

# Passive Voice: Smoking Banned in Pubs and Bars

READING  
TEXT

## The Weekly News Editorial

by Roberto Keskin

Smokers around the world are being given a helping hand in quitting smoking. In cities around the globe, like New York, Los Angeles, Toronto, Paris and Dublin, cigarette smoking is now banned in bars, restaurants and public places. In a nutshell, smokers are being told, “You are NOT wanted!” For tobacco companies, already hit by lower profits, the decline continues. For those who dread the thought of being assaulted by the stench of foul cigarette smoke when they head out for a night on the town, relief has come.

Although the smoking ban has been supported by most people, the controversial measure has met with some opposition. Night club and bar owners, many of whom are already feeling pinched by hard economic times, are angered by the new legislation. They believe that the new ban will profoundly hurt their business. In fact, some establishments suggest that they might lose their business entirely. A large segment of their clientele are smokers. Establishments with the space to create a designated smoking room, or an outside patio, have been able to accommodate smokers. But customers who want to smoke are being turned away from bars and clubs that don’t have the luxury of extra space to separate the smokers. These owners believe that the ban will deter patrons from using their establishments.

Many opponents of the ban believe that the number of weekly patrons to nightclubs, where smoking is part of the ritual, has been reduced. A loss of patrons, revenues and therefore staff, has been reported by business owners. A reduction in sales has also been attributed to the reduced number of smokers in the clubs and restaurants. When pub owner, Maureen Lipa was interviewed by this reporter, she stated, “Hey, people like to smoke when they go out. If their right to smoke is taken away, they will be angry. Take away the smoking and you run the risk of losing your patrons.”

However, the ban is supported by a majority of citizens, many of whom argue that if smokers want to smoke they will always find a way or place in which to do so. Moreover, city councils

Advanced 2 – Reading Exercise 1 – Passive Voice: Smoking Banned in Pubs and Bars

are convinced that forcing private businesses to go smoke-free will attract more families out to bars and restaurants. More substantially, many believe people’s health will be enhanced since they will not be subjected to second-hand smoke. Non-smoker Alice Ayers sums it up: “In the end, it’s probably best that people don’t smoke. I don’t smoke, so why should my lungs be polluted. Besides, smokers are helped in the long run, because it will be an incentive for them to quit. More importantly, I don’t want to be endangered by their habit. Why do I have to put up with their smoke? Let them smoke at home. I don’t want to die because they have chosen to smoke.”

In the end, it appears to be a case of inevitability. Smoking bans were discussed for a long time. Now they have arrived. Non-smokers are joyous and celebrating. Smokers are huddling in their acrid corners. Whether or not this is the right public policy decision or not is no longer up for debate. The smoking ban has been passed and bars are required to abide by the law. Go ahead and take a drink. But if you want to smoke, make sure you’re at home, on the street or beneath the corner lamp post.

The air is being cleaned up, at least in bars, restaurants and night clubs, by vigilant city legislators. Now, will the cars be removed as expediently?

*Underline the PASSIVE forms used in the text. Why is each of them used?*

*Write a sentence with each of the following words and expressions.*

- |    |                               |       |
|----|-------------------------------|-------|
| 1. | <b>IN A NUTSHELL</b>          | _____ |
| 2. | <b>A HELPING HAND</b>         | _____ |
| 3. | <b>TO FEEL PINCHED<br/>BY</b> | _____ |
| 4. | <b>TO BAN</b>                 | _____ |
| 5. | <b>A BAN</b>                  | _____ |
| 6. | <b>CONTROVERSIAL</b>          | _____ |
| 7. | <b>PROFOUNDLY</b>             | _____ |
| 8. | <b>AN<br/>ESTABLISHMENT</b>   | _____ |

- |     |                      |       |
|-----|----------------------|-------|
| 9.  | <b>CLIENTELE</b>     | _____ |
| 10. | <b>TO DETER</b>      | _____ |
| 11. | <b>A PATRON</b>      | _____ |
| 12. | <b>A REDUCTION</b>   | _____ |
| 13. | <b>INEVITABILITY</b> | _____ |

*Answer the following questions.*

1. What is the issue addressed in the editorial?
2. Who opposes the smoking ban? Why?
3. Who is in favour of the ban? Why?
4. What do you think the author's position is?
5. What does the author suggest city councils ban next?