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Level 6

Woman wins \$23 bn from tobacco company

22nd July, 2014

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1407/140722-tobacco-company.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140722-tobacco-company.html>

A court in the USA has ordered the tobacco giant R.J. Reynolds to pay a woman \$23.6 billion in damages. Cynthia Robinson filed a lawsuit against R.J. Reynolds in 2008 and fought for six years for compensation. Her husband Michael died of lung cancer in 1996 after two decades of smoking. He started smoking when he was 13 and died when he was 36. Mrs Robinson argued that the company was negligent in not informing her husband that nicotine is addictive and that smoking can lead to lung cancer. She said tobacco companies knew in the 1950s that smoking was potentially lethal and should have been more active in telling people. Johnson's lawyer said: "He couldn't quit. He was smoking the day he died."

A lawyer for R.J. Reynolds, America's second-largest tobacco company, said the compensation was disproportionate. He said: "The damages awarded in this case are grossly excessive and impermissible under state and constitutional law." He added: "This verdict goes far beyond the realm of reasonableness and fairness and is completely inconsistent with the evidence presented." Mrs Robinson's lawyer Chris Chestnut said jurors looked at R.J. Reynolds' aggressive marketing, particularly campaigns aimed at young people. He said: "[R.J. Reynolds] lied to Congress, they lied to the public, they lied to smokers and tried to blame the smoker." He added that the jury's decision was "courageous".

Sources: <http://edition.cnn.com/2014/07/19/us/florida-tobacco-verdict/>
<http://in.reuters.com/article/2014/07/20/usa-tobacco-award-idINL2N0PV00D20140720>
http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/fla-jury-slams-rj-reynolds-with-236b-in-damages/2014/07/19/c3b1d54e-0fa3-11e4-b0dd-edc009ac1f9d_story.html

WARM-UPS

1. SMOKING: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about smoking. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

court / damages / lawsuit / compensation / smoking / negligent / addictive / quit / lawyer / excessive / verdict / fairness / marketing / campaigns / public / courageous

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. ADDICTIONS: How bad are these addictions and how can we help people? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

Addiction	How bad?	How to help?
Smoking		
Heroin		
Gaming		
Shopping		
Alcohol		
Fast food		

4. ILLEGAL: Students A **strongly** believe smoking should be made illegal; Students B **strongly** believe it shouldn't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. COURT: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "court". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140722-tobacco-company.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- | | |
|--|-------|
| a. The court case took place in the USA. | T / F |
| b. The court case was first filed in 2008. | T / F |
| c. A woman's husband died after more than 30 years of smoking. | T / F |
| d. Tobacco companies didn't know smoking could kill until the 1960s. | T / F |
| e. The tobacco company is the second-largest in the USA. | T / F |
| f. The tobacco company's lawyers said the damages award is too high. | T / F |
| g. Jurors looked at marketing campaigns aimed at children. | T / F |
| h. A lawyer said smokers lied to the tobacco company. | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article.

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 1. ordered | a. irresponsible |
| 2. lawsuit | b. forceful |
| 3. negligent | c. give up |
| 4. lethal | d. given |
| 5. quit | e. instructed |
| 6. disproportionate | f. area |
| 7. awarded | g. brave |
| 8. realm | h. legal action |
| 9. aggressive | i. unequal |
| 10. courageous | j. deadly |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. pay a woman \$23.6 billion | a. addictive |
| 2. fought for six years | b. aimed at young people |
| 3. nicotine is | c. the day he died |
| 4. smoking was potentially | d. disproportionate |
| 5. He was smoking | e. are grossly excessive |
| 6. the compensation was | f. in damages |
| 7. damages awarded in this case | g. was "courageous" |
| 8. beyond the realm | h. lethal |
| 9. campaigns | i. of reasonableness |
| 10. the jury's decision | j. for compensation |

GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140722-tobacco-company.html>

A court in the USA has ordered the tobacco (1) _____ *addictive*
R.J. Reynolds to pay a woman \$23.6 billion in *fought*
(2) _____. Cynthia Robinson filed a lawsuit against R.J. *giant*
Reynolds in 2008 and (3) _____ for six years for *lethal*
compensation. Her husband Michael died of lung cancer in 1996 *decades*
after two (4) _____ of smoking. He started smoking *quit*
when he was 13 and died when he was 36. Mrs Robinson argued *damages*
that the company was (5) _____ in not informing her *negligent*
husband that nicotine is (6) _____ and that smoking
can lead to lung cancer. She said tobacco companies knew in the
1950s that smoking was potentially (7) _____ and
should have been more active in telling people. Johnson's lawyer
said: "He couldn't (8) _____. He was smoking the day
he died."

