

## Classroom rules and punishments

### Susan

Students using cell phones in class drives me crazy. Whether they're sending messages or posting stuff on social media, it distracts them from what is going on in the classroom. I started a new policy in which any student caught using a cell phone in class had to hand it over to me. The student would then be told that he or she could get it back again by visiting me during my office hours the following day. After a few students lost their cell phones for nearly a whole day, I almost never saw a student using one in class again.

### Art

I'm really bothered by students coming in late. At first, I just noted which students were late when I took the roll and subtracted points from their grade. However, this used up a lot of my time and I still had students coming in late and interrupting the class. I now have a system that makes sure my students are never late. At the scheduled class start time, I simply lock the classroom doors. Students who come late cannot get into the room and are therefore marked absent (and they know they should never knock on the door unless they really want to see me get angry). Students who are absent more than four times in my class automatically fail the course – no exceptions. It sounds very strict, but it teaches students the importance of being on time.

### Anders

I want students to only speak in English during class. I bought one of those soft, inflatable toy hammers that makes a loud squeaking noise when you hit it against a surface. As soon as I hear someone speak in Korean (I teach in South Korea), I bang the hammer against that student's desk. It doesn't cause any damage and the sound is clearly heard throughout the classroom. That student then has the hammer and can hit another student's desk if he or she speaks in Korean. The hammer then passes to that student and so on. At the end of the class, the student who is left holding the hammer must sing the alphabet song in English in front of the whole class. It helps me keep the students speaking in English, but also maintains a positive, fun classroom environment.

### 1 Do you agree or disagree with the rules and punishments? Talk to a partner.

**2 Talk to a partner and propose classroom policies on the following issues. Decide what kind of punishment should be given to students who break the rules.**

- a** using cell phones in class
- b** being late to class
- c** speaking your mother tongue in class

**Now present your proposals to the class. Would you like to adopt any of these policies for your class?**