

STUDY – Breaking the rules

TRANSCRIPT

I think one of the things I hated most about school was all the stupid rules. All the things you **could** and **couldn't** do. Firstly at my school, we **had to wear a uniform**. That's very common in the UK. It was pretty horrible as well. We **had to** wear a black **blazer** with black trousers, a white shirt and then the school tie. We **had to** wear the tie. But the **kids** at school always liked **breaking the rules** so I remember some of the **kids** wearing the tie as a belt. I remember one **kid** at school used to tie the tie around his head, but the teachers used to **tell him off** and tell him to put his tie on properly again. We **had to polish our shoes**, but my shoes were always dirty because I used to play football in them every day. To be honest, even though we wore a school uniform I think we were **pretty scruffy**. Well, I was anyway. We didn't look that **smart**.

The girls **were not allowed to wear make-up**, but very often they did. Also, the **pupils were not allowed to wear jewellery**. We **weren't allowed to leave the school premises**...you **had to stay within the boundaries of** the school, but **kids** were always **going off the school premises**, either to see friends in other schools or to go home...**to play truant**.

You **couldn't** call the teacher by their first name. If you did, you'd **get into big trouble**. I remember some of my **schoolmates** doing that for a joke, but if the teacher heard you use their first name, you'd **get into big trouble**. Normally the punishment was you'd **get a detention** and that meant you **had to stay behind after school**. Normally you **had to** do something like **write lines** or you **had to do litter picking**. Everyone hated this. This just means walking around the school **picking up rubbish**. A really boring job.

In class we **had to sit in rows**...so you **could** choose who you sat next to...so you **could** sit next to your friends, but if you **messed about** the teacher would probably move you. I used to sit next to my best friend but he used to talk all the time, so the teacher moved us. I wasn't happy about that at first, but then the teacher made me sit next to the prettiest girl in class, so I was really happy about that! Obviously we **had to** do homework every day and even though class was quite noisy, if you had a question, you **had to put your hand up first**. You **couldn't** just **shout out the question**.

VOCABULARY

blazer – a smart jacket, part of a uniform

kids – children

tell someone off – reprimand, criticise, talk angrily to someone for doing something wrong

polish shoes – make shoes clean and shiny

scruffy – untidy, not neat, opposite of smart

smart – tidy, well-dressed, neat, opposite of scruffy

pupils – schoolchildren, under the age of 16 years old

leave the school premises – go away from the school boundaries

get a detention – stay late at school as punishment for misbehaving

stay behind – not allowed to leave at the same time as everyone else

write lines – write the same sentence many times as punishment

sit in rows – sit in straight lines next to your classmates

mess about/around – act in a silly way for fun, misbehave

put your hand up – raise your hand above your head to ask or answer a question

shout out – shout or speak very loudly to the teacher

GRAMMAR

Obligation and permission (past) – modal verbs

we **had to** wear a uniform at school

we **didn't have to** go to school at the weekend

you **could** choose where you sat in class

you **couldn't** call the teacher by their first name

girls **were not allowed to** wear make-up

use had to for **obligation in the past**

use didn't have to for **a lack of obligation in the past**

use could/couldn't or were allowed to/weren't allowed to for **permission in the past**