

Ten Rules For Being Human

**IF LIFE IS A GAME,
THESE ARE THE RULES**

TEN RULES FOR BEING HUMAN

BY: CHÉRIE CARTER-SCOTT, PH.D.

- 1. YOU WILL RECEIVE A BODY.**
You may love it or hate it, but this one body will be yours for the duration of your lifetime on earth.
- 2. YOU WILL BE PRESENTED WITH LESSONS.**
You are enrolled in a full-time informal school called "life." Each day in this school you will have the opportunity to learn lessons. You may like the lessons or hate them, but you have designed them as part of your curriculum.
- 3. THERE ARE NO MISTAKES, ONLY LESSONS.**
Growth is a process of trial and error: experimentation. The "failed" experiments are as much a part of the process as the experiment that ultimately "works."
- 4. A LESSON IS REPEATED UNTIL LEARNED**
A lesson will be presented to you in various forms until you have learned it. When you have learned it, you can then go on to the next lesson.
- 5. LEARNING DOES NOT END**
There is no part of life that does not contain lessons. If you are alive, there are lessons to be learned.
- 6. "THERE" IS NO BETTER THAN "HERE"**
When your "there" has become a "here", you will simply obtain another "there" that will again, look better than "here."
- 7. OTHERS ARE ONLY MIRRORS OF YOU**
You cannot love or hate something about another person unless it reflects to you something you love or hate about yourself. Each reflection is an opportunity for growth.
- 8. WHAT YOU MAKE OF YOUR LIFE IS UP TO YOU.**
You have all the tools and resources you need, what you make of them is up to you. The choice is yours.
- 9. YOUR ANSWERS LIE INSIDE YOU.**
The answers to life's questions lie inside you. All you need do is look, listen and trust.
- 10. YOU WILL FORGET ALL THIS AT BIRTH!**
Throughout the process of life, you will have opportunities to remember if you choose.

*1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

To Life Is a Game, These Are the Rules is a complete life lesson. Because each rule is a lesson, it's simple to understand and apply.

—Michael Carter, Ph.D., author of *DO NOT FEAR THE SMALL THINGS*

**IF LIFE is
a GAME,
THESE are
the RULES**

Ten Rules for Being Human
as introduced in
Chicken Soup for the Soul

CHÉRIE CARTER-SCOTT, Ph.D.
With a foreword by Jack Canfield

Ten Rules for Being Human are not just guidelines; they are essential principles that can help us navigate the complexities of life. Being human encompasses a rich tapestry of experiences, emotions, and relationships. Each rule serves as a reminder of our shared humanity, and by adhering to them, we can foster greater connection with ourselves and others. Below, we will delve into each of these ten rules, exploring their significance and how they can enhance our lives.

Rule 1: You Are Not Alone

At the heart of being human is the realization that everyone shares similar feelings and experiences. This rule emphasizes the universality of human emotions, thoughts, and struggles.

Understanding Connection

- Empathy: Recognizing that others experience pain, joy, love, and fear can help cultivate empathy. This understanding allows us to connect on a deeper level.**
- Community: Building relationships with others creates a sense of belonging. Whether through family, friends, or community groups, these connections are vital for emotional well-being.**

Practical Application

- Reach Out: When feeling isolated, reach out to a friend or loved one. Sharing your thoughts can alleviate burdens and strengthen relationships.**
- Listen: Engage in active listening when others share their experiences. This not only validates their feelings but also fosters a sense of connection.**

Rule 2: Embrace Vulnerability

Being human means being vulnerable. This rule encourages us to accept our imperfections and be open to expressing our true selves.

The Power of Vulnerability

- Authenticity: Embracing vulnerability allows us to be authentic. It fosters genuine connections and encourages others to do the same.**
- Courage: It takes courage to show our true selves, but doing so can lead to deeper relationships and personal growth.**

Practical Application

- Share Your Story: Open up about your struggles and triumphs with trusted individuals. Sharing your story can inspire others and create a supportive environment.**
- Practice Self-Compassion: Treat yourself with kindness when you feel vulnerable. Understand that everyone faces challenges and that it's okay to be imperfect.**

Rule 3: Growth is a Lifelong Journey

Life is a continuous journey of learning and growth. This rule reminds us that personal development is an ongoing process.

Embracing Change

- Adaptability: Being open to change is crucial. Life will throw unexpected challenges our way, and adaptability is key to overcoming them.**
- Continuous Learning: Seek knowledge and experiences that foster growth. This can include formal education, self-study, or life experiences.**

Practical Application

- Set Goals: Establish clear, achievable goals for personal development. Break them down into manageable steps to track your progress.**
- Reflect Regularly: Take time to reflect on your experiences. Journaling can be an effective way to track your growth and identify areas for improvement.**

Rule 4: Emotions Are Valid

All emotions, whether positive or negative, are valid and deserve acknowledgment. This rule encourages us to embrace our feelings without judgment.

The Importance of Emotional Awareness

- Self-Expression: Acknowledging our emotions allows us to express ourselves authentically. This can lead to healthier relationships and improved mental health.**
- Emotional Intelligence: Developing emotional intelligence helps us understand our feelings and the feelings of others, enhancing our interactions.**

Practical Application

- Identify Your Emotions: Take time to recognize and name your feelings. This practice can help you understand their impact on your behavior.**
- Practice Mindfulness: Engage in mindfulness practices, such as meditation or deep breathing, to help you stay present with your emotions.**

Rule 5: Mistakes Are Part of the Process

No one is perfect, and mistakes are an inevitable part of life. Embracing this reality can lead to resilience and growth.

