

Title:	Change in the smoking law	Level: medium
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Text:	<p>Yukiko told us about the Japanese government’s controversial decision not to pass a stricter law banning smoking in eating establishments.</p> <p>The decision to ease restrictions came as a surprise as it was expected that smoking would only be allowed in small bars of less than 30m² floor space. However, the new law will permit smoking in places up to 150m².</p> <p>The effect of this will be to restrict considerably the number and type of places that people who want to eat in a smoke-free environment can go. Larger chain restaurants will be the main target.</p> <p>It is a measure that will protect small-medium sized privately owned businesses in the longer term after the Olympics, not just cater for foreign visitors for a short time in 2020. The question, though, is whether the social trend towards less smoking will mean pressure to reduce the exemption size to 30m² anyway in the next 5-10 years.</p>	
Discussion:	Do you favour strict or relaxed laws on smoking?	
Words and usage:	<p>m², m³</p> <p>‘M²’ is spoken ‘metre(s) squared’, which means the total area of a flat two-dimensional shape.</p> <p>‘M³’ is spoken ‘metre(s) cubed’, which means the total area of a three-dimensional shape, such as a cube.</p> <p>Cm² and cm³ follow the same pattern; ‘centimetre(s) squared’ and ‘centimetre(s) cubed’.</p>	
Resources:	<p>https://translate.weblio.jp</p> <p>Oxford Dictionaries. http://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com</p> <p>The British Council website. https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org</p>	
Practice idea:	Categorise things around you with an appropriate size description. For example, a building floor area would be expressed in metres squared. A car engine size would be in cubic centimetres, such as 2000cc.	
Listening link:	<p>Change in the smoking law - audio</p> 	
Quiz Me! Conversation card:	<p>Card number .. below is from pack .., available at englishbooks.jp, Amazon</p> 	