A lawyer for R.J. Reynolds, America's second-largest tobacco *jurors*
company, said the (9) _____ was disproportionate. He *decision*
said: "The damages awarded in this case are *grossly*
(10) _____ excessive and impermissible under state *aggressive*
and constitutional law." He added: "This (11) _____ *compensation*
goes far beyond the realm of reasonableness and fairness and is *evidence*
completely inconsistent with the (12) _____ presented." *blame*
Mrs Robinson's lawyer Chris Chestnut said (13) _____ *verdict*
looked at R.J. Reynolds' (14) _____ marketing,
particularly campaigns aimed at young people. He said: "[R.J.
Reynolds] lied to Congress, they lied to the public, they lied to
smokers and tried to (15) _____ the smoker." He added
that the jury's (16) _____ was "courageous".

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140722-tobacco-company.html>

- 1) ordered the tobacco giant R.J. Reynolds to pay a woman \$23.6 billion _____
 - a. in damages
 - b. in damage is
 - c. in damaged
 - d. in dam ages
- 2) filed a lawsuit against R.J. Reynolds in 2008 and fought for six _____
 - a. years from compensation
 - b. years via compensation
 - c. years of compensation
 - d. years for compensation
- 3) Her husband Michael died of lung cancer in 1996 after two _____
 - a. decade of smoking
 - b. decades for smoking
 - c. decades of smoking
 - d. decade for smoking
- 4) Mrs Robinson argued that the company _____
 - a. was negligence
 - b. was negligent
 - c. was negligee
 - d. was negligently
- 5) She said tobacco companies knew in the 1950s that smoking _____
 - a. was potentially legal
 - b. was potentially lethal
 - c. was potentially teeth all
 - d. was potentially lease all
- 6) He said: "The damages awarded in this case _____"
 - a. are grossly excessively
 - b. are grossly excess if
 - c. are grossly accessible
 - d. are grossly expressive
- 7) He added: "This verdict goes far beyond the realm of reasonableness _____"
 - a. and fair best
 - b. and fare nest
 - c. and fearless
 - d. and fairness
- 8) completely inconsistent with the _____
 - a. evidence presented
 - b. evident presented
 - c. evidential presented
 - d. evidenced presented
- 9) Mrs Robinson's lawyer Chris Chestnut said jurors looked at R.J. Reynolds' _____
 - a. aggressively marketing
 - b. aggressiveness marketing
 - c. aggressive market in
 - d. aggressive marketing
- 10) He added that the jury's decision _____
 - a. was "courageous"
 - b. were "courageous"
 - c. is "courageous"
 - d. are "courageous"

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140722-tobacco-company.html>

A court in the USA has (1) _____ giant R.J. Reynolds to pay a woman \$23.6 billion in damages. Cynthia Robinson filed a lawsuit against R.J. Reynolds in 2008 (2) _____ years for compensation. Her husband Michael (3) _____ in 1996 after two decades of smoking. He started smoking when he was 13 and died when he was 36. Mrs Robinson argued that the company (4) _____ informing her husband that nicotine is addictive and that smoking can lead to lung cancer. She said tobacco (5) _____ 1950s that smoking was potentially lethal and should have (6) _____ telling people. Johnson's lawyer said: "He couldn't quit. He was smoking the day he died."

A lawyer for R.J. Reynolds, America's second-largest tobacco company, said the compensation (7) _____. He said: "The damages awarded in this case (8) _____ and impermissible under state and constitutional law." He added: "This verdict goes far beyond the realm of reasonableness (9) _____ completely inconsistent with the (10) _____." Mrs Robinson's lawyer Chris Chestnut said jurors looked at R.J. Reynolds' aggressive marketing, particularly (11) _____ young people. He said: "[R.J. Reynolds] lied to Congress, they lied to the public, they lied to smokers and tried to blame the smoker." He added that (12) _____ "courageous".

