

## Scientists tell WHO e-cigarettes are helpful

31<sup>st</sup> May, 2014



A group of scientists have written to the World Health Organisation (WHO) two days before World No Tobacco Day on May the 31st. The 53 scientists asked the WHO not to class e-cigarettes as a tobacco product. E-cigarettes are an aid to help people quit smoking. They do not have any tobacco inside

them. Instead, they release a nicotine vapour that makes people feel like they are smoking. Many doctors say this is better for people's health than real cigarettes. The WHO wants countries to put e-cigarettes in the same category as real cigarettes. This means taxing them, banning advertising, introducing health warnings and stopping people from using them in public places.

The group of scientists told the WHO that e-cigarettes are helping to reduce disease and deaths from smoking. The scientists said e-cigarettes are a "low-risk product" that are "part of the solution" in the fight against smoking, not part of the problem. They wrote: "These products could be among the most significant health innovations of the 21st century, perhaps saving hundreds of millions of lives. The urge to control...them as tobacco products should be resisted." However, researchers from the University of Chicago say e-cigarettes could encourage young people to smoke. They said: "It's possible that seeing e-cigarette use may promote more smoking behavior and less quitting."

Sources: Reuters / BBC / Irish Health.com

## Writing

All countries should ban smoking. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

scientists / WHO / tobacco / nicotine / smoking / advertising / health warnings / public / reduce disease / low-risk / solution / innovation / 21<sup>st</sup> century / researchers / quitting

## True / False

- 53 scientists wrote to the WHO to say e-cigarettes help people. T / F
- The scientists said e-cigarettes are not the same as real cigarettes. T / F
- E-cigarettes do not make people feel like they are smoking. T / F
- The WHO said it's OK for countries to tax e-cigarettes. T / F
- E-cigarettes are not helping reduce disease and deaths from cigarettes. T / F
- The scientists said e-cigarettes are a very innovative product. T / F
- The scientists said e-cigarettes save thousands of lives. T / F
- University of Chicago research said e-cigarettes stop people smoking. T / F

## Synonym Match

- |                |               |
|----------------|---------------|
| 1. asked       | a. important  |
| 2. class       | b. actual     |
| 3. aid         | c. encourage  |
| 4. real        | d. group      |
| 5. stopping    | e. lessen     |
| 6. reduce      | f. desire     |
| 7. solution    | g. requested  |
| 8. significant | h. preventing |
| 9. urge        | i. help       |
| 10. promote    | j. answer     |

## Discussion – Student A

- What do you think of smoking?
- Why do people smoke?
- What are the good things about e-cigarettes?
- Should e-cigarettes be in the same category as cigarettes?
- How harmful are cigarettes?
- What do you think of people smoking e-cigarettes in public places?
- Do you think the WHO should listen to the 53 scientists? Why?
- Why is it difficult to quit smoking?

# Breaking News English - The Mini Lesson

## Phrase Match

1. A group
  2. E-cigarettes are an aid
  3. they release a
  4. health
  5. stopping people from using them
  6. a low-
  7. among the most significant
  8. The urge to
  9. encourage young
  10. e-cigarette use may promote
- a. risk product
  - b. in public places
  - c. warnings
  - d. control them
  - e. of scientists
  - f. health innovations
  - g. people to smoke
  - h. to help people quit
  - i. more smoking
  - j. nicotine vapour

## Discussion – Student B

- a) What are the bad things about e-cigarettes?
- b) Should governments give smokers e-cigarettes?
- c) What would the world be like without cigarettes?
- d) Do you think e-cigarettes are "significant health innovations"?
- e) What do you think of the University of Chicago research?
- f) What is the best way to help people stop smoking?
- g) Should governments ban cigarettes?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the WHO?

## Spelling

1. A group of sitsiensct
2. a tocacob product
3. they leeear a nicotine vapour
4. in the same otegykra
5. banning atnvsgirdei
6. health ingawrsn
7. helping to reduce ssdiaee
8. part of the uioonlts
9. among the most aiinftigcsn
10. health insioatnvno
11. aerrsrceeh from the University of Chicago
12. uneeagrco young people to smoke

### Answers – Synonym Match

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

## Role Play

### Role A – No Tobacco Day

You think No Tobacco Day is the most important day. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their days aren't so important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): No Arguing Day, No Television Day or No Shopping Day.

### Role B – No Arguing Day

You think No Arguing Day is the most important day. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their days aren't so important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): No Tobacco Day, No Television Day or No Shopping Day.

### Role C – No Television Day

You think No Television Day is the most important day. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their days aren't so important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): No Arguing Day, No Tobacco Day or No Shopping Day.

### Role D – No Shopping Day

You think No Shopping Day is the most important day. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their days aren't so important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): No Arguing Day, No Television Day or No Tobacco Day.

## Speaking – No X Day

Rank these with your partner. Put the most important day at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- No Tobacco Day
- No Shopping Day
- No Arguing Day
- No Car Day
- No Fast Food Day
- No Stress Day
- No Television Day
- No Staying At Home Day

### Answers – True False

a	T	b	T	c	F	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.