

Such a FINE city

It's expensive to chew chewing-gum in Singapore.

Singapore has changed from being an Asian Pearl into a western city. But the city is clean because of the controversial fining system where you get fined for anything. Even sex is regulated with success.

Singapore is such a FINE city. The words on the T-shirt play on the double meaning of the word FINE.

Everywhere in Singapore there are signs telling you that you'll be fined – 500, 1,000 and even S\$ 10,000 (Singapore dollars) – if you break the country's strict laws.

The import and selling of chewing-gum is prohibited, but as a tourist

you are allowed to bring a few packages for your own mouth. The locals are not allowed to chew it and that is because the local authorities got so fed up with people leaving used chewing-gum everywhere, under seats in buses and trains, on the pavement, in toilets or even worse jammed in the automatic doors of the new trains.

In spite of all the fines, the 3 million inhabitants of the island support the idea and are happy with their extremely clean city. It is certainly viewed with envy by people in Paris, New York, London – and for that matter Copenhagen.

And the list of fines is long:

Smoking where you are not allowed	S\$ 500
Forgetting to flush after visit to a public toilet	S\$ 150
Eating and drinking where not allowed	S\$ 500
Picking flowers in public flower beds.....	S\$ 50
Spitting in the street.....	S\$ 1,000
Urinating in a lift	S\$ 500
Singapore is certainly a regulated city.	

OVER TO YOU

Your school has certain rules.
Which of them should be strictly enforced?

Have you any more you would like to add to the list?

ALL CLASS ACTIVITY

Find out if you can agree on some of the strict rules.