

Appendix 1.1.2 Laws or Rules? You Decide!

Each of the following scenarios may represent either a rule or a law. After reading each one, you decide whether or not a law or a rule is being addressed here, and justify your answer in the space given.

1. Samantha has finally learned how to ride her two-wheeled bicycle. She is now anxious to go out for a ride by herself. However, just before she is about to head out the door, her mother says that she has to wear a bicycle helmet. Is this a rule or a law? Why?

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2. Milton enters the front door of the Happy Valley Secondary School for the first time. He is wearing his new Arizona Diamondbacks baseball cap, has his personal stereo headphones pushed into his ears, and is carrying his books and supplies in his new backpack. He is immediately stopped by Mrs. Wombat, the vice-principal, who tells him that he cannot have a baseball cap, stereo, or backpack in the school. Is this a rule or a law? Why?

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3. Naveed has a new part-time job in the recycling plant that is located near his neighbourhood. Just as he is about to go out onto the factory floor to begin his tasks, his supervisor stops him, gives him a bulky set of headphones, and tells him that all employees must wear devices to protect their hearing while they are on the factory floor. Is this a rule or a law? Why?

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4. Alicia is dying for a cigarette. As soon as school ends, she hightails over to the local Udder's Milk Mart to score a pack of "Luckies." The man behind the counter tells her he won't sell Alicia the cigarettes because she obviously isn't 19, and company policy prohibits him from selling cigarettes to anyone under the age of 19. Is this a rule or a law? Why?

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5. Miller's mom's new boyfriend, Huxley, drops by after work. Under his arm, he is carrying a case of Old Drivebelt Ice Beer. As he sits down to have a drink, Miller enters the room. Miller is 16, but looks older. Huxley offers Miller a beer. Just as Miller is about to twist off the twist-top, Miller's mom Bubbles enters the room. "Hey," she yells. "No way is Miller drinking that beer under my roof!" Is this a rule or a law? Why?

6. Simon is 19 and has just earned his driver's licence. He and his friends decide to celebrate by going camping at Algonquin Park. Because Simon doesn't have a car, and because Simon's dad needs the family car to do his morning paper route, Simon decides to rent a vehicle at Nifty's Car Rentals. But the man behind the counter at Nifty's refuses to rent Simon a car, saying that he must be 20 to undertake a car rental with the company. Is this a rule or a law? Why?

7. Justin, 19, is in love. As a matter of fact, he decides he wants to marry his girlfriend Justinia, also 19. But Justinia's mother thinks 19 is too young to marry. "As far as I'm concerned, you must be 21," Justinia's mother yells. Is this a rule or a law? Why?

8. Simone, her mother, and their cat, Winkles, are moving into a new apartment. As Simone is carrying Winkles through the lobby of the apartment, Mr. Wilson, the apartment superintendent, spies Simone's cat-carrying case. "Hey," he yells. "Don't you know you can't have pets in this apartment building?" Is this a rule or a law? Why?

9. Steve, his mother, and their incredibly poisonous Australian viper, Dundee, are moving into a new apartment. As Steve is carrying Dundee through the lobby of the apartment, Mr. Wilson, the apartment superintendent, spies Steve's glass terrarium with "Danger—Do Not Tap on the Glass" stickers posted on the sides. "Hey," he yells, from behind the desk in the lobby, "Don't you know you can't have critters like that around here?" Is this a rule or a law? Why?
