

15 There should be a law!

1 SNAPSHOT

IT'S AGAINST THE LAW ...

In the United States	In other countries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is against the law to hunt camels in Arizona. In Kentucky, the law requires people to take a bath once a year. In New York City, horses must be given a 15-minute "coffee break" every 2 hours. In the state of Washington, it is illegal to pretend your parents are rich. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Switzerland, it's an offense to hang clothes out to dry on a Sunday. It is illegal to own a dog – except a Seeing Eye dog – in Iceland. It is against the law not to flush a public toilet in Singapore. In Finland, people must know how to read in order to get married.

Sources: *It Is Illegal to Quack Like a Duck*; *The Book of Lists*; www.dumblaws.com

Which of these laws would you like to have in your city or country? Why?
 Can you think of reasons for these laws?
 Do you know of any other unusual laws?

2 PERSPECTIVES

A Listen to recommendations people are making at a community meeting. Do you agree with these proposals for your city? Check (✓) your opinion.

COMMUNITY MEETING NOTES

	strongly agree	somewhat agree	disagree
1. Cyclists should be required to wear a helmet.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Pet owners shouldn't be allowed to walk dogs without a leash.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. People ought to be required to end parties at midnight.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Something has got to be done to stop littering.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. People mustn't be permitted to park motorcycles on the sidewalks.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Laws must be passed to control the noise from car alarms.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Drivers should only be permitted to honk their horn in case of an emergency.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

B In your opinion, what other things should or shouldn't be allowed? Tell the class.

3 GRAMMAR FOCUS

Giving recommendations and opinions

When you think something is a good idea

Cyclists **should be required** to wear a helmet.
Pet owners **shouldn't be allowed** to walk dogs without a leash.
People **ought to be required** to end parties at midnight.

When you think something is absolutely necessary

Laws **must be passed** to control the noise from car alarms.
People **mustn't be permitted** to park motorcycles on the sidewalks.
A rule **has to be made** to require cycling lanes on city streets.
Something **has got to be done** to stop littering.



A Complete the sentences positively or negatively. Choose a modal that shows how strongly you feel about these issues.

1. People to use cell phones while driving. (allow)
2. Young people to get married before age 15. (permit)
3. Companies to give workers periodic breaks. (require)
4. People to have pets in high-rise apartments. (allow)
5. Scientists to use animals for research. (permit)
6. Laws to ban the sale of handguns. (pass)
7. The sale of fur products (permit)
8. Something to stop clubs from staying open so late. (do)

B Group work Compare your statements. Do you agree with each other? If not, why not?

- A: People shouldn't be allowed to use cell phones while driving. It's dangerous.
B: You may have a point, but laws shouldn't be passed to prevent it. That's too strict.
C: Yes, but in my opinion, . . .

4 DISCUSSION What's your opinion?

A Group work Think of three reasons *for*, and three reasons *against*, each idea below. Then discuss your views. As a group, form an opinion about each idea.

imposing strict dress codes for students
labeling CDs that have offensive lyrics
paying teachers less when their students fail

- A: What do you think about imposing strict dress codes for students?
B: I think it's a terrible idea! Students shouldn't be required . . .

B Class activity Share your group's opinions and reasons. Who has the most persuasive reasons for and against each position?

offering a different opinion

That sounds interesting. But I think . . .
That's not a bad idea. On the other hand, I feel . . .
You may have a point. However, I think . . .

5 LISTENING What should be done?

A Listen to people discuss problems. What solutions do they suggest?



1. people talking loudly on cell phones in restaurants



2. car alarms going off at night



3. telemarketing salespeople calling too often

Solutions

1.
2.
3.

B Group work Do you agree or disagree with the solutions? What do *you* think should be done about each problem?

6 INTERCHANGE 15 You be the judge!

What if you could make the rules? Go to Interchange 15.

7 WORD POWER Social issues

A Pair work Which of these issues are problems in your community? Check (✓) the appropriate boxes.

- company downsizing
- ethnic conflict
- graffiti
- gun violence
- illiteracy
- inadequate health care
- lack of affordable child care
- noise pollution
- stray animals
- street crime



a child-care facility

B Group work Join another pair of students. Which three problems concern your group the most? What should or can be done about them?

8 CONVERSATION *It isn't cheap, is it?*

A Listen and practice.

Sarah: Health insurance, child-care bills, rent! Now that I'm going to school and only working part time, I have a hard time making ends meet.

Todd: Health insurance is really expensive, isn't it?

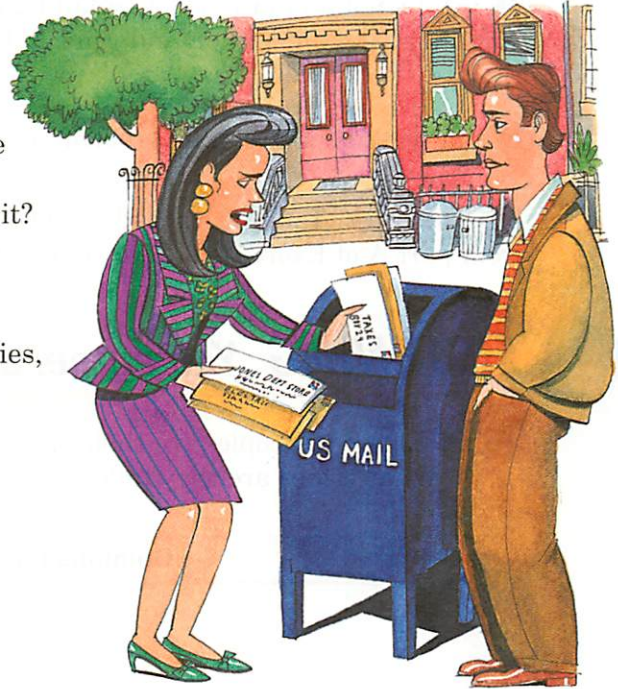
Sarah: Yeah! My company used to pay for it when I was working full time.