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140722-tobacco-company.html>

1. Exactly how much was the woman awarded?

2. When did Cynthia Robinson first file her law case?

3. How old was Mrs Robinson's husband when he died?

4. What did tobacco companies know about smoking in the 1950s?

5. Until when did Michael Robinson continue to smoke?

6. How large is R.J. Reynolds?

7. What did R.J. Reynolds lawyers say was "grossly excessive"?

8. What did lawyers say the damages are inconsistent with?

9. Who were the marketing campaigns jurors looked at aimed at?

10. What did Mrs Robinson's lawyer call the jury's decision?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140722-tobacco-company.html>

1. Exactly how much was the woman awarded?
 - a) \$23.8 billion
 - b) \$23.6 billion
 - c) \$23.4 billion
 - d) \$23.3 billion
2. When did Cynthia Robinson first file her law case?
 - a) 2006
 - b) 2007
 - c) 2008
 - d) 2009
3. How old was Mrs Robinson's husband when he died?
 - a) 33
 - b) 34
 - c) 35
 - d) 36
4. What did tobacco companies know about smoking in the 1950s?
 - a) governments liked it
 - b) it was potentially lethal
 - c) it would end one day
 - d) it was cheap
5. Until when did Michael Robinson continue to smoke?
 - a) the day he died
 - b) the week before he died
 - c) a year before he died
 - d) 1993
6. How large is R.J. Reynolds?
 - a) the second-largest tobacco company in the USA
 - b) the world's biggest tobacco company
 - c) the second-largest tobacco company in the world
 - d) the USA's biggest tobacco company
7. What did R.J. Reynolds lawyers say was "grossly excessive"?
 - a) marketing campaigns
 - b) the number of people who smoke
 - c) smoking-related deaths
 - d) the damages
8. What did lawyers say the damages are inconsistent with?
 - a) morality
 - b) consistency
 - c) evidence
 - d) international law
9. Who were the marketing campaigns jurors looked at aimed at?
 - a) smokers
 - b) Mr Robinson
 - c) poorer countries
 - d) children
10. What did Mrs Robinson's lawyer call the jury's decision?
 - a) insufficient
 - b) courageous
 - c) half-hearted
 - d) ridiculous

ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140722-tobacco-company.html>

Role A – Smoking

You think smoking is the worst addiction. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why the other addictions aren't so bad. Also, tell the others which is the least harmful of these (and why): alcohol, gaming or fast food.

Role B – Alcohol

You think alcohol is the worst addiction. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why the other addictions aren't so bad. Also, tell the others which is the least harmful of these (and why): smoking, gaming or fast food.

Role C – Gaming

You think gaming is the worst addiction. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why the other addictions aren't so bad. Also, tell the others which is the least harmful of these (and why): alcohol, smoking or fast food.

Role D – Fast food

You think fast food is the worst addiction. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why the other addictions aren't so bad. Also, tell the others which is the least harmful of these (and why): alcohol, gaming or smoking.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140722-tobacco-company.html>

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'tobacco' and 'company'.

tobacco	company
----------------	----------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ordered• filed• 1996• addictive• 1950s• day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• second• case• goes• looked• young• decision
--	--

SMOKING SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140722-tobacco-company.html>

Write five GOOD questions about smoking in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

SMOKING DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'cigarette'?
- c) What do you think of the compensation award?
- d) Should R.J. Reynolds pay the damages?
- e) What does this award tell the tobacco industry?
- f) Why do you think the award was so high?
- g) Do you think other people will get awarded this much?
- h) Should R.J. Reynolds have told people smoking could be lethal?
- i) How do you think tobacco company executives feel knowing their product kills?
- j) Should governments do more to discourage smoking?

