

Lessons 1 + 2

Rules and Customs of Singapore



Objectives

- Be aware about the common laws of Singapore
- Practise speaking and listening by reading aloud information in slides
- Revise and learn adjectives used in slides



Trigger Activity

- In groups of two to three, discuss the laws and regulations of your own country



Activity

Next, discuss the laws and regulations in Singapore that focus on:

Smoking

Jay-walking

Littering

Vandalism

Mosquito breeding

Noise Pollution

Drugs



Singapore Law

Every country has its own culture, social mannerisms, etiquette and habits. There are very **strict** laws in Singapore and failure to observe these rules and regulations will result in **stiff** fines.



- **Singapore laws apply equally to Singaporeans as well as foreigners.**
- **While working or staying here, you must obey Singapore laws.**
- **Otherwise, your Work Permit will be cancelled and you will not be allowed to enter Singapore in the future.**
- **Here are the penalties for breaking some of the laws.....**



Singapore Is a Fine City





Drug trafficking



- Singapore is one of the **toughest** anti-drug regimes (Misuse of Drugs Act) in the world. Do not use, offer, sell, give, administer, transport, deliver or distribute any type of drugs. Trafficking, manufacturing, importing or exporting or possession of drugs in such quantities is evidence of trafficking.
- Opium – Not less than 800g and not more than 1,200g
- Heroin – Not less than 10g and not more than 15g
- Cannabis – Not less than 330g and not more than 500g
- Morphine & cocaine – Not less than 20g and not more than 30g
- Cannabis resin – Not less than 130g and not more than 200g

Drugs trafficking

- **Unauthorized** traffic in controlled drugs, other than those specified above, carries a minimum sentence of 2 years' imprisonment and 2 strokes of the cane, and a maximum sentence of 20 years' imprisonment and 15 strokes of the cane.
- For unauthorized consumption, there is a maximum of 10 years' imprisonment or fine of S\$20,000 or both.





Littering



- To maintain the **clean** and **green** city, there are **strict** laws against littering of any kind.
- Any person convicted of littering faces a fine of up to **S\$1,000** for the first offence. Repeat offenders may be fined **S\$2,000**, and given a **Corrective Work Order (CWO)**.
- The **CWO** requires litterbugs to spend a few hours cleaning a public place, for example, picking up litter in a park.
- **Never** dispose of anything at any other place than a litter bin - this includes **cigarette butts!**



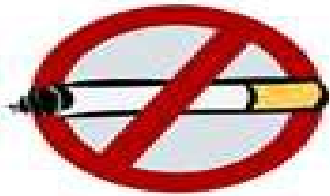
Cigarettes and Smoking



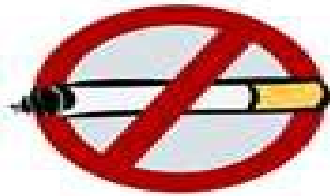
- ***If you are under 18, you are not allowed to carry and purchase **lit** or **unlit** cigarettes in public. Fine S\$ 2,000***
- ***Smoking is not allowed in **public** buses, taxis, lifts, theatres, cinemas, government offices, and in **air-conditioned** restaurants and shopping centres, bus shelters, interchanges, public pools, toilets, community clubs and **open-air** stadiums.***
- ***First-time offenders face a maximum fine of S\$1,000.***
- ***While it is an offence to smoke in air-conditioned eating places, smoking is allowed in air-conditioned pubs, discos, karaoke bars and nightspots.***

Buying or selling of contraband cigarettes

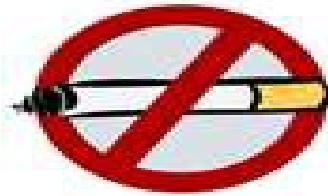
- Fine of up to S\$5000
- For second or subsequent convictions, offenders can be jailed for up to 2 years.



**THANK YOU FOR
OBSERVING OUR
NO SMOKING
POLICY**



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Spitting

- Spitting in public places is an offence subject to a fine of S\$1,000 for first-time offenders and S\$2,000 for repeat offenders.





