

# japantoday

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Japan Today's Takanori Kobayashi dropped into Shibuya to ask:

## Do you think that smoking should be banned in public places?

Chiyoda Ward, one of the central districts of Tokyo, will enforce non-smoking zones from October 1. The zones occupy about 25% of the ward and will be patrolled by the ward officers all day long. Smokers violating this rule will be fined almost 20,000 yen.



"I know that smokers should stop smoking in public, but as one of them, I cannot stop smoking. I won't stop smoking in public places even though it's illegal. One thing I want to suggest is to increase the number of ashtrays in towns, which may be help to reduce smokers throwing cigarette butts on the streets."

- Takeshi Suzuki, 24



"As long as ashtrays are used, it should be allowed, but I disagree with people smoking while walking because it may hurt other pedestrians and also is bad manners."

- Kazuyuki Kojima, 20



"I smoke and I have a free choice and don't want to be limited by someone. Also, I don't understand why most smoking areas are set at the edge of platforms and I have to feel small when I smoke there. Many people see and treat smokers as bad people. Then, why sell cigarettes to us?"

- Jiro Miyazawa, 63



"While most smokers know how non-smokers hate the smell and smoke of cigarettes, they may not refrain from smoking even in public places. Even if the government bans it, it won't change the situation at all."

- Misako Yokoyama, 22



"If smokers keep good manners, it's O.K. By the way, I often go to Chiyoda Ward for business so I must be careful that I smoke in the right zones this autumn."

- Masahiro Izumo, 31

"If smokers can smoke with good manners, it should be allowed. As a smoker, I try to avoid smoking in crowds of people, but when I'm drunk, I tend to smoke while walking in the street."



- Akihiro Nakamura, 23



"I don't think so because if it's completely banned, how will poor Japanese salary men get rid of their stress. If possible, smokers shouldn't smoke at the windward side but should do at the leeward side of the non-smokers."

- Kazuki Namioka, 23



"I ask non-smokers if they will allow me to smoke. Anyway, it depends on situation. I won't smoke in a small space even if there is an ashtray because it'll make non-smokers feel bad easily. Always, I carry a portable ashtray and never throw cigarette butts away as it may cause a fire."

- Seiichi Ohta, 43

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