Woman wins \$23 bn from tobacco company – 22nd July, 2014
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SMOKING DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- b) Should companies be allowed to sell things that are addictive?
- c) Do you think cigarettes will always be for sale?
- d) Do tobacco companies have a duty to help addicts?
- e) Do governments leave tobacco companies alone because they get a lot of tax from cigarette sales?
- f) How does a court put a value on someone's life?
- g) Are there enough warnings on cigarette packets?
- h) Do you think tobacco companies lie? What about? Why?
- i) What was "courageous" about the jury's decision?
- j) What questions would you like to ask the CEO of R.J. Reynolds?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140722-tobacco-company.html>

A court in the USA has ordered the tobacco (1) _____ R.J. Reynolds to pay a woman \$23.6 billion in damages. Cynthia Robinson (2) _____ a lawsuit against R.J. Reynolds in 2008 and fought for six years for compensation. Her husband Michael died of lung cancer in 1996 after two (3) _____ of smoking. He started smoking when he was 13 and died when he was 36. Mrs Robinson argued that the company was negligent in not informing her husband that nicotine is (4) _____ and that smoking can lead to lung cancer. She said tobacco companies knew in the 1950s that smoking was potentially (5) _____ and should have been more active (6) _____ telling people. Johnson's lawyer said: "He couldn't quit. He was smoking the day he died."

A lawyer for R.J. Reynolds, America's second-largest tobacco company, said the (7) _____ was disproportionate. He said: "The damages awarded in this (8) _____ are grossly excessive and impermissible under state and constitutional law." He added: "This verdict goes far (9) _____ the realm of reasonableness and fairness and is completely inconsistent with the evidence presented." Mrs Robinson's lawyer Chris Chestnut said jurors looked at R.J. Reynolds' (10) _____ marketing, particularly campaigns aimed (11) _____ young people. He said: "[R.J. Reynolds] lied to Congress, they lied to the public, they lied to smokers and tried to blame the smoker." He added that the jury's (12) _____ was "courageous".

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|----------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. | (a) giants | (b) giant | (c) monster | (d) ogre |
| 2. | (a) flied | (b) filed | (c) flew | (d) fired |
| 3. | (a) debates | (b) debacles | (c) decadence | (d) decades |
| 4. | (a) addicts | (b) addictive | (c) addiction | (d) addictively |
| 5. | (a) legal | (b) lethal | (c) lethally | (d) legalise |
| 6. | (a) on | (b) of | (c) in | (d) to |
| 7. | (a) recompense | (b) condensation | (c) compensation | (d) competition |
| 8. | (a) brief | (b) bag | (c) case | (d) container |
| 9. | (a) beneath | (b) before | (c) behind | (d) beyond |
| 10. | (a) harmfully | (b) threatening | (c) violent | (d) aggressive |
| 11. | (a) at | (b) of | (c) by | (d) on |
| 12. | (a) decisive | (b) decider | (c) decision | (d) deciding |

SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140722-tobacco-company.html>

Paragraph 1

1. \$23.6 billion in madeasg
2. fought for six years for centnomoaips
3. two daecsed of smoking
4. the company was ningelegt
5. nicotine is acdtieiv
6. etioaplynlt lethal

Paragraph 2

7. A erlayw for R. J. Reynolds
8. grossly icxveesse
9. beyond the elram of reasonableness
10. cnnitnetssoi with the evidence presented
11. grieasgvse marketing
12. the jury's decision was aursoeugco

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140722-tobacco-company.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () at young people. He said: "[R.J. Reynolds] lied to Congress, they lied to the public, they lied
- () damages. Cynthia Robinson filed a lawsuit against R.J. Reynolds in 2008 and fought for six years
- () to smokers and tried to blame the smoker." He added that the jury's decision was "courageous".
- () smoking when he was 13 and died when he was 36. Mrs Robinson argued that the company
- () disproportionate. He said: "The damages awarded in this case are grossly excessive and
- () was negligent in not informing her husband that nicotine is addictive and that smoking can lead
- () Chris Chestnut said jurors looked at R.J. Reynolds' aggressive marketing, particularly campaigns aimed
- () for compensation. Her husband Michael died of lung cancer in 1996 after two decades of smoking. He started
- () and fairness and is completely inconsistent with the evidence presented." Mrs Robinson's lawyer
- () A lawyer for R.J. Reynolds, America's second-largest tobacco company, said the compensation was
- (**1**) A court in the USA has ordered the tobacco giant R.J. Reynolds to pay a woman \$23.6 billion in
- () to lung cancer. She said tobacco companies knew in the 1950s that smoking was potentially lethal and should
- () have been more active in telling people. Johnson's lawyer said: "He couldn't quit. He was smoking the day he died."
- () impermissible under state and constitutional law." He added: "This verdict goes far beyond the realm of reasonableness

