Playing by the Rules

Do you raise your hand when you want to speak in school? If so, you have followed a rule. Rules can be as simple as raising your hand and as complicated as knowing when you are “out” in a game.

Laws are rules, too, but they are made differently. Rules can be made by anyone. You probably make rules when you play with friends. Rules ensure that you can play without fighting about what’s fair. If you change your minds, you can change the rules. Sports, such as hockey and softball, are played by rules, too.

In contrast, laws are made by elected representatives. Voters agree to allow their representatives to make laws that ensure that everyone stays safe and is treated fairly. Laws can’t be changed as often as rules, so representatives consider laws carefully before making new ones.

Being a good citizen involves following rules and obeying laws. The biggest difference between rules and laws is the penalty for breaking them. If you break a rule, your penalty might be as small as losing a turn in a game. If a person breaks an important law, though, the penalty might be a fine or time in prison.

Parents make rules that help children stay healthy and safe. Having a bedtime is a rule. Rules at home might also include doing chores, such as washing dishes or cleaning your room.

Teachers make rules to help students learn and stay safe. Asking permission to use the restroom lets the teacher know where you are. Also, raising your hand before asking a question helps the class focus on the lesson.

Adults follow rules and obey laws, too. Traffic laws ensure that people travel safely. You follow traffic laws, too, when you cross the street at a corner instead of jaywalking.

Rules and laws keep everyone safe. They ensure that people work and live together in peace and fairness.

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Write all these words in the right places to complete this puzzle, which tells some things you learned about rules and laws. You can reread the article before you begin, but don’t look back at it while you are working. After you’ve completed the puzzle, read it to someone.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>fair</th>
<th>follow</th>
<th>laws</th>
<th>penalty</th>
<th>players</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>raise</td>
<td>rules</td>
<td>safe</td>
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Both your parents and your teachers have made __________________________ for you to __________________________, or obey. In school, you may have to __________________________ your hand before you speak. At home, you may have a certain __________________________ you have to go to bed. When you are playing games with your friends, there are rules you have to follow, too. These rules make sure that games are __________________________, and that everyone has a chance to play and win.

Sports also have rules that __________________________ have to follow. The rules in sports help the players stay __________________________. If they break the rules, players may get a __________________________, which is a kind of punishment.

The rules that governments make are called __________________________. Stopping at a red light and speed limits are __________________________ laws that keep people safe while driving. Rules and laws help us live in peace and fairness.
Write keywords or phrases that will help you remember what you learned.