

American or British Legal Vocabulary

A. Match the **American English** legal word to its corresponding **British English** legal word. **Drag and drop** the correct letter (A-P) next to the **British English** word on the left.

 British	American
accounts	A. articles of incorporation
appellant	B. bankruptcy
articles of association	C. business
bills of exchange	D. bylaws
bonus	E. cash dividend
capitalisation issue	F. common shares
claimant	G. dissolution
compulsory winding-up	H. dividend
delegated legislation	I. drafts
entire agreement	J. financial statements
memorandum of association	K. merger
ordinary shares	L. petitioner
share capital	M. plaintiff
share subdivision	N. regulatory law
undertaking	O. shares
voluntary liquidation	P. stock split

George Bernard Shaw once said, the United States and the United Kingdom are ‘two nations divided by a common language’. It may be easy to feel complacent about the sometimes seemingly innocuous differences between the vernacular of each country, after all, it’s still English! However, when considering legal systems, we all need to choose our words very carefully.

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B. Decide if the words and phrases in the middle column are British or American. Keeping the words and phrases in alphabetical order, **drag and drop** them into the correct column in the table. When completed correctly, you will have 13 American words and 14 British words. Good luck!

American	Word List	British
	annual general meeting annual shareholders meeting antitrust law attorney barrister case law common law common shares company competition law corporation crown court district court endorsement floating charge floating lien indorsement labor union lawyer ordinary shares preference shares preferred shares solicitor takeover bid tender offer trade union tribunal court	



C. Now use some of the British vocabulary words from exercises A and B to complete the sentences below.

1. A person trained in the law who is authorized to appear and present cases at any court in the United Kingdom is known as a _____.
2. Candidates for the doctorate program will require _____ from at least three of their undergraduate level professors.
3. The Constitution makes no reference to _____.
4. An *assize* of criminal jurisdiction holding sessions in towns throughout England and Wales at which circuit judges hear and determine cases is known as the _____.
5. According to Moody's, ERAP cannot be the subject of restructuring measures imposed by the _____ procedures court.
6. The representative of the Ministry of Justice admitted that the Polish court procedures were lengthy (lasting not months but years) and the _____ in Strasburg had already complained about it.
7. We are very pleased to propose Laurence as a candidate Director for election to our Board of Directors at our upcoming _____ of shareholders.
8. _____ seeks to maintain market fairness by regulating anti-competitive conduct on the part of companies.
9. International investment is classed as FDI when an investor owns 10 percent or more of _____ or voting rights in an incorporated or unincorporated enterprise abroad.
10. This amendment expresses support for the right of Ryanair workers to join a _____ and have that organization represent them in negotiations with their employers.
11. An attorney who advises clients on legal matters, represents clients in certain lower courts, and prepares cases for barristers to present in the higher courts is known as a _____.
12. It could be hard assets, inventory or _____ debentures, but they take those things in exchange for providing cash.
13. The most important portion of this paper consists of _____, that is, promises to pay made by industrial capitalists or merchants.
14. Any ordinary share capital that does not fully satisfy the criteria shall be treated as _____ capital and classified accordingly notwithstanding their description or designation.

15. This case addressed whether it is possible to place companies incorporated in other parts of the EU into creditors' _____ in the United Kingdom.

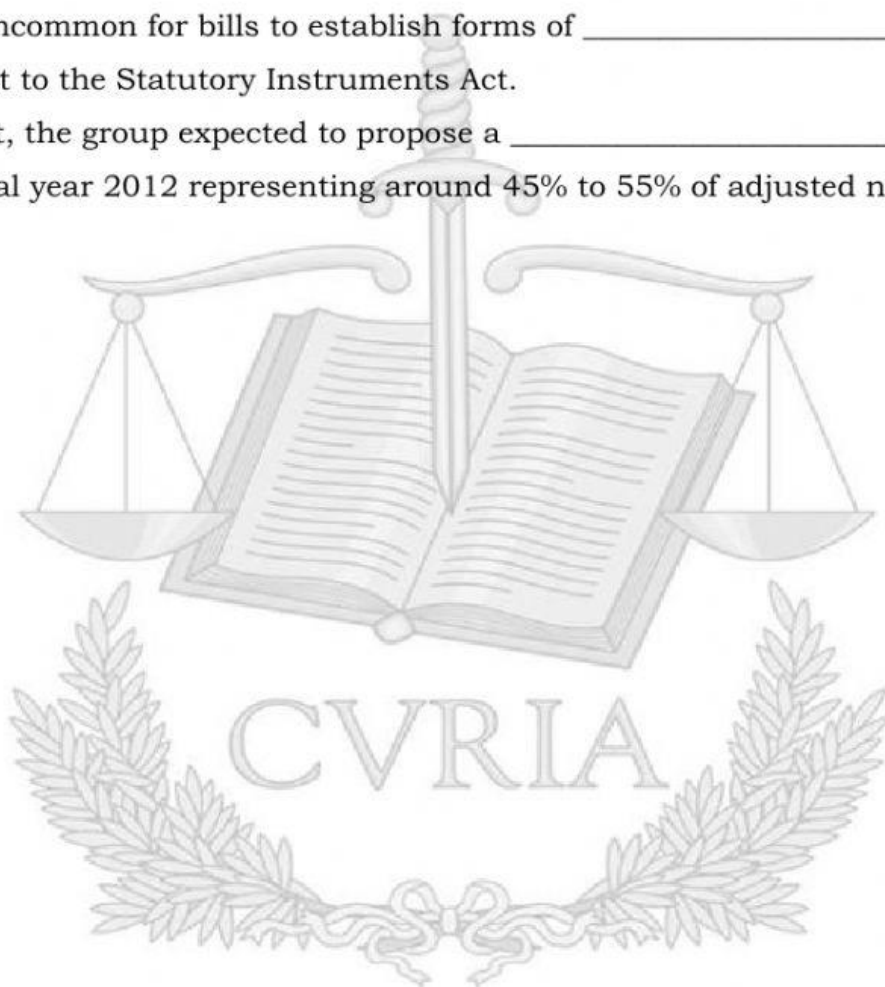
16. The _____ through which K. & E. was incorporated reflects a recognition of two limitations on provincial incorporating powers.

17. In light of this knowledge, trial counsel for the _____ failed to exercise due diligence.

18. Corporations without _____ are generally regarded as non-profit corporations.

19. It is not uncommon for bills to establish forms of _____ that are not subject to the Statutory Instruments Act.

20. As a result, the group expected to propose a _____ with respect to fiscal year 2012 representing around 45% to 55% of adjusted net income.



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