

## タバコを吸ってもいいですか？

May I smoke please? (lit. Is it ok to smoke?)

タバコを吸ってもいいですか？

Can you guess?

smoke

lit. also ok

is

?

tabako  
also written: 煙草 (たばこ)  
means tobacco but  
also cigarette, cigarettes  
To say "One cigarette", use  
タバコの本  
(たばこのいっぽん)  
or change の to an appropriate  
particle, such as:  
タバコを一本吸います。  
I'll smoke a cigarette.  
本 (ほん、ぽん、ぽん) is  
a counter for thin long objects,  
such as pencils or pens, sticks,  
cigarettes, or anything  
similarly shaped

the topic marking  
particle  
(direct object)

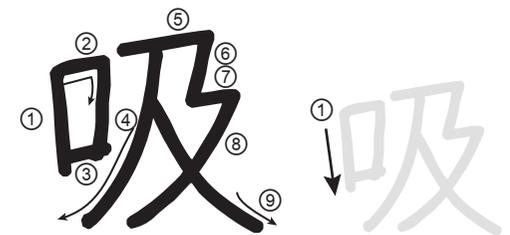
吸って(すって)  
is the "te" form of  
the verb 吸う(すう)  
to smoke, suck

the も particle means  
also, as well  
いい means good, ok  
So, we translate the "te"  
form of a verb + もいい  
as "Is it ok to..." or "Is it ok  
if I..."  
Similarly:  
見(み)てもいいですか？  
Can I watch?

the か particle  
marks a question,  
here "Is it?"

です is the copula,  
an equivalent of the  
verb "to be" in English,  
here ですか means  
"is it?"

### 漢字 (かんじ) closeup



吸う(すう)  
smoke, suck, inhale, sip, kiss  
also written: 喫う

1 JLPT level 4