

# The Judicial System

## A Day in Court

**court** = where people go to decide if someone broke the law

**guilty** = yes, the person broke the law    **not guilty** = no, the person did not break the law

Watch, listen, and read what happens **HERE**. More information is **HERE**.

What did you see and hear happen in the school parking lot? Give at least 3 details.

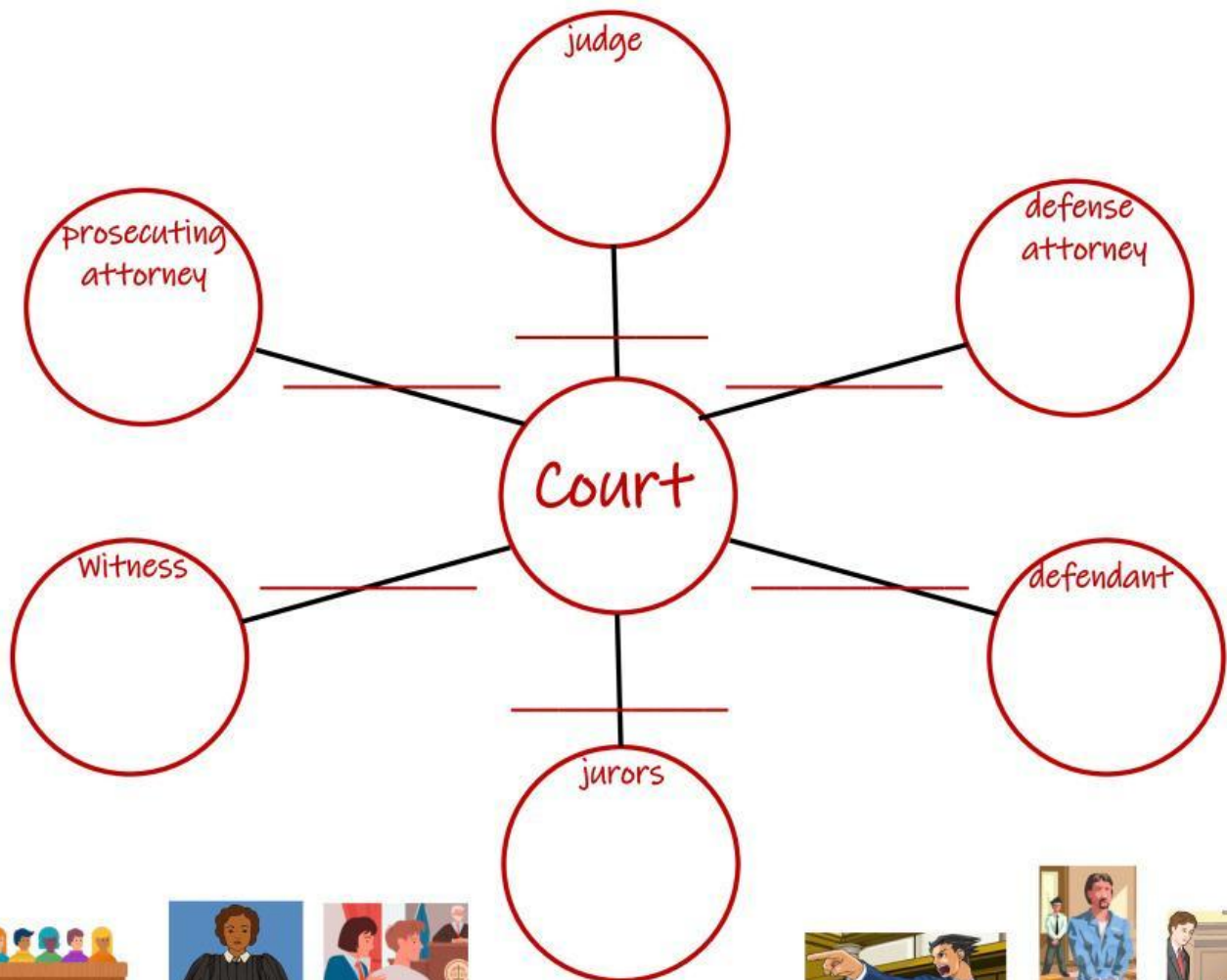
Why does Jeremy believe Tim hit his car **intentionally**? (**intentionally** = wanted to do it)

Does Tim say that he hit Jeremy's car? \_\_\_\_\_

**Why is what the court decides important?**

If Tim accidentally hit Jeremy's car, he will get a **ticket**. That means he will have to **pay a little money**. If Tim intentionally hit Jeremy's car, he will have to pay thousands of dollars and maybe go to jail.

**Who is in the court?** **Tell** what each person does. Drag an **illustration** to each word.



**innocent** = has done nothing wrong

In American courts, a person is "**innocent until proven guilty.**" The defendant (the person the police think broke the law) does NOT need to prove he is innocent. He **is** innocent. **He stays innocent until the prosecuting attorney can prove he broke the law.**



Your boss says you stole money from the cash register. How could you prove you are innocent? \_\_\_\_\_

How could your boss prove you are guilty? \_\_\_\_\_

Which would be easier: to prove you are innocent or to let your boss try to prove you are guilty? \_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_

Usually it is much more difficult to prove you did NOT do something.

What are the responsibilities of a **juror**? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ All American citizens must serve as a juror when called. Would you enjoy being a juror? \_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_



What **evidence** would the prosecuting attorney need to **PROVE** that Tim broke the law? (not what she has- what she would need) Give at least 2 examples: \_\_\_\_\_

What **evidence** did the police officer in Tim's case find?

POLICE REPORT	
Case No.	Date
Reporting Officer	Reported By
Address	
Detail of Incident	
Arrests Taken	
Remarks	

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What other evidence does the prosecuting attorney have?

**Tim might be guilty, but if the prosecuting attorney does not have the evidence to prove that, the jury must find him NOT guilty.**

If you were a juror in this court, would you find Tim guilty or not guilty? \_\_\_\_\_ Give 2 reasons for your response. 1) \_\_\_\_\_ 2) \_\_\_\_\_

In your personal opinion, do you think Tim intentionally hit Jeremy's car? \_\_\_\_\_ Explain. \_\_\_\_\_

Do you think the court will find him guilty? \_\_\_\_\_ Explain. \_\_\_\_\_

