

# www.**Breaking News English**.com

Ready-to-use ESL/EFL Lessons by Sean Banville

**"1,000 IDEAS & ACTIVITIES FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS"**  
**The Breaking News English.com Resource Book**  
<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html>

## **Two-flies-only limit for Beijing toilets**

**25th May, 2012**

[http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1205/120525-public\\_lavatories.html](http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1205/120525-public_lavatories.html)

### **Contents**

The Article	2
Warm-ups	3
Before Reading / Listening	4
While Reading / Listening	5
Listening Gap Fill	6
After Reading / Listening	7
Student Survey	8
Discussion	9
Language Work	10
Writing	11
Homework	12
Answers	13

### **Follow Sean Banville on**

**Twitter**



[twitter.com/SeanBanville](https://twitter.com/SeanBanville)

**Facebook**



[www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176](https://www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176)

**Google +**



[plus.google.com/110990608764591804698/posts](https://plus.google.com/110990608764591804698/posts)

# THE ARTICLE

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1205/120525-public\\_lavatories.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1205/120525-public_lavatories.html)

Beijing officials have introduced a new ruling aimed at beautifying the city's public lavatories. The Beijing Municipal Commission of City Administration and Environment has announced that there will be a limit of two flies in each cubicle. The city has directed its washroom attendants to pay greater attention to toilet cleanliness and be especially vigilant when it comes to flies. City spokesman Xie Guomin said the ruling was a "new standard for public toilet management". He added: "We will not actually count fly numbers. The regulation is specific and quantified, but the inspection methodology will be flexible." Mr Guomin also said there were no measures in place to enforce the ruling.

The two-fly limit is part of a wider initiative to improve toilet cleanliness in Beijing. It is a continuation of measures introduced in 2008 for the Beijing Olympics. The rules will be implemented in places such as parks and public gardens, tourist spots, railway stations, hospitals and shopping malls. Other rules cover the setting of standards on odours in toilets, the type of cleaning equipment used by public toilet staff and the cleaning of litter bins. The guidelines on litter say that no more than two discarded items should be left in a toilet and they should be removed within 30 minutes. The 'Beijing Times' reported that the city's toilets have improved greatly in recent years, especially those for women.

# WARM-UPS

**1. TOILETS:** Walk around the class and talk to other students about toilets. Change partners often. Sit with your first partner(s) and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

*Beijing / officials / beautifying / public lavatories / limit / cleanliness / flies / measures / initiative / rules / public gardens / odours (UK) / odors (USA) / litter / improved*

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

**3. BEAUTIFYING:** How can we make things more beautiful? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners and share what you wrote. Change and share again.

	How beautiful are they now?	How to make them more beautiful
Toilets		
Computers		
Houses		
Pizzas		
Roads		
Money		

**4. PUBLIC TOILETS:** Students A **strongly** believe public toilets are a great service; Students B **strongly** believe they're not. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**5. MOST BEAUTIFUL:** Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the most beautiful at the top. Change partners and share your rankings again.

- A baby's smile
- A red rose
- The countryside
- The human body
- Art
- The night sky
- Dolphins playing in the ocean
- A place of worship

**6. CLEANLINESS:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'cleanliness'. 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/1205/120525-public\\_lavatories.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1205/120525-public_lavatories.html)

## 1. TRUE / FALSE:

Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- |    |   |       |
|----|---|-------|
| a. | There are new rules aimed at making Beijing toilets nicer.                | T / F |
| b. | The city has set a two-fly limit in toilets as a standard of cleanliness. | T / F |
| c. | A special toilet attendant will be trained to count flies in toilets.     | T / F |
| d. | The city said all toilet attendants must strictly follow these rules.     | T / F |
| e. | The new rules follow on from those introduced for the Beijing Olympics.   | T / F |
| f. | Railway stations are exempt from the new rules.                           | T / F |
| g. | There are also rules about how much toilets can smell.                    | T / F |
| h. | A Beijing newspaper said toilets are no better since the Olympics.        | T / F |

