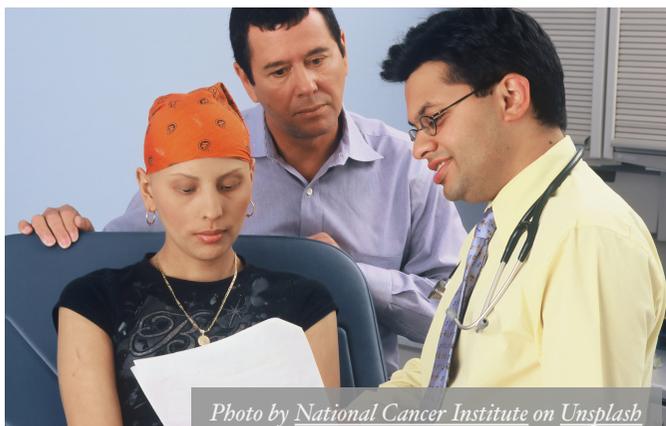


WEEKLY ENGLISH PRACTICE

The Right To Die

29/04/21 / Keyword: euthanasia

Spain has become the fifth country in the world to regulate the practice of euthanasia. Patients in agony will now be able to end their suffering... but not without **red tape**!



About a month ago, Spain became one of the first countries in the world to regulate euthanasia, joining the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg and Canada. The law was **put forward** by the Socialist Party (PSOE), governing in coalition with leftist Unidas Podemos, and will come into force in two months.

In order for people to request that their life be ended, the affected person must “suffer a serious or incurable disease, or a serious, chronic and incapacitating condition” which causes them “intolerable suffering.”

The legislation covers euthanasia—“the direct administration of a substance by the relevant medical professionals”—as well as what is known as medically **assisted** suicide—the “prescription or **supply** to the patient by a medical professional of a substance, in a way that this can be self-administered, to cause their own death.”

Unlike other laws in force elsewhere, Spain's legislation sets out a series of steps that could cause the process to take up to a month from the moment the patient makes the request. This begins with a written request submitted twice **over** the space of two weeks. In it, the patient must express their clear **will** to end their life, and they must have been provided with information about their medical condition and the alternatives that are available to them. Once the

process has begun, the patient may **change their mind** at any time, and once they have received authorisation, they can delay its application as long as they want.

Once the second request has been made, the patient's doctor must **pass** the request **on** to the corresponding regional commission, which will appoint two professionals (with no connection to the case) for its analysis. The commission (consisting of at least seven people, including medical, legal and **nursing** experts) will then have 19 days to approve or reject the decision reached by these two specialists.

The **bill** was passed with 202 votes in favor, 141 against and 2 abstentions. The coalition government has a minority in Congress, and therefore had to seek the support of other parties in order to pass the bill. Among the opponents to the legislation were the conservative Popular Party (PP), the Navarrese People's Union (UPN) and far-right Vox. These groups argue that this legislation will effectively legalise murder, and would prefer a palliative care law instead, but have failed to actually present a **draft** of such a law. Needless to say, Vox swiftly announced its intentions to appeal the new law in the

Useful vocabulary

red tape: official administrative processes that seem unnecessary and delay results

put forward: proposed, promoted

assisted: helped

supply: provision

over: during

to change one's mind: to retract a decision

will: desire

to pass something on: to transfer/send something to somebody else

nursing: the job of being a nurse

bill: a proposed law

draft: a written outline

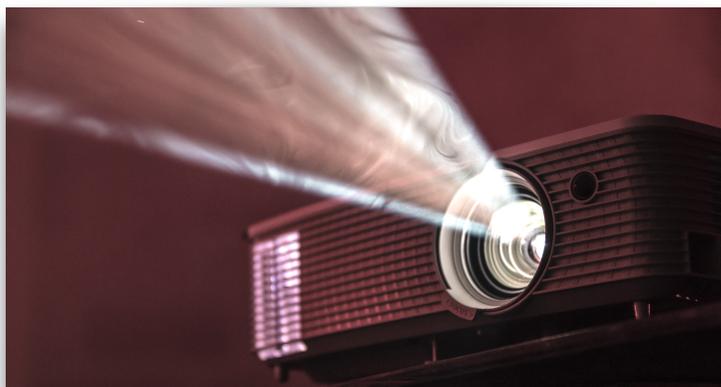
bias: partiality

Let's chat about that!

1. What's the difference between euthanasia and assisted suicide?
2. What arguments exist in favour of / against these practices?
3. How do you feel about the new law?
4. Do you think most of the world's countries will pass similar laws soon? Why (not)?
5. What would a palliative care law consist of?

LIVE! English Events

Come and socialise in English!



Cinema Nights

Friday **30th April, 28th May & 25th June** at 18:15
Send a WhatsApp to John on **657731354**



Coffee Saturdays

8th May & 5th June at 11:00
Connect here: <https://zoom.us/j/97583959914>

Constitutional Court, and to repeal it, **should the party come to power.**

Meanwhile, supporters of the law suspect that **biases** held by the regional commissions could end up making it difficult to receive the requested assistance in some places, and are sure that their work on this issue is not yet done.

*Adapted from english.elpais.com
by ECP coach Alison Keable*



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Do you have an idea for a social event?

Send us your suggestions to info@englishcoachingprojects.net

Did you know? 🤔 Using 'should' as 'if'

Look at the **pink words** in the article above. To say "if the party comes to power", we can also say "**should** the party **come** to power".
This is a more formal conditional structure.

Transform these examples using "should" + the infinitive:

If it rains → If he decides to leave → If you have any problems → If **there is*** a problem → If they **can**** attend the meeting →

**the infinitive is "there be"*

***the infinitive is "be able to"*

Now think of a possible continuation for each sentence, and send us your ideas!