

11b. Illegal Tobacco Teacher Information Fact Sheet

Currently in Wales there is a genuine concern about illegal tobacco products on sale in our communities. Premises are popping up across Wales in which illegal tobacco is being supplied.

It is not on view but is often cleverly concealed in hiding places on the shop site or in other locations such as cars parked close by. These shops often have other products with a very long shelf life on display as a masquerade for the selling of illegal tobacco. Children are also unscrupulously being sold these products.

Illegal Tobacco – So what's the big deal?

1. Smoking is harmful to your body full stop. We're talking cancer, lung disease and heart disease and death.
2. Say goodbye to your money if you get hooked. Say goodbye to holidays, better phones, or new clothes .
3. Your hair and clothes will stink, your teeth and hands will turn yellow. Gum disease isn't cute!
4. You could lose future jobs, or you could struggle to even get a job when you smoke.
5. Illegal tobacco sales are all too frequently linked to modern-day slavery and exploitation.

It is illegal to sell cigarettes in small amounts or individually, however, there are instances where this is happening to target younger people who have less money available. Additionally, children are vulnerable to being exploited by these organised criminals as runners in the sale of these products, and this comes under the umbrella of County Lines activity.

Spotting illegal tobacco can be difficult, but look out for:

1. Cheap prices
2. Lack of health warnings
3. Foreign languages on the packaging
4. Sold in unlicensed shops, private homes, pubs and clubs or advertised on social media

For more information – visit [ASH Wales - Action on Smoking and Health Wales](#)

11b. Legal/Illegal Ice Breaker Carousel

Teacher Answers

Divide the class in to five groups. Give each group a statement and allow two minutes discussion time to decide whether the statement is illegal or legal. Rotate the statements every two minutes and ensure that all groups have discussed each statement in turn. Each group can then feedback from their discussions.

- 1. A pouch of hand rolling tobacco bought from a friend or relative.**

Illegal

It is illegal to buy any tobacco product and then to sell it on to others.

It is illegal to buy a tobacco product under the age of 18.

- 2. A pack of cigarettes bought from your local shop. None of the writing is in English.**

Illegal

Cigarettes sold in the UK must have English text, written and pictorial health warnings, no spelling mistakes and a 'fiscal' mark UK DUTY PAID.

- 3. A packet of UK branded cigarettes sold at the recommended retail price from a supermarket.**

Legal

This conforms to UK legislation.

- 4. A packet of cigarettes bought from a friend at their house.**

Illegal

It is illegal to buy any tobacco product and then to sell it on to others.

It is illegal to buy a tobacco product under the age of 18.

- 5. A single cigarette bought from anyone or anywhere.**

Illegal

In 1991 it was made illegal to sell individual cigarettes in the UK.