## 2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms from the article.

- |     |             |    |                 |
|-----|-------------|----|-----------------|
| 1.  | ruling      | a. | enhancing       |
| 2.  | beautifying | b. | broader         |
| 3.  | limit       | c. | benchmark       |
| 4.  | standard    | d. | considerably    |
| 5.  | flexible    | e. | regulation      |
| 6.  | wider       | f. | put into effect |
| 7.  | implemented | g. | utensils        |
| 8.  | equipment   | h. | maximum         |
| 9.  | litter      | i. | adaptable       |
| 10. | greatly     | j. | trash           |

## 3. PHRASE MATCH:

(Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- |     |                            |    |                                 |
|-----|----------------------------|----|---------------------------------|
| 1.  | aimed at beautifying the   | a. | introduced in 2008              |
| 2.  | a limit of two flies       | b. | attention to toilet cleanliness |
| 3.  | pay greater                | c. | items                           |
| 4.  | a new standard             | d. | part of a wider initiative      |
| 5.  | there were no measures in  | e. | in each cubicle                 |
| 6.  | The two-fly limit is       | f. | place to enforce the ruling     |
| 7.  | a continuation of measures | g. | improved greatly                |
| 8.  | the type of cleaning       | h. | city's public lavatories        |
| 9.  | discarded                  | i. | equipment used                  |
| 10. | the city's toilets have    | j. | for public toilet management    |

# WHILE READING / LISTENING

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1205/120525-public\\_lavatories.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1205/120525-public_lavatories.html)

**GAP FILL:** Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Beijing officials have introduced a new (1) \_\_\_\_\_ aimed at beautifying the city's public lavatories. The Beijing Municipal Commission of City Administration and Environment has (2) \_\_\_\_\_ that there will be a limit of two flies in each cubicle. The city has (3) \_\_\_\_\_ its washroom attendants to pay greater attention to toilet cleanliness and be especially vigilant when it (4) \_\_\_\_\_ to flies. City spokesman Xie Guomin said the ruling was a "new (5) \_\_\_\_\_ for public toilet management". He added: "We will not actually (6) \_\_\_\_\_ fly numbers. The regulation is (7) \_\_\_\_\_ and quantified, but the inspection methodology will be flexible." Mr Guomin also said there were no (8) \_\_\_\_\_ in place to enforce the ruling.

*count*  
*directed*  
*measures*  
*announced*  
*specific*  
*comes*  
*ruling*  
*standard*

The two-fly (9) \_\_\_\_\_ is part of a wider initiative to improve toilet cleanliness in Beijing. It is a continuation of (10) \_\_\_\_\_ introduced in 2008 for the Beijing Olympics. The rules will be implemented in places such as parks and public gardens, tourist (11) \_\_\_\_\_, railway stations, hospitals and shopping malls. Other rules (12) \_\_\_\_\_ the setting of standards on (13) \_\_\_\_\_ in toilets, the type of cleaning equipment used by public toilet staff and the cleaning of litter bins. The guidelines (14) \_\_\_\_\_ litter say that no more than two discarded items should be left in a toilet and they should be (15) \_\_\_\_\_ within 30 minutes. The 'Beijing Times' reported that the city's toilets have improved (16) \_\_\_\_\_ in recent years, especially those for women.

*on*  
*cover*  
*measures*  
*greatly*  
*limit*  
*odours*  
*spots*  
*removed*

## LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1205/120525-public\\_lavatories.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1205/120525-public_lavatories.html)

Beijing officials have introduced \_\_\_\_\_ at beautifying the city's public lavatories. The Beijing Municipal Commission of City Administration and Environment has announced that \_\_\_\_\_ of two flies in each cubicle. The city has directed its washroom attendants to \_\_\_\_\_ to toilet cleanliness and \_\_\_\_\_ when it comes to flies. City spokesman Xie Guomin said the ruling was a "new standard for public toilet management". He added: "We will not actually \_\_\_\_\_. The regulation is specific and quantified, but the inspection methodology will be flexible." Mr Guomin also said there were no measures in place to \_\_\_\_\_.

