

THE LEGAL PROFESSION

WORKING IN LAW

Exercise 1

Look at this list of legal occupations. All of these people work in law. We call all of the people who work in these jobs, 'the legal profession'. Match the jobs with one of the descriptions.

	☐ Solicitor	☐ Attorney	☐ Barrister	☐ Lawyer
a	This person is a lawyer who gives legal advice and opinions to solicitors. He or she passed the exams of the Bar Council of England & Wales at the end of his or her studies.			
b	This person is a lawyer who gives legal advice to individuals and companies. He or she passed his or her exams in the USA at the end of his or her studies and is usually a member of the American Bar Association.			
c	This person is a lawyer who gives legal advice to individuals and companies. He or she passed the exams of the Law Society of England & Wales at the end of his or her studies.			
d	This the general job title that we use for people who work as a solicitor, barrister or attorney.			

Exercise 2

Read this text about working in law. The most important words are in the key vocabulary below. Decide if the statements on the next page are true or false.

Key vocabulary

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|---------------------|------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| ● lawyer | ● practise | ● barristers | ● law firm |
| ● attorney | ● judge | ● training contract | ● acting for |
| ● qualified | ● legal practice | ● partnership | ● represent |
| ● litigation | ● advocacy | ● pleading a case | ● specialise |
| ● right of audience | ● appear | ● solicitors | ● clients |

There are two types of **lawyer** who **practise** in England. They are called **barristers** and **solicitors**. In the USA and most other countries, lawyers don't make this division – a lawyer is simply known as an attorney at law, or an **attorney**.

In both England and the USA, it is not possible to take a special exam to be a **judge**. If you decide that you want to be a judge, you must get a lot of experience as a lawyer first, then apply to be a judge and wait to see if you are chosen.

Most law students in England become solicitors. When they finish their university studies they do a one year legal practice course and then a two-year **training contract** with a **law firm**. After that, they are **qualified** solicitors. Many solicitors work for a **legal practice**, which is usually a **partnership** of solicitors

who work together. Solicitors practise in many areas of law, although each solicitor usually chooses to **specialise** in one particular area. They represent their **clients** both in and out of court. We often describe this as **acting for** a client. The process of making a claim in the civil court is called **litigation**.

Barristers are self-employed lawyers and don't work in partnerships in the way that solicitors do. They are specialists in **advocacy**, which is the skill of speaking for someone in court. We call this **pleading a case**. They also give opinions on areas of law to solicitors and the solicitors' clients. It is not just barristers who have the **right of audience** in court – solicitors are also allowed to **represent** their clients in court and many solicitors **appear** in court every day. It is not true to say that a client always needs a barrister in court.