Learning from Failure

- Growth Mindset: Adopting a growth mindset means viewing mistakes as opportunities for learning rather than failures. This perspective fosters resilience and encourages experimentation.**
- Forgiveness: Developing the ability to forgive ourselves and others is crucial. Holding onto guilt or resentment can hinder our progress.**

Practical Application

- Reflect on Mistakes: When you make a mistake, take time to reflect on what you can learn from it. This reflection can provide valuable insights for the future.**
- Share Your Experiences: Sharing your mistakes with others can foster connection and illustrate that everyone is on a journey of growth.**

Rule 6: Prioritize Self-Care

Taking care of ourselves is essential for our well-being. This rule emphasizes that self-care is not selfish; it is necessary for living a fulfilled life.

The Importance of Self-Care

- Physical Health: Engaging in regular physical activity, eating nutritious foods, and getting enough sleep are fundamental aspects of self-care.**
- Emotional Health: Taking time for activities that bring joy and relaxation is crucial for emotional well-being. This can include hobbies, meditation, or spending time in nature.**

Practical Application

- Create a Self-Care Routine: Establish a regular self-care routine that includes activities you enjoy and that promote relaxation and joy.**
- Set Boundaries: Learn to say no to commitments that drain your energy. Prioritizing your needs is essential for maintaining balance.**

Rule 7: Cultivate Gratitude

Gratitude can transform our perspective on life. This rule encourages us to appreciate the small things and recognize the positive aspects of our lives.

The Benefits of Gratitude

- Improved Mental Health: Practicing gratitude can reduce symptoms of depression and anxiety, leading to a more positive outlook on life.**
- Enhanced Relationships: Expressing gratitude can strengthen relationships by fostering a sense of appreciation and connection.**

Practical Application

- Keep a Gratitude Journal: Write down three things you are grateful for each day. This simple practice can shift your focus toward positivity.**
- Express Gratitude: Take time to express gratitude to those around you. A simple thank-you can go a long way in nurturing relationships.**

Rule 8: Practice Kindness

Kindness is a powerful tool for creating positive change in ourselves and the world. This rule encourages us to act with compassion toward ourselves and others.

The Ripple Effect of Kindness

- Creating Connections: Acts of kindness can forge connections and build a sense of community.**
- Boosting Well-Being: Kindness not only benefits the recipient but also enhances the well-being of the giver, creating a positive feedback loop.**

Practical Application

- Perform Random Acts of Kindness: Make it a goal to perform at least one act of kindness each day, whether big or small.**
- Be Kind to Yourself: Practice self-kindness by treating yourself with the same compassion you would offer to a friend.**

Rule 9: Live in the Present

The present moment is where life unfolds. This rule encourages us to fully engage with our experiences rather than dwelling on the past or worrying about the future.

The Importance of Mindfulness

- Increased Awareness: Living in the present allows us to connect with our thoughts and feelings, leading to greater self-awareness.**
- Reduced Stress: Mindfulness practices can help alleviate stress by bringing our focus back to the present moment.**

Practical Application

- Engage in Mindfulness Practices: Incorporate mindfulness techniques, such as deep breathing or meditation, into your daily routine.**
- Limit Multitasking: Focus on one task at a time to enhance your engagement with the present moment.**

Rule 10: Celebrate Your Uniqueness

Each person is unique, and this rule encourages us to embrace our individuality. Celebrating our differences enriches the human experience.

The Beauty of Diversity

- Cultural Appreciation: Understanding and appreciating diverse cultures and perspectives can broaden our horizons and foster empathy.**
- Self-Expression: Embracing our uniqueness allows us to express ourselves authentically, contributing to a richer tapestry of human experience.**

Practical Application

- Explore Different Cultures: Engage with diverse communities and learn about different cultures through travel, literature, or local events.**
- Express Yourself: Find creative outlets that allow you to express your individuality, whether through art, writing, or other forms of self-expression.**

In conclusion, the ten rules for being human serve as essential guideposts for navigating the complexities of life. By embracing connection, vulnerability, growth, emotions, mistakes, self-care, gratitude, kindness,

presence, and uniqueness, we can cultivate a richer, more fulfilling existence. Each rule reminds us of our shared humanity and the beauty that comes from living authentically and compassionately. As we strive to embody these principles, we not only enhance our own lives but also create a more compassionate world for everyone.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the ten rules for being human?

The ten rules for being human are a set of guidelines that emphasize the importance of self-awareness, connection with others, and personal growth.

Who created the ten rules for being human?

The ten rules for being human were popularized by a variety of authors and motivational speakers, with notable contributions from writers like Cherie Carter-Scott.

How can understanding the ten rules for being human improve my relationships?

Understanding these rules can help you develop empathy, communicate better, and foster deeper connections by recognizing common human experiences.

Is it possible to apply the ten rules for being human in a

professional setting?

Absolutely! The ten rules can enhance teamwork, leadership, and workplace culture by promoting understanding and collaboration among colleagues.

What is the significance of 'You will make mistakes' in the ten rules for being human?

This rule highlights the importance of accepting imperfection and learning from failures, which is essential for personal growth and resilience.

How do the ten rules for being human relate to emotional intelligence?

The rules encourage self-awareness and empathy, both key components of emotional intelligence, which helps in managing emotions and understanding others.

Can the ten rules for being human help with mental health issues?

Yes, they can promote self-acceptance, reduce anxiety by normalizing mistakes, and encourage seeking support from others, all of which are beneficial for mental health.

Are the ten rules for being human universal?

While the expression of these rules may vary across cultures, the underlying principles resonate universally as they address common human experiences and emotions.

How can I share the ten rules for being human with others?

You can share them through discussions, social media,

workshops, or even by creating visual content like infographics to raise awareness and inspire others.

What role does self-compassion play in the ten rules for being human?

Self-compassion is crucial as it encourages individuals to treat themselves with kindness in the face of mistakes and challenges, aligning with the essence of these rules.

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