

Parent-Teenager Exercise

- ▣ This exercise introduces you to Case Synthesis.
- ▣ Determine the Rule the parent has established in the first parent-teenager encounter (Case 1).
- ▣ Determine a Rule for each subsequent encounter that is consistent with the preceding Rule(s) (Cases 2-4).
- ▣ Apply your Rule to the last encounter (Case 5) to predict the likely outcome.

Case 1

Teenager returns home at 11:15 p.m. on a Friday night after a football game and a post-game trip with friends to a local pizza parlor.

Parent: It's past 11. Where have you been?

Teenager: Oh, after the game, we went out for pizza and I guess I hung out a little bit with Pat and others.

Parent: Well next time, after the game, don't hang out at the pizza parlor. You need your sleep, and you've got plenty of homework to do.

Rule?

Case 2

Teenager is returning the following week from the same activities, a football game followed by pizza with friends, but arriving home this time a few minutes before 11 p.m.

Parent: Did you go out for pizza again?

Teenager: Yeah, we had a great time.

Parent: Well, good for you. It's just about 11. If you hurry, you can get to bed by 11:30.

Rule?

Case 3

Weeks later, Teenager is at home on a Saturday afternoon, after having engaged in extra-curricular activities twice already in that week, and returning home by 11 p.m. each night.

Teenager: Mom, can I go with Pat to the movies tonight?

Parent: No. You went to the school volleyball game on Tuesday night, and you went to the school musical last night, and that's enough for one week.

Teenager: But Mom....!

Parent: I'm sorry, you need to catch up on your homework.

Rule?

Case 4

In a subsequent week, Teenager went to the movies with friends on Thursday night and is now returning home from a school dance on Friday night.

Parent: How was the dance?

Teenager: It was great. I hung around the same friends I saw at the movies last night.

Parent: Well, it's almost 11, you better get to bed; we have to go to your uncle's 50th birthday party tomorrow night.

Teenager: What? I thought you'd want me to spend the rest of the weekend doing homework.

Parent: Well you probably should, but the whole family is going. We can't miss an event like this.

Rule?

Case 5

Teenager went out on Monday night to the movies with friends and returned by 10:30 p.m. On Wednesday, she goes to a friend's house and is home by 10:00 p.m. On Thursday, she asks Parent if she can attend her brother's basketball game on Friday night. Parent will not be attending this time.

Will Parent allow trip?

Why/Why not?
