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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 20/05/16

Should cafes in the UK have toilets in them?

Today, let's talk about whether cafes in the UK should have toilets in them. Well, should they?

I discovered that this is actually a wonderful topic to debate. Yes, really! After all, we all need to spend a penny.

I was intrigued to read about a recent court case in Hull, England. The court debated whether a bakery with a cafe in should provide toilets or not. The bakery in question is predominantly a takeaway, but does provide some seats for customers. Therefore it argued it should not need to provide a toilet.

The outcome could flush many cafes and takeaways down the pan, as a legal ruling now says that coffee shops and fast food outlets with fewer than 10 seats must now provide toilets for their customers.

The court case ruling could threaten thousands of small businesses and start a chain reaction! Certainly, it could see the closure of many of the 21,500 takeaways and 5,230 coffee shops in the UK who don't have toilets in them.

What do these customers currently do if they need to powder their nose in one of these cafes? One answer is to find a nearby public convenience (WC). Finding one though in many towns in the UK can be tricky! Why? Because over the past three decades thousands of public toilets have been closed and sold off by the local authority. Many have been turned into houses, hairdressers and pubs.

Of course, there is always the local McDonald's to go in, but many such places now charge you to use their loo, or you need to buy one of their products before they give you the key.

(Continued on page 4)

SPEAKING – WARM UP

Does your local cafe or takeaway have a toilet in it? Should it? Go round the room swapping details with others.

LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

1) The article – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

2) The article - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

3) Article quiz - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A questions

- 1) What does 'powder your nose' mean?
- 2) What does 'WC' mean?
- 3) How many cafes and coffee shops were mentioned?
- 4) What can be 'a bit tricky'?
- 5) What can start a chain reaction?

Student B questions

- 1) What was being pushed up the hill?
- 2) What is 'a bladder'?
- 3) What is 'a local authority'?
- 4) What does 'hygienically clean' mean?
- 5) What is 'a wheelchair'?

Note: WC = Water Closet!

Category: UK / Cafes / Toilets
Level: Intermediate / Upper Intermediate

Should cafes in the UK have toilets in them? – 20th May 2016

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs. On the board write as many words about **'Toilets?'** *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs - Write down all the different words and phrases in the article associated with toilets. Write them below. Talk about them! Do you know any others?

SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

In groups. One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *Discussion FM* radio studio in London. Today's interview is about: *Should cafes in the UK have toilets in them?*

- 1) Someone in a wheelchair.
- 2) A representative from a local authority.
- 3) A member of the public.
- 4) A tourist.

The teacher will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Are there many/any disabled toilets in your local cafe(s)?
- 3) Are there many/any disabled toilets in your town/city?
- 4) What do you do if you are in town and need to spend a penny?
- 5) What do you think of the court case?
- 6) Is it right that cafes that contain less than 10 seats should provide a toilet for their customers?
- 7) Do you think many cafes might now close in the UK because of this court ruling?
- 8) When did you last visit a traditional British cafe?
- 9) Are there toilet inspections in your local toilets?
- 10) Are your local toilets kept clean?

SPEAKING - DISCUSSION

Allow 10-15 minutes – As a class.

Should cafes in the UK have toilets in them?

Google it if necessary!

The teacher can moderate the session.

SPELLING

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) hopefully
- 2) predominately
- 3) takeaways
- 4) bladder
- 5) convenience
- 6) thought
- 7) wheelchair
- 8) traditional
- 9) occasional
- 10) absolutely

SPELLING

Use the following rat

Pass = 12

Good = 15

Very good = 18

Excellent = 20

- 11) loo
- 12) luckily
- 13) nostalgic
- 14) whether
- 15) even
- 16) should
- 17) toilet
- 18) though
- 19) chain
- 20) actual

DISCUSSION

Student B questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) Does your town/city have many public conveniences?
- 3) Has your local authority closed many public conveniences? Why?
- 4) Where do you go to the toilet when you are out shopping?
- 5) Does your local cafe have a toilet in it?
- 6) Should cafes in the UK have toilets in them?
- 7) Do cafes in your country/town/city have toilets in them?
- 8) Does your local cafe provide a unisex or gender specific toilet?
- 9) Can you think of any suitable phrases like 'powder your nose' in your language that you use?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

GAP FILL: READING

Should cafes in the UK have toilets in them?

Today, let's talk about whether cafes in the UK should have toilets in them. Well, should they?

I discovered that this is (1)___ a wonderful (2)___ to debate. Yes, really! After all, we all need to spend a penny.

I was intrigued to read about a recent court case in Hull, England. The court debated whether a bakery with a cafe in should provide toilets or not. The bakery in question is (3)___ a takeaway, but does provide some seats for customers. Therefore it argued it should not need to provide a toilet.

