

This is not a word-for-word transcript

Neil

Hello, and welcome to 6 Minute English. I'm Neil.

Rob

And I'm Rob.

Neil

Now Rob, we've talked before on this programme about our love of coffee.

Rob

Oh yes, indeed. I couldn't function without it.

Neil

But have you ever thought about the environmental consequences of all those **disposable** coffee cups?

Rob

Oh yes, indeed. I always carry a **reusable** cup with me so I don't have to throw one away.

Neil

So if a **disposable** cup is one you throw away, a **reusable** one is one that you can use again and again.

Rob

Yes, there is a big problem with **disposable** cups in that many of them can't be recycled, so there is a lot of waste for something we only use for a short time.

Neil

What are the big coffee shop chains doing about this problem? We'll find out a little bit more shortly, but first, a quiz for you. Which country drinks the most coffee per capita – so not the total amount of coffee but the average per person. Is it:

- a) Japan
- b) Kenya, or
- c) Finland

What do you think, Rob?

Rob

Ooh, tricky. I don't think the Japanese are big coffee drinkers and I know they produce a lot of coffee in Kenya. I'm surprised the USA isn't on the list but I'm going to go with Finland. Just because.

Neil

Well, we'll see if you're right later in the programme. On a recent BBC You and Yours radio programme they discussed the topic of coffee cups. Some of the big chains are now charging customers more for a disposable cup and giving discounts if people bring their own **reusable**. However not all of the shops actually collect old cups and sort them for recycling in the shop itself. Here's Jaz Rabadia from Starbucks, Is the store only interested in facilities inside their shops?

Jaz Rabadia

It is something that we are in the process of **rolling out** and it will be in all of our stores. It's also not just our stores in which these cups end up. So we're doing a lot of work outside of our store environment to ensure that paper cups can be recycled on the go. We're working with our environmental charity partner Hubbub to increase recycling **infrastructure** outside of our stores because that too is where a lot of our cups will end up.

Neil

So are they just working in their stores at improving recycling?

Rob

Well no, after all most people take their coffee out of the stores, so they are working on recycling **infrastructure** outside as well. This will be things like bins and collection points which are clearly marked for coffee cups.

Neil

And what about enabling recycling cups in store?

Rob

Well she said that was something they are **rolling out** to all stores. **Rolling out** here means introducing over a period of time. So it's starting to happen, but is not finished yet.

Neil

Let's listen again

Jaz Rabadia

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Neil

Not everyone, however, believes that the coffee chains are doing everything that they can. This is Mary Creagh, a member of the British parliament. She compares the situation to that of the plastic bag charge. This was a law brought in to force shops to charge customers for plastic bags, which previously had been free.

Mary Creagh MP - UK Parliament

If you think you're having to pay extra for something, as we saw with the plastic bags, we think a similar psychological measure is needed, a **nudge** measure, to encourage people to remember to bring their **reusable** cup with them and of course this is something that the coffee shops have been **fighting tooth and nail**.

Neil

She thinks that we consumers need a **nudge** to help us remember our **reusable** cups.

Rob

Yes, we need a **nudge**, which is a little push, a reason. In this case, she is thinking of a law to make them charge more. But she says the coffee chains really don't want this, they are, she says, **fighting it tooth and nail**. If you **fight something tooth and nail** you are against it completely and try to stop it.

Neil

Let's hear MP Mary Creagh again.

Mary Creagh MP - UK Parliament

If you think you're having to pay extra for something, as we saw with the plastic bags, we think a similar psychological measure is needed, a **nudge** measure, to encourage people to remember to bring their **reusable** cup with them and of course this is something that the coffee shops have been **fighting tooth and nail**.

Neil

Time to review our vocabulary, but first, let's have the answer to the quiz question. Which country drinks the most coffee per capita? Is it:

- a) Japan
- b) Kenya, or
- c) Finland

What did you think, Rob?

Rob

I took a bit of a guess at Finland.

Neil

Well, congratulations, your guess was correct. The Finns on average get through an amazing 12kg of coffee a year, each. Now, onto the vocabulary.

Rob

We had a couple of related but opposite words. Something **disposable** is designed to be

used once or a few times and then thrown away and a **reusable** is designed to be used again and again.

Neil

We then had **rolling out** which in a business sense is the process of gradually introducing something new. This could be a new system, new product, new technology or even a new way of doing things.

Rob

New ideas often need new **infrastructure**. This is usually physical structures that are needed to make something work, for example rail infrastructure includes tracks, stations and signals.

Neil

A **nudge** is a small push, to encourage us to do something. You don't need a **nudge** to carry a **reusable** coffee cup, do you?

Rob

Oh, no, I'm all for it. In fact I'd **fight tooth and nail** to keep hold of my **reusable**, which is quite a coincidence as that was our last expression today. **To fight tooth and nail** means to make a strong effort to try to stop something or achieve something.

Neil

Well, that's all from us. We look forward to your company next time. Until then, you can find us in all the usual places on social media, online and on our app. Just search for 'BBC Learning English'. Goodbye!

Rob

Goodbye!

VOCABULARY

disposable

designed to be thrown away after a short time

reusable

designed to be used many times

rolling out

gradually introducing something new to a business

infrastructure

buildings or structures that are needed for something to work.

a nudge

a gentle push

to fight (something) tooth and nail

to make a strong effort against something