Flushing of Toilets

- In Singapore, it is an offence not to flush public toilets after use.
- Those convicted face a fine of up to S\$150 for the first offence, S\$500 for the second offence, and S\$1,000 for subsequent offences.
- It is illegal to urinate in public places such as an elevator; fine of up to S\$1000





Gambling



- **Authorized** forms of gambling: Charity draws, Toto and Singapore Sweep lotteries, and on-course betting on horse races at the Singapore Turf Club
- Offenders are liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding S\$5,000, to imprisonment for a term of up to 6 months, or both. In addition, **convicted** foreign workers would risk losing their work permits.

No Gambling



Jaywalking

- It refers to **illegal** or **reckless** crossing of a roadway.
- The Traffic Police reminds all pedestrians that they should use the **designated** pedestrian crossings and should never attempt to cross the expressways.
- Pedestrians who jaywalk commit an offence that entails a composition amount of S\$20. If charged and convicted in court, the pedestrian is liable to a fine not exceeding S\$1000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months.
- In the case of a second or subsequent offence, the offender faces a fine not exceeding S\$2000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months.

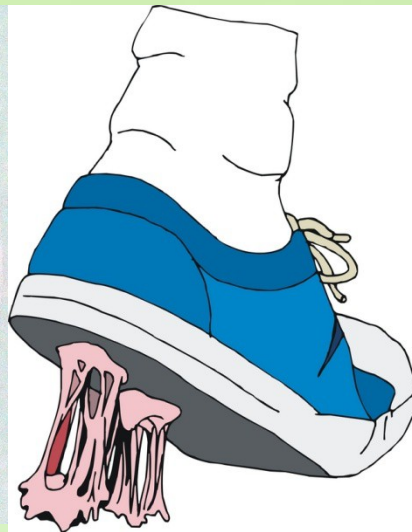
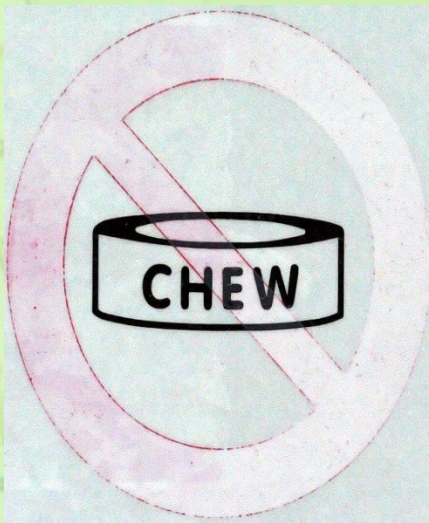
No Jaywalking Sign



Chewing gum



- The import, sale and distribution of chewing gum is illegal.
- Own consumption of gum for therapeutic and medicinal use is allowed.





Racial harmony

- Harmony is **vital** for peace, progress and prosperity in our **multi-racial** and **multi-religious** Nation.
- **Racism**
Crimes that break up racial or ethnic harmony, such as racial insults, may attract **severe** penalties.
- Under the Sedition Act, anyone found guilty of promoting feelings of ill-will and hostility between different races or classes of the population of Singapore shall be liable, on conviction for a first offence, to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 years or to both.

Racial harmony





Eating and drinking in the MRT system



- Under the regulations of the Rapid Transit Systems (RTS), passengers who eat or drink in the MRT system are liable to a fine of up to \$500.
- Passengers on scheduled prescribed medication or mothers required to feed their children are encouraged to do so while outside the MRT system.
- Should the need arises while travelling within the MRT system, they may approach the customer service officers who will accord them the temporary use of the staff room.

Vandalism and Mischief

- **Causing damage to public and private property and breach of the town council by-laws (e.g. playing football at the void deck or cycling on the jogging track)**
- **Offenders are liable to a fine, imprisonment and caning.**



Possession or setting of firecrackers

•Any person who sells, distributes or imports any dangerous fireworks shall be liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term not less than six months and not more than two years and shall also be punished with caning of not more than six strokes.



