

B2 Spelling

Plans for smoking law to stop UK youth buying cigarettes

Fill in the text with these five missing letters: c h v w z

England's young smokers _ould be denied a__ess to _igarettes under a ne_ poli_y by UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak. T_e proposal _ould raise t_e legal age for buying _igarettes by one year e_ery year, starting from 2026. People must be 18 or o_er to legally buy _igarettes in t_e UK. But if t_e toug_ measure goes a_ead, t_en anyone _urrently in t_eir mid-teens may ne_er be able to buy _igarettes.

T_e restri_tion _ould be implemented in England only, not t_e rest of t_e UK. T_e last time t_e minimum age limit for buying _igarettes _as __anged in t_e UK _as in 2007, __en it _as in_reased from 16 to 18. Sunak's go_ernment said t_at t_e 2007 __ange t_at targeted t_e yout_ sa_ a 30% major redu_tion in 16- and 17-year-olds smoking.

In total, smoking rates _a_e de_lined by 66% sin_e t_e 1970s, but t_ere are around 6.4 million UK _iti_ens __o still buy _igarettes. Mean__ile, _aping _as tripled in popularity sin_e 2000, offi_ials say. No_, instead of adoles_ent __ildren smoking, t_ey are de_eloping a _aping addi_tion. It is also illegal in t_e UK to sell _apes to under-18s.

Mr Sunak said _e _ants to end t_e UK's "biggest _ause of pre_entable deat_ and disease". _e said four in fi_e smokers start before t_ey are 20, and t_at later "t_e _ast majority try to quit". In a spee__ _e ga_e about stopping teenagers from taking up smoking, _e ga_e a slogan-like remark to "stop t_e start" of t_e deadly _abit.

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Answers

England's young smokers could be denied access to cigarettes under a new policy by UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak. The proposal would raise the legal age for buying cigarettes by one year every year, starting from 2026. People must be 18 or over to legally buy cigarettes in the UK. But if the tough measure goes ahead, then anyone currently in their mid-teens may never be able to buy cigarettes.

The restriction would be implemented in England only, not the rest of the UK. The last time the minimum age limit for buying cigarettes was changed in the UK was in 2007, when it was increased from 16 to 18. Sunak's government said that the 2007 change that targeted the youth saw a 30% major reduction in 16- and 17-year-olds smoking.

In total, smoking rates have declined by 66% since the 1970s, but there are around 6.4 million UK citizens who still buy cigarettes. Meanwhile, vaping has tripled in popularity since 2000, officials say. Now, instead of adolescent children smoking, they are developing a vaping addiction. It is also illegal in the UK to sell vapes to under-18s.

Mr Sunak said he wants to end the UK's "biggest cause of preventable death and disease". He said four in five smokers start before they are 20, and that later "the vast majority try to quit". In a speech he gave about stopping teenagers from taking up smoking, he gave a slogan-like remark to "stop the start" of the deadly habit.

Full lesson with interactive and listening exercises at:

<https://www.everybitenglish.com/lesson-20231020-upper-intermediate-b2-smoking-law>