



Text1: Passive Smokers May Develop Eye Disease

Passive smoking doubles the risk of developing a **disease** that can leave **some** partially blind, according to new research. In turn, for a smoker, the risk of developing the disease is three times as great as that of non-smoker.

Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is the most **common** cause of partial blindness in the western world, and the risk of developing it normally rises after the age of 6. It is characterised by the degeneration and loss of photoreceptor cells in the **retina** at the back of the eye, particularly in the central, densely-packed section that detects detail in a scene. The result of the disease is a **blind** spot in the centre of the visual field.

John Sayer, a medical geneticist from Cambridge University, was studying the genetic factors behind AMD when his team found the link with smoking.

Looking at a group of 435 people suffering from AMD and 280 people who lived with them, Pr.Sayer's team found that the more people smoked, the greater their chances of developing the eye disease.

Smoking a packet of 20 cigarettes day for more than 40 years tripled the risk of developing **AMD** with non-smokers. Passive smokers defined as those who had lived with someone who smokes for five years or more, were found to double their risk. The **team** did not find any difference between men and women.

The researchers said that the mechanisms at work behind the increase in risk are related to oxidative damage of the cells at the back of the eye. This build-up leads to damage to the membranes in the eyes, allowing the growth of new blood vessels. Additional damage may also be **caused** by the direct effect of the nicotine in tobacco.

Vocabulary

Word	Definition
Disease	Disorder of body functions, or organs
To suffer (to suffer from a disease)	Someone who is affected by a disease
Blind	Lacking visual perception, unable to see
Age –related macular degeneration (AMD)	A medical condition in which the macula (central retina) suffers thinning, atrophy, and, in some cases bleeding.
Common	Frequent
Loss To lose (Lost-lost) Perdre	The fact of no longer having something
The retina	The light-sensitive membrane forming the inner lining of the posterior wall of the eye
Team	A group of people who work together
Cause	To make something happen, to induce

Reading Comprehension

1. What kind of disease is AMD?
2. When is there an increase in risk?
3. What are the characteristics of this disease?
4. What are its consequences?
5. What are the risks for smokers?
6. How is a passive smoker defined here?
7. What are the risks for passive smokers?
8. What are the possible causes of AMD?



Tense and Aspect

Il convient de faire la différence entre temps chronologique (time) et temps grammatical (tense).

- 1- Le temps chronologique est universel
- 2- Le temps grammatical peut varier selon les langues.

L'Anglais est un **moteur à deux temps : le passé et le présent**. Les subtilités de la langue sont exprimées grâce à l'utilisation de l'aspect, les modaux...

Il n'y a donc que **2 formes simples** (Le présent simple et le prétérit) qui peuvent être utilisées seules ou combinées aux **2 formes aspectuelles (l'aspect inaccompli et l'aspect accompli)**.

	Present	Past
Simple form	I work at the hospital. (Simple present)	I worked at the hospital last week. (simple past)
aspect inaccompli Present continuous (be+V-ing)	At the moment, I am working at the hospital. (present continuous)	I was working at the hospital when I heard the news.
L'aspect accompli Present perfect (Have + participle past)	I have never worked at the hospital	I got the job because I had already worked at the hospital. (past perfect)
aspect accompli + aspect inaccompli Present perfect continuous (Have+ participle past+be+v+ing)	I have been working at the hospital for 5 years.	I had been working at the hospital for 5 years when I became head of the department.

Exercises

1. Complete the following sentences using the verbs in brackets

- When she got to the hospital, she discovered she.....her white coat at home. (leave)
- Since Ito you last, I've had an accident. Nothing serious! (write)
- At the moment, the senior surgeonthe junior surgeon. (train)
- How many cases of meningitis..... they so far? (Identify)
- Hehis hand while hefootball. (break, play).
- By the time the ambulance arrived, he a lot of blood. (already/lose)

2. Fill in the gaps with a suitable word from the definition list above (table of vocabulary)

- There is substantial.....of a link between the build-up of ozone and asthma attacks.
- In France, the woman lives to her mid-80s.
- Chemotherapy is often associated with severe hair.....
-are trying toa reliable test of prostate cancer.

3. Translate the following sentences

- Mon père fume 10 cigarettes par jour.
- En ce moment, il souffre de cécité partielle, les spécialistes pensent qu'il va devenir aveugle.
- Selon les résultats des recherches les plus récentes, de plus en plus de jeunes ont une dépendance à la nicotine.
- Le tabagisme provoque des dégâts considérables aux vaisseaux sanguins.
- Mon ami a arrêté de boire il y a 3 ans.
- Cela fait 5 ans que mon taux de cholestérol est élevé.