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# TOM TOM ENGLISH

# NO SMOKING

## VOCABULARY

### Resent =

To feel bitterness or  
anger about something

### Insist =

To demand something  
strongly, and not  
accept refusal

### Off-limits =

Out of bounds, a place  
that you aren't allowed  
to go

### Deny =

To say that something  
is not true

## Discussion questions

1. Do you smoke? Why? Why not?
2. Non-smokers: Have you ever smoked?  
Was it easy to stop?
3. Smokers: How many cigarettes do you  
smoke a day?
4. What do you think about each of the three  
cases of aggressive non-smokers? Is their  
behaviour reasonable? Why? Why not?
5. What do you think about smoking  
manners in Japan? Are they good? Bad?
6. Smokers: Do you do any of the "good  
manners" things listed in the article?  
Which ones?
7. Non-smokers: Do you do any of the  
actions listed at the end of the article?  
Which ones? Why/ Why not?

## VOCABULARY

### Aerosol deodoriser =

Spray air freshener

### Downwind =

In the direction where  
the wind is blowing, or  
where smells or smoke  
are moving

### Refrain =

To stop yourself from  
doing something

Recently people who **resent** smoking are becoming more aggressive. They dislike smoking in public places, for example restaurants, cafes and bars.

Spa! (Dec 23) presents 3 extreme examples of these “aggressive” smoke-haters.

In Case 1, volunteer groups patrol an apartment building to stop residents from smoking.

A man named Hojo said “A couple of years ago, I used to smoke on my balcony. “Then I received a complaint from my neighbour upstairs. He **insisted** that my smoke was making his laundry smell bad.”

80% of the members of Mr. Hojo’s building are nonsmokers. They decided that the building’s balconies were **off-limits** to smokers.

“More than once, smoke haters knocked on my door. They shouted ‘Mr Hojo, the exhaust fan is spreading your smoke from your apartment into the corridors!’”

Then the leader of the patrol rang Mr.Hojo’s doorbell at 11 p.m. “This cigarette butt was dropped in the parking lot. It’s yours, isn’t it?”

“I **denied** it” said Hojo “The man shouted, ‘You are a liar! You’re the only smoker living in this building!’”

In Case 2, a woman sprays guests who are smokers with **aerosol deodoriser** when they arrive at her house.

In Case 3, during a “gokon”, a man told the group “I’m going to have a smoke

now”. Then, he said, “one of the women became like a demon. ‘Put that out, right now! If I inhale your smoke, I’ll feel sick tomorrow and won’t be able to work. Smoke spoils the meal too. The cook worked hard to prepare it. You should show him respect. Only Japan allows this kind of behaviour. You work for a trading company, so surely you know how other countries treat smoking?’”

Spa also asked readers “During a business discussion at a coffee shop or restaurant, what do you think are good smoking manners? Readers said these were the most important things:

1. Asking ‘Do you mind if I smoke?’
2. Getting up from the table and smoking outside
3. Asking “Do you mind if we sit in the smoking section?”
4. Moving to a seat that’s **downwind** from the other person
5. **Refraining** from lighting up until the main meal is finished
6. Blowing smoke away from the group

Spa also asked non-smokers “What actions do you take? The answers were:

1. Leave without saying anything.
2. Ask the person to not smoke.
3. Do something to catch the smoker’s attention
4. Open a window or turn on a fan
5. Complain then move away
6. Cough loudly

Adapted from [www.japantoday.com](http://www.japantoday.com)