

Reading Level 2: Soda ban in New York

9th July 2012

Topics: fast food, health, advertising

Learning points:

- verb/adjective + preposition
- --ing after prepositions
- conditional future: would

1 In New York City, more than half the adult population are overweight. Across the USA, over one-third of
2 adults and nearly a fifth of children are overweight. Some people say that this is due to¹ people eating and
3 drinking lots of calories. How can you stop people from eating and drinking too many calories?
4

5 The mayor of New York City has recently proposed a ban² on selling large sugary drinks in restaurants,
6 cinemas and sport stadiums. How many sodas ('soda' is the American English word for 'fizzy drinks'³ like⁴
7 coke or fanta) have you drunk in the last week? In New York City, a third of the inhabitants drink at least⁵ one
8 per day.
9

10 The ban on sugary drinks would be for any drink larger than a medium coffee (500ml) which contains more
11 than 50 calories. Diet sodas and low-calorie drinks would still be allowed, and so would free re-fills⁶. The idea
12 is to make it more inconvenient⁷ for people to drink too much. However, people would still be able to buy
13 large sugary drinks in grocery⁸ shops and supermarkets.

14 Do you think that the restriction⁹ on drinking large sodas would work if it became law?
15

16 The mayor has already banned smoking in restaurants and parks, and some kinds of artificial fat in restaurant
17 food. New York was also the first city to make restaurants publish how many calories were in their meals.

18 In some cities, schools have already banned the sale of sugary drinks. Now these laws are common across
19 America, so perhaps the 'large soda ban' will spread¹⁰, too. If politicians wanted to introduce it in your
20 country, would it be a good idea?
21

22 At the same time, Disney has introduced new standards for advertising food and drink adverts on its TV
23 channels¹¹ and at its theme parks. Perhaps this is because children who watch an hour of TV will be 17%
24 more likely to eat fast food. In the future, children won't have to see so much advertising for fast food, which
25 must be a good thing. But shouldn't adults in New York be allowed to choose¹² how large their drinks are?

¹ due to = wegen

² ban = Verbot

³ fizzy drink / soda = Getränk mit Kohlensäure

⁴ like = (ähnlich) wie

⁵ mindestens

⁶ re-fill = Nachfüllen

⁷ inconvenient = lästig, ungelegen, ungünstig

⁸ grocery = Lebensmittelgeschäft

⁹ restriction = Einschränkung

¹⁰ to spread = ausbreiten

¹¹ channel = Kanal

¹² to choose = auswählen

Level 2 questions

verb/adjective + preposition

Often in English, a verb or an adjective can only be followed by only a few specific prepositions, and sometimes only one.

1. Do you know which preposition/s follow these words:
 - a. due
 - b. stop (person)
 - c. a ban
 - d. inconvenient (person)
 - e. introduce (person) / introduce (place) / introduce (purpose)
 - f. restriction

--ing after prepositions

There are lots of rules about when to use the –ing form.

I recommend that you don't use it unless you know the reason why!

Here is another reason:

when a verb follows a preposition, then the verb always takes the –ing form

2. In the following lines, can you find i) the preposition and ii) the --ing form?
 - a. line 2
 - b. line 3
 - c. line 4
 - d. line 22

conditional future: would

3. Does the soda ban exist¹³? Or is it only an idea? How do you know?
4. Count the number of times that 'would' is used in lines 10-14.
5. What word is often used (and can always be used) in connection with the 'would' conditional future? (tip: lines 14 & 19-20).

¹³ to exist = bestehen

Level 2 answers

1.
 - a. due to
 - b. stop from
 - c. ban on
 - d. inconvenient for
 - e. introduce to / introduce in / introduce for
 - f. restriction on

2.
 - a. this is due to people eating and drinking...
 - b. How can you stop people from eating and drinking too many calories?
 - c. has recently proposed a ban on selling large sugary drinks
 - d. Disney has introduced new standards for advertising food and drink adverts

3. the ban doesn't exist yet – because the conditional 'would' form is used

4. five times

5. the word 'if' (and the past tense) can be used with 'would' for a future idea.