

# 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.

Glenn P. Gipson

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



**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.



Glenn P. Gipson