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140722-tobacco-company.html>

1. Robinson filed a lawsuit in 2008 and fought for six years.

2. Michael died of lung cancer in 1996 after two decades.

3. The company was negligent in not informing her husband.

4. She said tobacco companies knew in the 1950s.

5. Should have been more active in telling people.

6. A lawyer America's second-largest tobacco company.

7. Damages awarded in this case are grossly excessive.

8. This verdict goes far beyond the realm of reasonableness.

9. Jurors looked at Reynolds' aggressive marketing.

10. He added that the jury's decision was "courageous".

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140722-tobacco-company.html>

A court in the USA has *ordered / arranged* the tobacco giant R.J. Reynolds to pay a woman \$23.6 billion *in / on* damages. Cynthia Robinson filed a lawsuit against R.J. Reynolds in 2008 and fought for six years *of / for* compensation. Her husband Michael died *by / of* lung cancer in 1996 after two decades of smoking. He started smoking when he was 13 and *death / died* when he was 36. Mrs Robinson argued that the company was *negligent / negligence* in not informing her husband that nicotine is *addiction / addictive* and that smoking can lead to *lung / long* cancer. She said tobacco companies knew in the 1950s that smoking was potentially lethal and should have been more active *on / in* telling people. Johnson's lawyer said: "He couldn't quit. He was smoking the *day / days* he died."

A lawyer for R.J. Reynolds, America's second-largest tobacco company, said the compensation *was / were* disproportionate. He said: "The damages awarded *on / in* this case are grossly *excessive / excessively* and impermissible under state and constitutional law." He added: "This *viaduct / verdict* goes far beyond the realm of reasonableness and fairness and is completely *inconsistent / consistent* with the evidence presented." Mrs Robinson's lawyer Chris Chestnut said *jurors / jailers* looked at R.J. Reynolds' *aggressive / aggression* marketing, particularly campaigns *armed / aimed* at young people. He said: "[R.J. Reynolds] lied to Congress, they lied to the *private / public*, they lied to smokers and tried to blame the smoker." He added that the jury's decision was "*courageous*" / "*courage*".

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140722-tobacco-company.html>

_ c _ rt _ n th _ _ S _ h _ s _ rd _ r _ d th _ t _ b _ cc _ g _ nt R.J. R_yn_lds t_ p_y _ w_m_n \$23.6 b_ll_n _ n d_m_g_s. Cynth_ _ R_b_ns_n f_l_d _ l_ws_t _ g_nst R.J. R_yn_lds _ n 2008 _ nd f_ght f_r s_x y_rs f_r c_mp_ns_t_n. H_r h_sb_nd M_ch_l d_d _ f_l_ng c_nc_r _ n 1996 _ ft_r tw_ d_c_d_s _ f sm_k_ng. H_st_rt_d sm_k_ng wh_n h_w_s 13 _ nd d_d wh_n h_w_s 36. Mrs R_b_ns_n _ rg_d th_t th_ c_mp_ny w_s n_gl_g_nt _ n n_t _ nf_rm_ng h_r h_sb_nd th_t n_c_t_n _ s _ dd_ct_v_ _ nd th_t sm_k_ng c_n l_d t_l_ng c_nc_r. Sh_ s_d t_b_cc_ c_mp_n_s kn_w _ n th_ 1950s th_t sm_k_ng w_s p_t_nt_lly l_th_l _ nd sh_ld h_v_b_n m_r _ ct_v_ _ n t_ll_ng p_pl_. J_hns_n's l_wy_r s_d: "H_ c_l_dn't q_t. H_w_s sm_k_ng th_d_y h_d_d."