The two-fly limit is part of \_\_\_\_\_ to improve toilet cleanliness in Beijing. It is a continuation of measures introduced in 2008 for the Beijing Olympics. The rules \_\_\_\_\_ in places such as parks and public gardens, tourist spots, railway stations, hospitals and shopping malls. Other rules \_\_\_\_\_ of standards on odours in toilets, the type of cleaning equipment used by public toilet staff and the cleaning of litter bins. The \_\_\_\_\_ say that no more than two \_\_\_\_\_ should be left in a toilet and they should be removed within 30 minutes. The 'Beijing Times' reported that the city's toilets have \_\_\_\_\_ recent years, especially those for women.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1205/120525-public\\_lavatories.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1205/120525-public_lavatories.html)

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

<b>public</b>	<b>toilet</b>
---------------	---------------

- 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"><li>• aimed</li><li>• announced</li><li>• pay</li><li>• spokesman</li><li>• count</li><li>• place</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• wider</li><li>• 2008</li><li>• spots</li><li>• type</li><li>• items</li><li>• greatly</li></ul>
---	---

# TOILETS SURVEY

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1205/120525-public\\_lavatories.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1205/120525-public_lavatories.html)

Write five GOOD questions about toilets 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.



# TOILETS 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 'public toilet'?
- c) What are the differences between the words 'toilet', 'washroom', 'bathroom', 'WC' and lavatory?
- d) What do you think of Beijing's new plan?
- e) Do you think public toilets need beautifying?
- f) What do you think of the two-fly limit?
- g) Do you ever worry about the cleanliness in public toilets?
- h) Why do you think there's a two-fly limit in cubicles if no one is going to count them?
- i) How important is public toilet management in a city?

*Two-flies-only limit for Beijing toilets – 25th May, 2012*  
More free lessons at [www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com)

---

# TOILETS DISCUSSION

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

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) What other ideas can you think of to improve toilets?
- c) What are the best toilets (public or otherwise) that you've been in?
- d) Which would you prefer to use – the toilets in McDonald's or a public toilet?
- e) How successful do you think the beautification project will be?
- f) Do you think other world cities should follow Beijing's example?
- g) Have you ever gone into a toilet and decided not to use it?
- h) What's the worst thing about public toilets?
- i) What questions would you like to ask spokesman Xie Guomin?

# LANGUAGE – MULTIPLE CHOICE

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1205/120525-public\\_lavatories.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1205/120525-public_lavatories.html)

Beijing officials have introduced a new (1) \_\_\_\_ aimed at beautifying the city's public lavatories. The Beijing Municipal Commission of City Administration and Environment has announced that there will be a limit of two flies in each (2) \_\_\_\_\_. The city has directed its washroom attendants to (3) \_\_\_\_ greater attention to toilet cleanliness and be especially vigilant when it (4) \_\_\_\_ to flies. City spokesman Xie Guomin said the ruling was a "new standard for public toilet management". He added: "We will not actually (5) \_\_\_\_ fly numbers. The regulation is specific and quantified, but the inspection methodology will be flexible." Mr Guomin also said there were no measures (6) \_\_\_\_ place to enforce the ruling.

The two-fly limit is part of a (7) \_\_\_\_ initiative to improve toilet cleanliness in Beijing. It is a continuation of (8) \_\_\_\_ introduced in 2008 for the Beijing Olympics. The rules will be implemented in places such as parks and public gardens, tourist spots, railway stations, hospitals and shopping malls. Other rules cover the (9) \_\_\_\_ of standards on odours in toilets, the type of cleaning equipment used by public toilet staff and the cleaning of litter bins. The guidelines (10) \_\_\_\_ litter say that no more than two (11) \_\_\_\_ items should be left in a toilet and they should be removed within 30 minutes. The 'Beijing Times' reported that the city's toilets have improved greatly in recent years, especially (12) \_\_\_\_ for women.