Alcohol/Public Drunkenness

- **Purchase and consumption of alcohol is not permitted for those below 18 years of age.**
- **Drunk persons in a public place may be fined of up to S\$1000, or can be imprisoned up to one month.**





Unlawful Assembly or Procession

- You are always required to provide information to a police officer if requested. The police may stop and question you anytime and you must be able to explain the reason of your presence in any location. If the police suspect you and a group of five or more gathering with the intention to commit a crime, this could be an offence under the law of unlawful assembly.
- Imprisonment of up to 2 years

Criminal Intimidation

- Imprisonment of up to 2 years or fine, or both
- Imprisonment of up to 7 years or fine, or both if threat is to cause death or **grievous** hurt, or to cause destruction by fire.



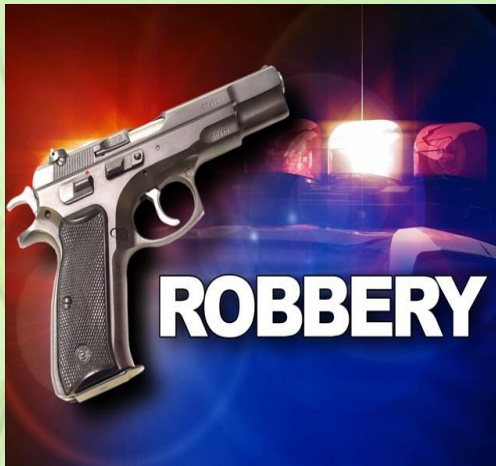
Rioting

- Caning and imprisonment of up to 5 years.
- Caning and imprisonment of up to 7 years if weapons are used.



Robbery

- Imprisonment of between 2 and 10 years and caning of not less than 6 strokes



Causing Hurt

- Imprisonment of up to 1 year or fine of up to S\$1000, or both
- Imprisonment of up to 7 years or fine, or caning if the hurt caused is **grievous**.



Breeding Mosquitoes

- First time offenders accidentally breeding mosquitoes in or around their home receive a warning letter but will be subsequently fined S\$200. If you have a balcony or garden, be aware that if you have flower pots, or any containers that collect water and mosquito larvae subsequently breed, you risk being fined as a result.



Making a false police report

- Imprisonment of up to 6 months or fine of up to S\$1000 or both



Prohibited Goods

- **Obscene** articles, publications, videotapes, discs and software
- **Illegal pirated VCDs or DVDs, videos and other items**
- **Cigarette lighters shaped like pistols or revolvers**
- **Controlled drugs**

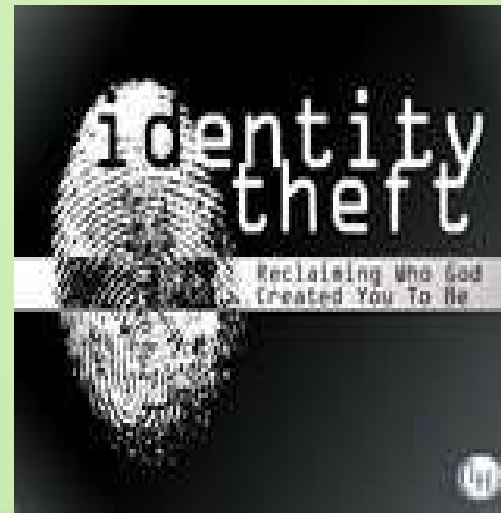


Outraging Modesty

- **Imprisonment of up to 2 years or fine, or both.**
- **Caning and imprisonment of between 3 and 10 years if offence is committed in a lift on a victim below 14 years of age.**

Theft (stealing or shoplifting)

- Imprisonment of between 3 and 7 years or fine or both.



Housebreaking

- **Imprisonment of up to 2 years or fine or both.**



Murder

- **Death**



Reflection

- How are the laws and regulations in Singapore similar or different to those of your own home country?

- Discuss, in groups of two to three

