



Controversy

Lesson code: J2AN-R8NB-83RM-9

PRE-INTERMEDIATE

1 Warm-up

Is it a good idea to give money to beggars?

2 Key words

Match the underlined words to the correct definitions:

1. The government wants to ban smoking in public places.
 2. The book is very controversial — a lot of people disagree with the author's ideas.
 3. He thanked them for their kindness and support.
 4. She didn't believe me. She accused me of lying.
 5. It is illegal to drive without a license.
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- a. against the law
 - b. causing a lot of angry disagreement
 - c. make illegal
 - d. said that someone did something bad or wrong
 - e. the quality of being friendly and generous

3 Reading

You are going to read an article about a proposal to ban begging in Norway. Decide if the following statements are true or false and then read the text to check your answers.

1. Under the proposed law, people who offer money or food to beggars can go to prison for up to 2 years.
2. The government proposed the new law because there are too many beggars on the streets.
3. Norway's parliament started debating the ban on begging five years ago.
4. At the moment, begging is legal everywhere in Norway.
5. The new law is controversial.
6. Norway is Europe's richest country.

THE
INDEPENDENT

Norway proposes to ban beggars and people who try to help them

Norway's justice minister says the law is needed to stop people who run begging networks as an 'organised business'

- 1 Norway has proposed a controversial new law. If the new law becomes a reality, it will be illegal to help beggars on the streets. If this happens, people who offer money or food to beggars can go to prison for between six months to a year, and organised begging will become a crime.
- 2 City authorities in Oslo are angry about the proposal, but Norway's justice minister Anders Anundsen said the law was needed to stop people who run begging networks as an "organised business".
- 3 Norway's parliament started debating the ban on begging last year, because of the high number of beggars on the streets. Individual councils are already able to ban begging, but now the government wants a nationwide ban.
- 4 Inger Husby, from Oslo, often invites homeless people into her house. She is afraid that her 'kindness' will become illegal if the proposal becomes a law.
- 5 "They have stayed here several times," she said. "I give them a packed lunch, and I fill their cups with cocoa. I wash their clothes when they need it and they come for dinner from time to time."
- 6 Karin Andersen, a member of parliament for the Socialist Left Party, tweeted her anger at the proposal and accused the government of criminalising poor people.
- 7 "Europe's richest country criminalises Europe's poorest people," she said.

Adapted from The Independent, by Roisin O'connor, Wednesday 4 Feb 2015

4 Phrases from the text

Match the verbs on the left with the nouns and phrases on the right.

- | | |
|------------|------------------|
| 1. propose | a. a law |
| 2. go | b. a reality |
| 3. become | c. for dinner |
| 4. come | d. money or food |
| 5. offer | e. to prison |

Now make sentences of your own using the phrases above.

Controversy

GENERAL ENGLISH

5 Find the word

Find a word in the text which means ...

1. manage (*verb, SUBTITLE*) _____
2. everywhere in the country (*P3, adjective*) _____
3. people who don't have a home (*P4, phrase*) _____
4. sent a message via Twitter (*P6, verb in the past simple*) _____
5. makes illegal (*verb, P7*) _____

6 Grammar - First conditional

Complete the sentences below from the text.

becomes *becomes* *can go* *happens* *will be* *will become*

1. If the new law becomes a reality, it _____ illegal to help beggars on the streets.
2. If this _____, people who offer money or food to beggars _____ to prison for between six months to a year.
3. She is afraid that her 'kindness' _____ illegal if the proposal _____ a law.

The above structure is called the **first conditional**. We use the first conditional to say what will happen in a certain situation in the future. A first conditional sentence contains two halves:

If + present simple, will/can + verb

The negative uses **don't** and **won't**:

If the new law doesn't become a reality, it won't be illegal to help beggars on the streets.

Do not use **will** with **if**.

If I see him, I will tell him.

NOT: *If I will see him, I will tell him.*

7 Practice 1

Complete these first conditional sentences with the present simple or 'will'. Only use contractions for negatives - e.g. **won't/don't**.

1. If you _____ (not/wake up) early, you will be late.
2. If I pass my exams, I _____ (be) very happy.
3. You can go to bed early if you _____ (finish) your homework on time.
4. If it rains tonight, I _____ (not/go) out.
5. If you _____ (drive) too fast, you will have an accident.

Controversy

GENERAL ENGLISH

6. Your dinner _____ (get) cold if you wait too long.
7. I'll be asleep if you _____ (call) me too late.
8. If you go outside without a sweater, you _____ (get) ill.
9. If you _____ (not/invite) him, he won't come.
10. If you eat too much chocolate, you _____ (become) fat.

8 Practice 2

Look at the possible future situations below. Form a sentence with 'if' for each one like in the example.

If it rains this weekend, I won't go out.

It will rain this weekend.

You will have a holiday next month.

You will get up earlier than usual tomorrow morning.

You will lose something important tomorrow.

You will speak English fluently in 5 years' time.

You won't go out this weekend.

You will move to another country.

You won't be hungry later.

You will eat too much.

You will be late for your next lesson.

You will go to bed later than usual tonight.

9 Talking point

Discuss any of the questions below:

1. What do you think of Norway's proposed law?
2. Is begging a problem in your country?
3. Are there any controversial laws in your country?