

**1. TRUE / FALSE:** Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| a. Spain is the first country in the world to legalize same sex marriage. | T / F |
| b. Most Spanish people disagree with same sex marriage.                   | T / F |
| c. The Catholic Church said it accepted same sex marriage.                | T / F |
| d. Spain's new law allows homosexual partners to adopt children.          | T / F |
| e. The Spanish Prime Minister opposed the new law.                        | T / F |
| f. The Catholic Church thought it was a smart decision.                   | T / F |
| g. Supporters of the law were ecstatic and delirious.                     | T / F |
| h. Same sex partners can get married from as early as next year.          | T / F |

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** Match the following synonyms from the article:

- |                |                    |
|----------------|--------------------|
| a. legalized   | euphoric           |
| b. in line     | judicial           |
| c. vehement    | without a hitch    |
| d. legislative | consistent         |
| e. inheritance | rapturously        |
| f. smoothly    | zealous            |
| g. ecstatic    | deceitfulness      |
| h. smarting    | sanctioned         |
| i. deliriously | bequest            |
| j. hypocrisy   | licking its wounds |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** Match the following phrases from the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- |                                 |                            |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| a. becoming the fourth country  | vehement protests          |
| b. in line with                 | hugged and kissed          |
| c. voiced fierce and            | smarting from the decision |
| d. inheritance                  | discrimination             |
| e. the right to adopt           | to do so                   |
| f. 147 against and four         | rights                     |
| g. The Catholic Church was left | public opinion             |
| h. They deliriously             | is over                    |
| i. unjust                       | children                   |
| j. Our humiliation              | abstentions                |

**BNE:** Spain legalized same sex marriages on June 30, becoming the fourth country to do so after Belgium, Canada and the Netherlands. Canada passed a similar law on June 28, following Belgium in 2003 and Holland in 2000. The new Spanish law is in line with public opinion: around 70 per cent of Spaniards support legalizing gay marriage. This is despite opposition from the Catholic Church, which voiced fierce and vehement protests against the new law throughout the legislative process. The law gives same sex unions identical status as heterosexual ones, including inheritance rights, pensions and the right to adopt children.

The vote in the 350-seat Spanish Congress passed smoothly, with 187 in favor, 147 against and four abstentions. Spain's Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero sponsored the law. The Catholic Church was left smarting from the decision. Supporters of the bill were ecstatic upon hearing it had been passed. They deliriously hugged and kissed outside the building, while some openly wept. Gay rights activist Fernando Martinez was overcome with joy. He said: "The unjust discrimination has come to an end. Our humiliation is over. The hypocrisy is over. Society, at last, recognizes us for who we are, normal people." The first marriages of gay couples will legally begin from July 15.