

- 1) Read the first paragraph of the text about New York and decide if the following sentences are true (T) or false (F).
  - a) More than 8 million people live in New York City.
  - b) More than half population of New York was born outside the US.
  - c) People often refer to New York as the Big Banana.
  - d) New York is the capital of US.
  - e) New York is the most dangerous city in the US.



**H**ome to 8.2 million people, 36 percent of whom were born outside the United States, New York, known as the Big Apple, is the biggest city in America. Nearly twenty times bigger than the capital, Washington DC, you might expect New York to be twenty times more dangerous. Actually, it's safer. Recent figures show that New York now has fewer crimes per 100,000 people than 193 other US cities. It's also healthier than it used to be. For example, the smoking rate has gone down from 21.5 percent a few years ago, to 16.9 percent today.

New Yorkers should be delighted, shouldn't they? In fact, many feel that New York is losing its identity. It used to be the city that never sleeps. These days it's the city that never smokes, drinks or does anything naughty (at least, not in public). The Big Apple is quickly turning into the Forbidden Apple.

If you decided to have a picnic in Central Park, you'd need to be careful – if you decided to feed the birds with the last crumbs of your sandwich, you could be arrested. It's banned. Even riding your bike with your feet off the pedals is now against the law. And you'd better have a bell on your handlebars too, or face a fine.

In many countries a mobile phone going off in the cinema is irritating. In New York it's illegal. So is putting your bag on an empty seat in the subway.

If you went to a bar for a drink and a cigarette, that would be OK, wouldn't it? Er ... no. You can't smoke in public in New York City. In fact, you can't smoke outdoors on the street or in parks either.

Some of the laws are not actually new, but have never been enforced before now, so most people are not actually aware that they are breaking the law.

The result is a lot of fines for minor offences. An elderly woman, advised by her doctor to keep her leg elevated to avoid a blood clot, was given a \$50 fine for resting a foot on the subway chair opposite her. Her appeal, backed by her doctor, was turned down. Elle and Serge Schroitman were fined for blocking a driveway with their car. It was their own driveway.

The angry editor of Vanity Fair magazine, Graydon Carter, says, 'Under New York City law it is acceptable to keep a gun in your place of work, but not an empty ashtray.' He should know. The police came to his office and took away his ashtray.

But not all of New York's inhabitants are complaining. Marcia Dugarry, seventy-two, said, 'The city has changed for the better. If more cities had these laws, America would be a better place to live.' Nixon Patotkis, thirty-eight, a bartender, said, 'I like the new laws. If people smoked in here, we'd go home smelling of cigarettes.'

The new laws have helped turn the city into one of the healthiest and most pleasant places to live in America – very different from its old image of a dirty and dangerous city. Its pavements are almost litter-free, its bars clean and its streets among America's safest. Not putting your feet on subway seats might be a small price to pay.

- 2) Read the rest of the article and find out which of the following things are illegal in New York.
  - a) Feeding wild birds
  - b) Riding a bicycle without a bell.
  - c) Letting your mobile ring at the cinema.
  - d) Putting your bag on a spare seat on public transport.
  - e) Putting your feet on the seat on public transport.
  - f) Smoking in bars and restaurants.
  - g) Smoking in parks and on the street.
  - h) Keeping a gun at work.
  - i) Keeping an ashtray on your desk at work.

3) Answer.

- a) Which of the previous things are illegal in your country?
- b) What does the writer think about the new laws in New York?
- c) Do you think the laws in the article are stupid? Why/Why not?

4) Read the Active grammar box about the Second Conditional and choose the correct underlined words.

**Second Conditional**

To talk about an unreal/imaginary/hypothetical situation and its consequences, we use:

*if + Past Simple + would('d)/wouldn't*  
*if I had a car, I'd drive to work.*

We can use *would, could or might* in the result clause.

*I'd live in Jamaica if I could live anywhere.*

The 'if clause' can come first or second in the sentence. If it is first, there is a comma before the result clause.

*If I could live anywhere, I'd live in Jamaica.*

When the subject is *I* and the verb is *to be*, we often say *if I were*.

*If I were you, I wouldn't wear that dress again!*

**Active grammar**

We use the Second Conditional to describe an imaginary/ a real situation in the present or future and its result.

*If more cities had these laws, America would be a better place to live.*

In the *if* clause, use the Present Simple/ Past Simple.

In the result clause, *would* (or 'd) is used because the situation is in the past/imaginary (hypothetical).

*If people smoked in here, we'd go home smelling of cigarettes.*

It is possible to use a modal verb such as *could* or *might* instead of *would*, if you are certain/ not sure of the result.

*If you decided to feed the birds with the last crumbs of your sandwich, you could be arrested.*

**First and Second Conditional:**

In a real/possible situation we use the First Conditional/ Second Conditional.

In an imaginary situation we use the First Conditional/ Second Conditional.

The First Conditional/ Second Conditional uses the Present Simple + *will*.

The First Conditional/ Second Conditional uses the Past Simple + *would*.

5) Make Second Conditional sentences using the verbs in brackets.

- a) If you \_\_\_\_\_ (be) a New York police officer, you \_\_\_\_\_ (arrest) someone for feeding birds.
- b) I \_\_\_\_\_ (not/like) the new laws If I \_\_\_\_\_ (live) in New York.
- c) I \_\_\_\_\_ (not/be) very happy If I \_\_\_\_\_ (have to) pay a fine for putting my bag on a seat.
- d) If New York \_\_\_\_\_ (not/have) these laws, tourists \_\_\_\_\_ (find) it dangerous and dirty.
- e) There \_\_\_\_\_ (be) less crime If the police \_\_\_\_\_ (have) more power in my country.