

TOPIC VOCABULARY

OBEYING RULES

- enforce:** (verb) If someone in authority *enforces a rule/law*, they take action to make sure that it is obeyed.
- comply:** (verb) If someone *complies with* a rule, they obey it.
- conform:** (verb) If someone *conforms (with/to something)*, they do what is considered acceptable according to rules or expected standards of behaviour.
- observe:** (verb) If someone *observes a rule/law*, they obey it.
- protocol:** (noun) *Protocol* is a system of rules concerning what happens regarding official procedures and occasions.
- binding:** (adjective) If something that has been agreed between people, such as a contract, is *binding*, they are legally obliged to stick to it and cannot decide not to obey the terms of it.
- adhere to:** (phrasal verb) If someone *adheres to* something that they are supposed to do, they obey it and act in accordance with it.
- etiquette:** (noun) *Etiquette* is a set of unofficial rules concerning what is considered correct and polite formal social behaviour or behaviour among a certain group of people.
- toe the line:** (idiom) If someone *toes the line*, they obey the orders of or express the opinions of those who have authority over them, rather than rebelling.
- abide by:** (phrasal verb) If someone *abides by* something, they obey or accept a rule or they stick to an agreement they have made.
- petty:** (adjective) If someone behaves in a *petty* way, they have some authority and insist that other people obey rules which the other people regard as unimportant and unnecessary. If rules are *petty*, they are considered unimportant, unnecessary and annoying.

NOT OBEYING RULES

- breach:** (noun) If an action is a *breach of* a rule, an agreement, etc, it breaks it.
- infringe:** (verb) If someone *infringes* a rule/law, they break it.
- unruly:** (adjective) If people behave in an *unruly* way, they refuse to be controlled by someone in authority and behave badly.
- defy:** (verb) If someone *defies* someone or something, they refuse to obey them or to do what they are told by someone in authority.
- naughty:** (adjective) If someone does something *naughty*, they do something considered fairly bad or unacceptable by someone in authority. This word is often used of children.
- contravene:** (verb) If someone *contravenes* a rule/law, they do something which breaks or is against it.
- dissent:** (verb/noun) If someone *dissents* or shows *dissent*, they speak or act in disagreement with rules or what they have been told to do.
- rebel:** (verb/noun) If someone *rebels* or *rebels against* someone or something, they refuse to accept or continue to accept the control of authority or something that they are being forced to do by someone in authority. A *rebel* is someone who behaves in this way.
- sin:** (verb/noun) If someone *sins* or does something that is a *sin*, they break a religious or moral rule.
- cheeky:** (adjective) If someone is *cheeky*, they say something

which does not show respect for the person in authority that they are talking to, perhaps because they are trying to be amusing.

insubordinate: (adjective) If someone is *insubordinate*, they do not say something that disobeys or does not show respect for someone who has authority over them in an organization.

CONVENTIONAL

conservative: (adjective) If someone is *conservative*, they have traditional beliefs and cautious attitudes, and do not like great change.

stick-in-the-mud: (noun) If someone calls someone else a *stick-in-the-mud*, they are criticizing that person for being opposed to change.

middle-of-the-road: (adjective) If someone or something is described as being *middle-of-the-road*, they are considered to be conservative and moderate rather than extreme.

reactionary: (adjective) If someone is described as being *reactionary*, they are being criticized for being opposed to change.

UNCONVENTIONAL

idiosyncratic: (adjective) If someone is *idiosyncratic*, they have attitudes and do things which are individual to them and different from what is considered normal.

unorthodox: (adjective) If something someone does is *unorthodox*, it is different from what is usual or acceptable.

offbeat: (adjective) If something is *offbeat*, it is unconventional and strikingly different from what is common or usual.

eccentric: (adjective) If someone is *eccentric*, they behave differently from most people and are therefore considered slightly strange.

TABLE

- 1 Noun: **behaviour**
Opposites: **misbehave** (verb) **misbehaviour** (noun)
- 2 Noun: **conformity** (noun) **conformist** (person)
Opposite: **nonconformist** (person)
- 3 Verb: **cheek**
Noun: **cheek**
Adverb: **cheekily**
- 4 Adjective: **defiant**
Noun: **defiance**
Adverb: **defiantly**
- 5 Adjective: **obedient**
Noun: **obedience**
Adverb: **obediently**
Opposites: **disobey** (verb) **disobedient** (adjective)
disobedience (noun) **disobediently** (adverb)
- 6 Adjective: **rebellious**
Noun: **rebellion** (noun) **rebel** (person)
Adverb: **rebelliously**