civil War, cigarette smoking spread to the north.
a) stopped
b) moved to a larger area
c) sued
4. In many countries, cigarettes cannot be sold to minors.
a) young people
b) people who work underground
c) unimportant people
5. British soldiers picked up smoking from their Turkish allies.
a) carried
b) learned about and started
c) made cigarettes

Discussion

1. What are some methods people use to quit smoking?
2. Is cigarette advertising banned in your country?
Is smoking banned in public places in your country?
Do you think these methods help reduce smoking?
What other methods can governments use to reduce smoking?
3. Have you ever seen the health warnings and pictures that are placed on cigarette packages? If so, describe them.
Do you think that these warnings help people stop smoking?
4. Do you think governments should ban the sale of cigarettes? Explain your answer.