rule

1 Verb + rules

Use the correct form of these verbs:

change *come into effect*
enforce *stipulate*

1. There is no point in having rules unless they are ..... .
2. In the UK school rules often ..... that no pupil is allowed out of school during school hours.
3. The new rules for handling meat products .... from Monday next week.
4. The proposal to ..... the rules was narrowly defeated by 403 votes to 401. Things will remain as they were.

2 Noun + of + rules

Complete the sentences with these nouns:

adherence *exceptions*
set *violation*

1. When our daughter started at her new school, she had to learn a whole new ..... of rules.
2. The investigation showed that the pilot of the crashed plane had not broken any rules or regulations. In particular, there had been no ..... of air safety rules.
3. There are always ..... to grammar rules, but maybe that means there's something wrong with the rules!
4. The new manager's strict ..... to the rules made him unpopular. Sometimes you have to bend the rules a little!

3 Obeying and disobeying rules

Underline the 10 verbs that collocate with *rules:*

1. There are stiff fines for breaking the rules.
2. If competitors do not follow the rules, their team will lose points.
3. Safety rules are routinely flouted on the building site. It's dangerous to disregard them.
4. I'm sorry, madam, but we have to go by the rules. I can't change them just for you.
5. Staff must abide by the new rules. Those who refuse to comply with them will be dismissed.
6. Do we have to stick rigidly to the rules? Can't you bend them just a little?

Now divide the above verbs into two groups:

a. obey: .....
b. disobey: .....

4 Common adjective collocations

Use these words to complete the sentences:

ground *hard and fast* *petty*
present *strict* *first*

1. Before we can even begin to settle this dispute, we need to agree the ..... rules first. Without these basic rules in place, we'll get nowhere!
2. Under the ..... rules, you can bring 1,000 cigarettes into the country. A few years ago you were only allowed 200.
3. There are rules which are not official, but which people accept and obey. For example, you can wear what you like to my work. There's no ..... rule that says you can't wear jeans. It's just that most people don't.
4. Orthodox Jews will only eat kosher food which has been prepared according to very ..... rules.
5. The students complain that they are subjected to too many ..... rules. For example, many think that having to walk up steps one at a time is mad!
6. The ..... rule of good management is – learn to delegate!

Notes

1. Note the expression 'as a rule':
   We don't travel business class – as a rule – but it depends on the length of the flight.
2. Workers who 'work to rule' do what they must do, but nothing extra. For example:
   The work-to-rule by postal workers has meant that some deliveries are not taking place as part of their action. It means there is an overtime ban.
3. If you 'bend' or 'stretch' the rules, you do something that is not normally allowed:
   I might be able to bend the rules just this one time and because it's you. I wouldn't do it for anyone else, you know!

LIVEWORKSHEETS