

SOLICITORS AND BARRISTERS

Exercise 1

Diana Williams is a lawyer. Today she is going to visit a school in her town to talk to the students about a career in law. Here are some of Diana's notes for her talk. In this section she is talking about the two separate professions that exist in England, solicitors and barristers.

Fill in the gaps in the text with the correct word from the box below.

- | | | | |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| • partner | • judge | • client | • audience |
| • qualify | • practices | • solicitor | • associate |
| • partnerships | • court | • attorney | • issued |

My notes for careers talk at Chatsworth Hill School.

In England we have two different types of lawyer. One is known as a (a) _____ and the other is a barrister. Both are called 'lawyers'. This can be a little confusing because in the USA every lawyer is usually known as an (b) _____. An English law student has to decide at sometime during their university studies which type of lawyer they would like to become when they finally (c) _____ as a lawyer.

Most English law students decide to become a solicitor. These are the lawyers that a (d) _____, the person who pays for the services of a lawyer, will usually meet first. Often the solicitor can help the client without the need for a barrister.

Most solicitors work in small private businesses, known as (e) _____, in what are called 'High Street firms'. This phrase 'High Street firm' refers to a typical, small group of solicitors working together in the type of offices that you can find on the major streets of any English town or city. Many law firms are set up as (f) _____. A young lawyer will usually work first as an (g) _____ of the firm and gain some experience while being paid a fixed salary before being offered the opportunity to become a (h) _____. A typical High Street solicitor usually specialises in a particular area of law, such as family, employment or commercial law. Many people believe that solicitors cannot act for their clients in (i) _____ but this is untrue. Thousands of solicitors appear in court every day, especially in the County Courts where most claims are (j) _____.

The second type of lawyer found in England is known as a barrister. Barristers are usually specialists in a very particular area of law. They give advice and opinions to solicitors and their clients. Barristers have the right of (k) _____ (the right to be heard by a judge) in all of the courts in the land. Barristers often share offices, known by the traditional name of chambers, although they all work alone as individuals because they are forbidden to work as partners. After several years of experience, members of either profession may apply to preside over cases and sit as a (l) _____. Within the English legal system a law student cannot take an exam to be a judge but has to wait to be appointed after some years of experience as a lawyer.

Collocation bank

- to **qualify** as a lawyer
- to **sit** as a judge
- to **issue** a claim
- to **act for** a client
- to **gain** some experience
- to **take** an exam

Preposition bank

- to be known **as** something
'They are known **as** barristers.'
- to qualify **as** something
'She qualified **as** a lawyer two years ago.'
- to go **into** partnership **with** someone
'He is going to go **into** partnership **with** his brother.'
- to specialise **in** something
'Tom specialises **in** commercial litigation.'
- to work **in** a business
'He works **in** a law firm but she works in a bank.'
- to preside **over** a case
'The insurance case has started and Judge Mortimer is presiding **over** it.'

Exercise 2

Look at the solicitors' advertisements on the opposite page. Give the name and the telephone number of the firm of solicitors that I should call if I have the following legal problems:

- a I have reached the age of 50 and I am thinking about what I want to happen to my property after my death.
- b I want to begin a business importing electrical goods from one European Union country into another and I want to know what the rules are.
- c I am a woman who is angry that a man doing the same job in the factory where I work is paid more than I am.
- d I am a visitor to England from the US. I came to work in London 18 months ago, with the permission of the British authorities. However, I only had permission to be here for a year and now I am afraid because I have broken the law.

Firm of solicitors	Telephone number
a	
b	
c	
d	

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*subject to assessment

Exercise 3

Find a word in the advertisements that matches the following definitions.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>a Not taking enough care over something that you are responsible for with the result that mistakes are made or someone is hurt.
The word is _____</p> | <p>d An organization that exists in order to collect money, food or goods and give them to people who need them.
The word is _____</p> |
| <p>b The process of legally transferring the ownership of land or buildings from one person to another.
The word is _____</p> | <p>e The state of a business not having enough money to pay what it owes.
The word is _____</p> |
| <p>c A situation where someone has to leave their job because they are no longer needed by their employer.
The word is _____</p> | <p>f A person or company which pays rent to another person to allow them to live in or use land or buildings.
The word is _____</p> |

Exercise 4

Say whether the following statements about the advertisements are true or false.

- | | |
|---|--|
| a If I invent a new type of water heater that I don't want anyone else to be able to copy, I should call 07771 777 5454. | ☐ True ☐ False |
| b If I want to study law, I should call McCarthy Kyle and Co. | ☐ True ☐ False |
| c Matthew Morrison will always accept any client on a no win-no fee basis. | ☐ True ☐ False |
| d The 1st Call Accident Centre specialises in the law of tort. | ☐ True ☐ False |
| e Matthew Morrison deals with complaints about other solicitors. | ☐ True ☐ False |

Collocation bank

- to **make** a will ● a **breach** of contract ● to **be made** redundant

Preposition bank

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● to import goods from another country
'She imported her car from Belgium.' ● to import goods into a country
'She imported her car into England.' | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● to take care over/with something
'Please take care over/with that document because it is very important.' ● to deal with something or someone
'Could you please deal with Mr Jones for me as I am busy this morning?' |
|--|--|