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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

People who **resent** being exposed to cigarette smoke at the workplace, in restaurants and in other public places are becoming more aggressive in showing their dislike.

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 couple of years ago, I used to smoke on my balcony,” a man named Hojo recalls. “Then I received a complaint from the neighbour upstairs, who **insisted** that my smoke was causing his drying laundry to smell of tobacco.”

80% of the members of Hojo’s building are nonsmokers, and they decided that the building’s balconies and other common-use areas were **off-limits** to smokers.

“More than once, smoke haters began pounding on my door, shouting ‘Mr Hojo, the exhaust fan is spreading the smoke from your apartment into the corridors!’”

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

“When I **denied** it,” said Hojo, “he shouted, ‘You liar! You’re the only smoker living in this building!’ I’m thinking of moving out.”

In Case 2, a woman sprays a guest (who is a smoker) arriving at her front door, with **aerosol deodoriser**.

In Case 3, during a “gokon”, a man told 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 permits 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 sort of action 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