Todd: And child care isn't cheap, is it?

Sarah: No, it's not. After I pay for rent and groceries, almost all my money goes to pay for my son's day care.

Todd: Colleges should provide free day care for students with children.

Sarah: I think so, too. But they don't have any services like that at my school.



B Listen to the rest of the conversation. What is Todd concerned about?

9 GRAMMAR FOCUS

Tag questions for opinions

Affirmative statement + negative tag

Health insurance **is** really expensive, **isn't** it?

There **are** lots of criminals in the city, **aren't** there?

Graffiti **makes** everything look ugly, **doesn't** it?

Colleges **should** provide day care, **shouldn't** they?

Negative statement + affirmative tag

Child care **isn't** cheap, **is** it?

There **aren't** enough police, **are** there?

People **don't care** about our city, **do** they?

You **can't** find affordable child care, **can** you?

A Add tag questions to these statements. Then compare with a partner.

1. You can't escape advertising nowadays, . . . ?
2. There aren't enough gun-control laws, . . . ?
3. Noise pollution is a major problem here, . . . ?
4. There are more and more homeless people on the streets, . . . ?
5. The sales tax should be lowered, . . . ?
6. It isn't easy to save money these days, . . . ?
7. Downsizing is hurting the economy, . . . ?
8. The city doesn't do enough for stray animals, . . . ?

B What are some things you feel strongly about in your school or city? Write six statements with tag questions.

C Group work Take turns reading your statements. Other students respond by giving their opinions.

A: The food in the cafeteria is terrible, isn't it?

B: Yes, it is. They should get a new cook.

C: On the other hand, I like the hamburgers because . . .

10 PRONUNCIATION *Intonation in tag questions*

A Listen and practice. Use falling intonation in tag questions when you are giving an opinion and want to know if the other person agrees.

Ethnic conflict is a terrible problem, isn't it? They should make guns illegal, shouldn't they?

B Pair work Take turns reading the statements with tag questions from part A of Exercise 9. Give your own opinions when responding.

11 LISTENING *You agree, don't you?*

A Listen to people give their opinions about current issues in the news. What issues are they talking about?

Issue	Opinions for	Opinions against
1.
2.

B Listen again. What opinions do you hear? Complete the chart.

C Group work What do you think about the issues in part A?

12 WRITING *A letter to a community leader*

A Write a letter to a community leader about a topic in this unit that you feel strongly about. Use these questions to help you.

What is your opinion about the topic or issue?
 What are two or three reasons that support your opinion?
 What do you think should be done?

Dear Councilwoman Lopez,
 I am a student at Morris High School, and I think students ought to be required to wear school uniforms. Students shouldn't be permitted to wear the latest fashions, because this promotes jealousy and competition. Also, students would be able to concentrate on their studies better if . . .



B Pair work Exchange letters. Do you agree with your partner's opinion and suggestions? Why or why not?

How Serious Is Plagiarism?

Scan the first paragraph of the article. What does the word plagiarism mean?

Recently, a biology teacher in Kansas – a state in the American Midwest – made national, and even international, news. After Christine Pelton discovered that 28 of her 118 students had plagiarized parts of a major project, she gave them failing grades. Although this was the school policy, the students’ parents complained. The school board directed Ms. Pelton to change the punishment: They told her that 600 points should be taken from the offenders, rather than the entire 1,800 points. Ms. Pelton resigned in protest.



Why did this become such a significant story? Perhaps it is because so many people feel strongly about what is right and wrong. Although the incident may soon be forgotten, it raised some important questions: What is plagiarism? How serious is it?

The simplest form of plagiarism occurs when someone copies material without giving credit to the source. However, there are also more serious forms, such as when a student pays someone else to write an essay.

Some people claim that copying is necessary to do well in school. They have realized that their own words are not as good as someone else’s. Another common argument is that everyone does it, so it’s not a big deal. In fact, it has been learned that even some highly respected figures, including Martin Luther King, Jr., have plagiarized.

Although some people find reasons to justify plagiarism, others feel the issue is clear-cut: They feel it is morally wrong, and consider it stealing – a theft of ideas rather than money. These people believe that students who plagiarize benefit unfairly. They receive a better grade than they deserve.

So what about the incident in Kansas? Was the original punishment too severe? Do teachers have the right to tell students and parents what is right or wrong? Ms. Pelton would probably say that the job of a teacher is to do exactly that.

A Read the article. Then number these sentences from 1 (first event) to 6 (last event).

- a. The teacher’s story appeared in national news.
- b. The teacher gave the students failing grades.
- c. The students’ parents were angry.
- d. The teacher left her job.
- e. The group of students cheated on an assignment.
- f. The school board told the teacher to change the scores.

B Complete the chart.

Arguments to justify plagiarism	Arguments against plagiarism
1.
2.

C Group work Is it ever OK to copy other people’s work? Why or why not? Do teachers have the right to tell students and parents what is right or wrong?