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## **Level 5**

### **Woman wins \$23 bn from tobacco company**

**22nd July, 2014**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1407/140722-tobacco-company.html>

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**Please try Level 4 (easier) and the 26-page Level 6 (harder).**

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# THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1407/140722-tobacco-company.html>

A USA court has ordered the tobacco giant R.J. Reynolds to pay a woman \$23.6 billion in damages. Cynthia Robinson filed her lawsuit in 2008 and fought the company for six years. Her husband Michael died of lung cancer in 1996. He started smoking when he was 13 and died two decades later. Mrs Robinson said the company was negligent in not telling her husband that nicotine is addictive and can lead to lung cancer. Tobacco companies knew in the 1950s that smoking could be lethal. Mrs Johnson's lawyer said of her husband: "He couldn't quit. He was smoking the day he died."

An R.J. Reynolds lawyer said the damages award was way too high, "grossly excessive" and legally "impermissible". He added: "This verdict goes far beyond the realm of reasonableness and fairness and is completely inconsistent with the evidence presented." Mrs Robinson's lawyer said jurors looked at R.J. Reynolds' aggressive marketing. It particularly looked at campaigns aimed at young people. He said: "[R.J. Reynolds] lied to Congress, they lied to the public, they lied to smokers and tried to blame the smoker." He added that the jury's decision was "courageous".

Sources: <http://edition.cnn.com/2014/07/19/us/florida-tobacco-verdict/>  
<http://in.reuters.com/article/2014/07/20/usa-tobacco-award-idINL2N0PV00D20140720>  
[http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/fla-jury-slams-rj-reynolds-with-236b-in-damages/2014/07/19/c3b1d54e-0fa3-11e4-b0dd-edc009ac1f9d\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/fla-jury-slams-rj-reynolds-with-236b-in-damages/2014/07/19/c3b1d54e-0fa3-11e4-b0dd-edc009ac1f9d_story.html)

# MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1407/140722-tobacco-company.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                     |                            |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. pay a woman \$23.6 billion       | a. addictive               |
| 2. fought the company               | b. smoking could be lethal |
| 3. died two                         | c. for six years           |
| 4. nicotine is                      | d. the day he died         |
| 5. lead to lung                     | e. in damages              |
| 6. companies knew in the 1950s that | f. quit                    |
| 7. He couldn't                      | g. decades later           |
| 8. He was smoking                   | h. cancer                  |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                 |                           |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. the damages award            | a. at young people        |
| 2. grossly                      | b. reasonableness         |
| 3. beyond the realm of          | c. marketing              |
| 4. completely inconsistent with | d. the smoker             |
| 5. aggressive                   | e. the evidence presented |
| 6. campaigns aimed              | f. was way too high       |
| 7. tried to blame               | g. "courageous"           |
| 8. the jury's decision was      | h. excessive              |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1407/140722-tobacco-company.html>

A USA (1) \_\_\_\_\_ the tobacco giant R.J. Reynolds to pay a woman \$23.6 (2) \_\_\_\_\_. Cynthia Robinson filed her lawsuit in 2008 and fought the company for six years. Her husband Michael died of (3) \_\_\_\_\_. He started smoking when he was 13 and died two decades later. Mrs Robinson said the (4) \_\_\_\_\_ in not telling her husband that (5) \_\_\_\_\_ and can lead to lung cancer. Tobacco companies knew in the 1950s that smoking could be lethal. Mrs Johnson's lawyer said of her husband: "He couldn't quit. He was (6) \_\_\_\_\_."

An R.J. Reynolds lawyer said the damages (7) \_\_\_\_\_ high, "grossly excessive" and legally "impermissible". He added: "This verdict goes (8) \_\_\_\_\_ of reasonableness and fairness and is completely inconsistent with the (9) \_\_\_\_\_." Mrs Robinson's lawyer said jurors looked at R.J. Reynolds' (10) \_\_\_\_\_. It particularly looked at campaigns aimed at young people. He said: "[R.J. Reynolds] lied to Congress, they (11) \_\_\_\_\_, they lied to smokers and tried to blame the smoker." He added (12) \_\_\_\_\_ was "courageous".

# SMOKING SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1407/140722-tobacco-company.html>

Write five GOOD questions about smoking in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

# WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

- a) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) \_\_\_\_\_
- d) \_\_\_\_\_
- e) \_\_\_\_\_
- f) \_\_\_\_\_
- g) \_\_\_\_\_
- h) \_\_\_\_\_

*Woman wins \$23 bn from tobacco company - 22nd July, 2014*  
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# WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

- a) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) \_\_\_\_\_
- d) \_\_\_\_\_
- e) \_\_\_\_\_
- f) \_\_\_\_\_
- g) \_\_\_\_\_
- h) \_\_\_\_\_

