

France bans smoking for tobacco-free generation

3rd July 2025



France has banned smoking in public places like beaches and parks. Any smoker who lights up a cigarette in public will be breaking the law. The new smoking ban is to protect children from passive smoking. This happens when you breathe in smoke from

other people who are smoking. The government wants to create a tobacco-free generation by 2032. This means protecting children today. France's Minister of Health said: "Tobacco must disappear from places where there are children - a park, a beach, a school. These are places to play, learn, and breathe; not for smoking." She added: "The freedom to smoke stops where the right of children to breathe clean air begins."

Smoking is slowly falling in France. However, passive smoking still causes up to 5,000 deaths per year. A recent survey showed that 68 per cent of French people support rules to ban smoking in public. They also want bans at outdoor cafes and restaurants, but these places are not included under the new ban. Smoking is one of the leading causes of preventable disease, disability and death. It can damage nearly every organ of the body. Smoking near children is especially dangerous because their bodies are still developing. Second-hand smoke can lead to breathing problems and asthma. It can slow down or damage lung development. People hope the new ban means children can grow up to be healthier.

Sources: [theguardian.com](https://www.theguardian.com) / [euronews.com](https://www.euronews.com) / [npr.org](https://www.npr.org)

Writing

Smoking and vaping should be banned worldwide. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

France / smoking / beaches / parks / breaking the law / passive smoking / clean air / survey / ban / cafes / restaurants / disease / breathing problems / asthma / lungs

True / False

- 1) France has banned smoking in parks but not on beaches. T / F
- 2) The article says the ban will protect children from active smoking. T / F
- 3) France wants a tobacco-free generation in the next 10 years. T / F
- 4) The health minister said children have a right to breathe clean air. T / F
- 5) Over three-quarters of French people support a smoking ban. T / F
- 6) The new law does not cover cafes and restaurants. T / F
- 7) The article says smoking damages every organ in the body. T / F
- 8) The article says second-hand smoke can damage children's lungs. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. protect | a. ends |
| 2. create | b. starts |
| 3. disappear | c. difficulties |
| 4. stops | d. make |
| 5. begins | e. back |
| 6. causes | f. keep safe |
| 7. support | g. growing |
| 8. leading | h. leads to |
| 9. developing | i. die out |
| 10. problems | j. main |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What do you think of banning smoking?
- c) Should smokers pay more for healthcare?
- d) Should smoking be banned in restaurants?
- e) What damage does smoking do to the body?
- f) What three adjectives best describe the word 'cigarette'?
- g) How can we stop children smoking?
- h) What questions would you like to ask a smoker?

Phrase Match

1. Any smoker who lights
 2. protect children from
 3. This happens when you breathe
 4. These are places to play, learn, and
 5. the right of children to breathe
 6. They also want bans at
 7. Smoking is one of the leading causes
 8. It can damage nearly every
 9. Second-
 10. children can grow
- a. hand smoke
 - b. in smoke
 - c. up to be healthier
 - d. clean air
 - e. of preventable disease
 - f. up a cigarette in public
 - g. organ of the body
 - h. outdoor cafes
 - i. passive smoking
 - j. breathe

Discussion – Student B

- a) What do you think of smoking?
- b) What do you think of vaping?
- c) Why do people smoke?
- d) How can people smoke near children?
- e) What do you think of the smell of cigarette smoke?
- f) What do you think of a smoke-free generation?
- g) How different would the world be without cigarettes?
- h) What advice do you have for someone who wants to quit smoking?

Spelling

1. France has nbenda smoking in public places
2. ttcerpo children
3. evpsasi smoking
4. when you ateehrb in smoke
5. Tobacco must pdrieapas
6. The moedefr to smoke stops
7. A crntee survey showed that
8. people rpsoput rules to ban smoking
9. not dlcueidn under the new ban
10. leading causes of preventable eeissad
11. ipyclealse dangerous
12. slow down or damage ulng development

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. d	3. i	4. a	5. b
6. h	7. e	8. j	9. g	10. c

Comprehension Questions

Listen to / read the news article. Answer these questions.
(Answers are on p. 27 of the 27-page PDF.)

1.	In which two places does the article say French people cannot smoke?
2.	What will the new law protect children from?
3.	What does the French government want to create by 2032?
4.	Who said tobacco must disappear from public places?
5.	What did a woman say children have a right to breathe?
6.	How many people does passive smoking kill each year?
7.	What percentage of French people support a smoking ban?
8.	What bodily organs can smoking damage?
9.	What does the article say can lead to breathing problems and asthma?
10.	What can be slowed down or damaged by breathing in smoke?

Speaking – Negative effects

Rank these with your partner. Put the biggest negative effects of smoking at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Heart disease
- High cost
- Gum disease
- Social isolation
- Lung damage
- Bad breath
- Stained (yellow) teeth
- Being out of breath

Answers – True False

1 F	2 F	3 T	4 T	5 F	6 T	7 F	8 T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.