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

- |     |                 |                 |               |                  |
|-----|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------|
| 1.  | (a) railing     | (b) reeling     | (c) ruing     | (d) ruling       |
| 2.  | (a) particle    | (b) cubicle     | (c) ventricle | (d) obstacle     |
| 3.  | (a) pay         | (b) serve       | (c) receive   | (d) refund       |
| 4.  | (a) goes        | (b) arrives     | (c) comes     | (d) departs      |
| 5.  | (a) countable   | (b) countenance | (c) count     | (d) counting     |
| 6.  | (a) as          | (b) in          | (c) of        | (d) by           |
| 7.  | (a) wider       | (b) width       | (c) widely    | (d) widest       |
| 8.  | (a) measures    | (b) rulers      | (c) tapes     | (d) calculations |
| 9.  | (a) set         | (b) setting     | (c) sets      | (d) settings     |
| 10. | (a) at          | (b) by          | (c) as        | (d) on           |
| 11. | (a) disregarded | (b) disguised   | (c) discarded | (d) disgusted    |
| 12. | (a) those       | (b) them        | (c) these     | (d) that         |

Two-flies-only limit for Beijing toilets – 25th May, 2012

More free lessons at [www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com) - Copyright Sean Banville 2012



# 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 Beijing's public toilets. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. TOILETS:** Make a poster about public toilets and cleanliness. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. FLIES:** Write a magazine article about the new rules for Beijing's toilets. Include imaginary interviews with local people and officials.

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. LETTER:** Write a letter to a health expert. Ask him/her three questions about toilets. Give him/her three of your opinions on how they need to be improved. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## TRUE / FALSE:

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

## SYNONYM MATCH:

- |                |                    |
|----------------|--------------------|
| 1. ruling      | a. regulation      |
| 2. beautifying | b. enhancing       |
| 3. limit       | c. maximum         |
| 4. standard    | d. benchmark       |
| 5. flexible    | e. adaptable       |
| 6. wider       | f. broader         |
| 7. implemented | g. put into effect |
| 8. equipment   | h. utensils        |
| 9. litter      | i. trash           |
| 10. greatly    | j. considerably    |

## PHRASE MATCH:

- |                               |                                    |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. aimed at beautifying the   | a. city's public lavatories        |
| 2. a limit of two flies       | b. in each cubicle                 |
| 3. pay greater                | c. attention to toilet cleanliness |
| 4. a new standard             | d. for public toilet management    |
| 5. there were no measures in  | e. place to enforce the ruling     |
| 6. The two-fly limit is       | f. part of a wider initiative      |
| 7. a continuation of measures | g. introduced in 2008              |
| 8. the type of cleaning       | h. equipment used                  |
| 9. discarded                  | i. items                           |
| 10. the city's toilets have   | j. improved greatly                |

## GAP FILL:

### Two-flies-only limit for Beijing toilets

Beijing officials have introduced a new (1) **ruling** aimed at beautifying the city's public lavatories. The Beijing Municipal Commission of City Administration and Environment has (2) **announced** that there will be a limit of two flies in each cubicle. The city has (3) **directed** its washroom attendants to pay greater attention to toilet cleanliness and be especially vigilant when it (4) **comes** to flies. City spokesman Xie Guomin said the ruling was a "new (5) **standard** for public toilet management". He added: "We will not actually (6) **count** fly numbers. The regulation is (7) **specific** and quantified, but the inspection methodology will be flexible." Mr Guomin also said there were no (8) **measures** in place to enforce the ruling.

The two-fly (9) **limit** is part of a wider initiative to improve toilet cleanliness in Beijing. It is a continuation of (10) **measures** introduced in 2008 for the Beijing Olympics. The rules will be implemented in places such as parks and public gardens, tourist (11) **spots**, railway stations, hospitals and shopping malls. Other rules (12) **cover** the setting of standards on (13) **odours** in toilets, the type of cleaning equipment used by public toilet staff and the cleaning of litter bins. The guidelines (14) **on** litter say that no more than two discarded items should be left in a toilet and they should be (15) **removed** within 30 minutes. The 'Beijing Times' reported that the city's toilets have improved (16) **greatly** in recent years, especially those for women.

## LANGUAGE WORK

1 - d    2 - b    3 - a    4 - c    5 - c    6 - b    7 - a    8 - d    9 - b    10 - d    11 - c    12 - a