The outcome could (4)___ many cafes and takeaways down the (5)___, as a legal ruling now says that coffee shops and fast food (6)___ with (7)___ than 10 seats must now provide (8)___ for their customers.

predominantly / pan / outlets / topic / toilets / actually / flush / fewer

The court case ruling could threaten thousands of small businesses and start a (1)___! Certainly, it could see the closure of many of the 21,500 (2)___ and 5,230 coffee shops in the UK who don't have toilets in them.

What do these customers currently do if they need to (3)___ in one of these cafes? One answer is to find a (4)___ public convenience ((5)___). Finding one though in many towns in the UK can be tricky! Why? Because over the past three decades thousands of public toilets have been closed and sold off by the local authority. Many have been turned into houses, (6)___ and pubs.

Of course, there is always the (7)___ McDonald's to go in, but many such places now charge you to use their (8)___, or you need to buy one of their products before they give you the key.

hairdressers / nearby / loo / chain reaction / powder their nose / takeaways / WC / local

GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

Should cafes in the UK have toilets in them?

Today, let's talk about whether cafes in the UK should have toilets in them. Well, (1)___ they?

I discovered that this is actually a wonderful topic to debate. Yes, really! After all, we all need to spend a penny.

I was intrigued to read about a recent court case in Hull, England. The court debated (2)___ a bakery with a cafe in should provide toilets or not. The bakery in question is predominantly a takeaway, but does provide some seats for customers. Therefore it argued it should not need to provide a toilet.

The outcome (3)___ flush (4)___ cafes and takeaways down the pan, as a legal ruling now says (5)___ coffee shops and fast food outlets (6)___ fewer (7)___ 10 seats must now provide toilets for (8)___ customers.

with / their / many / than / that / could / whether / should

The court case ruling could threaten thousands of small businesses and start a chain reaction! Certainly, it could see the closure of many of the 21,500 takeaways and 5,230 coffee shops in the UK (1)___ don't have toilets in them.

What do these customers currently do (2)___ they need to powder their nose in one of these cafes? One answer is to find a nearby public convenience (WC). Finding one though (3)___ many towns in the UK (4)___ be tricky! (5)___? Because over the past three decades thousands of public toilets have been closed and sold off (6)___ the local authority. Many have been turned into houses, hairdressers and pubs.

(7)___ course, there is always the local McDonald's to go in, but many such places now charge you to use their loo, or you need to buy one of their products before they give (8)___ the key.

you / why / can / who / by / if / of / in

Should cafes in the UK have toilets in them? – 20th May 2016



GAP FILL: LISTENING

READING – from page 1

Should cafes in the UK have toilets in them?

Today, let's talk about _____ UK should have toilets in them. Well, should they?

I discovered that this is actually a wonderful topic to debate. Yes, really! After all, we all need _____.

I was intrigued to read about a recent court case in Hull, England. The court debated whether a bakery with a cafe in should provide toilets or not. The bakery in question is _____, but does provide some seats for customers. Therefore it argued it should not need to provide a toilet.

The outcome could flush many _____ down the pan, as a legal ruling now says that coffee shops and _____ with fewer than 10 seats must now provide toilets for their customers.

The court case ruling could threaten thousands of small businesses and start _____! Certainly, it could see the closure of many of the 21,500 takeaways and 5,230 coffee shops in the UK who don't have toilets in them.

What do these customers currently do if they need to powder their nose in one of these cafes? One answer is to find a nearby _____ (WC). Finding one though in many towns in the UK can be tricky! Why? Because over the past three decades thousands of public toilets have been closed and sold off by _____. Many have been turned into houses, hairdressers and pubs.

Of course, there is always _____ to go in, but many such places now charge you to use their loo, or you need to buy _____ before they give you the key.

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You could always nip into the local pub. However, if you are under 18 that could be an issue. What about rushing through your local department store to find a lavatory? Hopefully your bladder hasn't yet burst. There is always the local supermarket or other such store to nip into, even the local petrol station.

Apparently, the law in the UK currently does not compel local authorities to provide public toilets. I suppose there is always the local bush, alley or tree, but if you are a woman that could be awkward!

It's interesting to note that in England up till now a premises needed 10 seats before it needed to install a loo. Really?

All of this raises other interesting questions – like the state of the actual toilet you go in. I mean, are there any toilet rolls or any spare ones in it? Is the toilet seat clean or broken? Is the toilet area hygienically clean, and how often are the toilets inspected or cleaned?

Lastly today, a thought - when my late mother was alive I used to take her in her wheelchair into an old traditional tea shop in Norfolk for the occasional lunch. She absolutely loved it, as it was full of old teapots on the shelves and it played nostalgic 1940s music. As for going to the loo, well, there was no toilet in the cafe, but luckily there was a council toilet nearby – with a disabled toilet for people in wheelchairs in it! Mind you, it did involve a push up the hill first.

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