_ l_wy_r f_r R.J. R_yn_lds, _ m_r_c_'s s_c_nd-l_rg_st t_b_cc_ c_mp_ny, s_d th_ c_mp_ns_t_n w_s d_spr_p_rt_n_t. H_s_d: "Th_d_m_g_s_w_rdd_n th_s c_s _ r_grssly _ xc_ss_v_ _ nd _ mp_rm_ss_bl _ nd_r st_t _ nd c_nst_t_t_n l_l_w." H_ _ dd_d: "Th_s v_r_d_ct_g_s f_r b_y_nd th_r_lm_f_r_s_n bl_n_ss _ nd f_rn_ss _ nd _ s c_mpl_t_ly _ nc_ns_st_nt w_th th_ _ v_d_nc_ pr_s_nt_d." Mrs R_b_ns_n's l_wy_r Chr_s Ch_stn_t s_d j_r_rs l_k_d _ t R.J. R_yn_lds' _ ggr_ss_v_ m_rk_t_ng, p_rt_c_l_rly c_mp_gns _ m_d _ t_y_ng p_pl_. H_s_d: "[R.J. R_yn_lds] l_d t_C_ngr_ss, th_y l_d t_th_p_bl_c, th_y l_d t_sm_k_rs _ nd tr_d t_bl_m_th_sm_k_r." H_ _ dd_d th_t th_ j_ry's d_c_s_n w_s "c_r_g_s".

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140722-tobacco-company.html>

a court in the usa has ordered the tobacco giant rj reynolds to pay a woman \$236 billion in damages cynthia robinson filed a lawsuit against rj reynolds in 2008 and fought for six years for compensation her husband michael died of lung cancer in 1996 after two decades of smoking he started smoking when he was 13 and died when he was 36 mrs robinson argued that the company was negligent in not informing her husband that nicotine is addictive and that smoking can lead to lung cancer she said tobacco companies knew in the 1950s that smoking was potentially lethal and should have been more active in telling people johnson's lawyer said "he couldn't quit he was smoking the day he died"

a lawyer for rj reynolds america's second-largest tobacco company said the compensation was disproportionate he said "the damages awarded in this case are grossly excessive and impermissible under state and constitutional law" he added "this verdict goes far beyond the realm of reasonableness and fairness and is completely inconsistent with the evidence presented" mrs robinson's lawyer chris chestnut said jurors looked at rj reynolds' aggressive marketing particularly campaigns aimed at young people he said "[rj reynolds] lied to congress they lied to the public they lied to smokers and tried to blame the smoker" he added that the jury's decision was "courageous"

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1407/140722-tobacco-company.html>

A court in the USA has ordered the tobacco giant R.J. Reynolds to pay a woman \$23.6 billion in damages. Cynthia Robinson filed a lawsuit against R.J. Reynolds in 2008 and fought for six years for compensation. Her husband Michael died of lung cancer in 1996 after two decades of smoking. He started smoking when he was 13 and died when he was 36. Mrs Robinson argued that the company was negligent in not informing her husband that nicotine is addictive and that smoking can lead to lung cancer. She said tobacco companies knew in the 1950s that smoking was potentially lethal and should have been more active in telling people. Johnson's lawyers said: "He couldn't quit. He was smoking the day he died." A lawyer for R.J. Reynolds, America's second-largest tobacco company, said the compensation was disproportionate. He said: "The damages awarded in this case are grossly excessive and impermissible under state and constitutional law." He added: "This verdict goes far beyond the realm of reasonableness and fairness and is completely inconsistent with the evidence presented." Mrs Robinson's lawyer Chris Chestnuts said jurors looked at R.J. Reynolds' aggressive marketing, particularly campaigns aimed at young people. He said: "[R.J. Reynolds] lied to Congress, they lied to the public, they lied to smokers and tried to blame the smoker." He added that the jury's decision was "courageous".

HOMework

1. VOCABULARY 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 out more about cigarettes. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. SMOKING: Make a poster about smoking. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. DAMAGES: Write a magazine article about the damages award. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against it.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to the CEO of R.J. Reynolds. Ask him/her three questions about the compensation award. Give him/her three of your opinions on it. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

a T b T c F d F e F f T g T h F

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 1. ordered | a. instructed |
| 2. lawsuit | b. legal action |
| 3. negligent | c. irresponsible |
| 4. lethal | d. deadly |
| 5. quit | e. give up |
| 6. disproportionate | f. unequal |
| 7. awarded | g. given |
| 8. realm | h. area |
| 9. aggressive | i. forceful |
| 10. courageous | j. brave |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. \$23.6 billion
2. 2008
3. 36
4. It was potentially lethal
5. Until the day he died
6. The second-largest tobacco company in the USA
7. The damages
8. Evidence
9. Children
10. Courageous

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

1. b 2. c 3. d 4. b 5. a 6. a 7. d 8. c 9. d 10. b

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)