

USEFUL VOCABULARY

Match the highlighted phrases with their meanings.

1. The judge imposed a \$500 **fine** on the offender for speeding. _____
2. Driving under the influence of alcohol can lead to severe **legal consequences**, including fines and license suspension. _____
3. Repeat **offenders** may face harsher penalties under the law. _____
4. The government issued a **mandate** requiring all citizens to wear masks in public places. _____
5. The city council voted to **revoke** the building permit due to safety concerns. _____
6. Speeding in a school zone carries a higher **penalty** than regular traffic violations. _____
7. The candidates engaged in a heated **debate** over healthcare policy during the election campaign. _____
8. The school policy **prohibits** students from using their cell phones during class. _____

- a) A sum of money exacted as a penalty by a court of law or other authority.
- b) Officially cancel or annul a promise, decision, or law.
- c) Formally forbid (something) by law, rule, or other authority.
- d) A person who commits an illegal act.
- e) A punishment imposed for breaking a law, rule, or contract.
- f) A formal discussion on a particular topic in which opposing arguments are put forward and which usually ends with a vote.
- g) An official order or commission to do something.
- h) Results or impacts that happen because of actions taken under the law.



You are going to read an article about bizarre laws around the world.
Try to match the laws below with the countries.

1. It's a legal requirement to smile at all times except at funerals or hospitals.

a) Japan

2. Chewing gum on the street is against the law.

b) Scotland

3. It's illegal to ride a cow while drunk.

c) Italy

4. Wearing a mask in public is not allowed by law.

d) Denmark

5. It's a legal requirement to own a burial plot before you die.

e) Singapore

6. Building a sandcastle on the beach is prohibited by law.

f) France

7. It is a criminal offence to challenge someone to a duel and accept an invitation to a duel

g) Spain

8. You will be fined for being overweight.

h) Canada

ITALY'S SMILE MANDATE

In Milan, a historical city regulation mandates smiling, dating back to Austro-Hungarian times and never revoked.

Exceptions apply for funeral attendees, hospital staff, or those caring for ill relatives. Everyone else faces fines for not smiling.

Despite this, Milan remains a popular destination for tourists every year.

SINGAPORE'S STICKY SITUATION

Back in the 1990s, Singapore had a big problem. Some people were causing trouble by sticking chewing gum all over the Mass Rapid Transit system. To fix this, Singapore decided to ban all chewing gum in 1992.

Nowadays, if anyone tries to bring, sell, or make chewing gum in Singapore, they can face significant legal consequences.

MOO-VING VIOLATIONS IN SCOTLAND

Before you start planning any wild adventures, here's a fun fact: in Scotland, it's against the law to ride a cow while drunk! Yep, you heard that right! This old rule from 1872 says you shouldn't be intoxicated when in charge of a cow, horse or carriage.

And guess what? The law also says you can't have a loaded firearm if you've been drinking. Pretty sensible, right?

BEHIND THE MASK: DENMARK

Denmark made headlines with a bold move in August 2018: a ban on covering faces in public spaces. This ban doesn't just target masks; it includes helmets, scarves, hats.

Supporters say it helps identify people during crowded events. Critics argue it limits personal freedom. Either way, it's sparked heated debates worldwide about security and individual rights.

PRE-PLANNING IN FRANCE

In the town of Sarpourenx, there's an unusual law: you can't pass away within city limits unless you already own a burial plot in the local cemetery.

This is because the cemetery is full, so the mayor made a rule about it in 2008. He even said, 'Offenders will be severely punished.'

SPAIN'S SANDCASTLE CONUNDRUM

Spain takes a stand against sandcastles, imposing fines for their construction. It generally prohibits the construction of sandcastles that could disrupt the natural landscape or pose safety hazards. The penalties vary depending on location; in Majorca, it's €100, while in Galicia, it could reach up to €1,500. Surprisingly, this rule applies to kids too, leaving parents to cover the costs.

THE FORBIDDEN ART OF DUELLING

In Canada, it is against the law to challenge someone to a duel or accept such a challenge. This law dates back to the 19th century when it was more common. Duelling was seen as a way to settle debates, but today it is considered dangerous and outdated. The law reflects Canada's commitment to resolving conflicts peacefully. It serves as a reminder of the importance of non-violent conflict resolution in society.

JAPAN'S PENALTY FOR EXCESS WEIGHT

To address rising obesity rates, Japan implemented the Metabo Law, requiring citizens aged 40 to 74 to undergo annual waist measurements at the doctor's office. The law aims to prevent obesity-related health issues.

Men with waist sizes over 85 cm and women over 90 cm may face fines. Interestingly, Sumo wrestlers are exempt from this regulation.

BIZARRE LAWS AROUND THE WORLD

Continu

Read the article again. Answer the questions below. Choose the right option.



1. Which year is mentioned regarding the rule in Scotland?

a) 1871

b) 1872

c) 1873

d) 1874

2. Who is exempt from the smiling mandate in Milan?

a) Tourists

b) Hospital staff

c) Police officers

d) Children

3. What consequences await individuals who chew gum in Singapore today?

a) Warning letters

b) Cash rewards

c) Legal consequences

d) Free chewing gum distribution

4. What is one argument made by supporters of the ban in Denmark?

a) It promotes fashion diversity

b) It limits personal freedom

c) It helps identify people

d) It encourages the use of hats

5. How much is the fine for building sandcastles in Majorca?

a) €100

b) €500

c) €1,000

d) €1,500

BIZARRE LAWS AROUND THE WORLD

Read the article again. Answer the questions below. Choose the right option.



6. Who is affected by the rule mentioned in the text about Spanish ban of sandcastles?

- a) Only adults b) Only tourists c) Only children d) All people

7. When was the rule about passing away within city limits implemented in Sarpourenx?

- a) 2006 b) 2007 c) 2008 d) 2009

8. Which of the following is true about duelling in Canada?

- a) It wasn't common in the past b) It is legal c) It is safe and acceptable d) It is prohibited by law

9. Who is exempt from the regulation mentioned in the text about Japanese law?

- a) Children b) Elderly citizens c) Sumo wrestlers d) Doctors

10. According to the text, what else is prohibited in Scotland if you've been drinking?

- a) Having a loaded firearm b) Riding a bicycle c) Eating fast food d) Using a cell phone