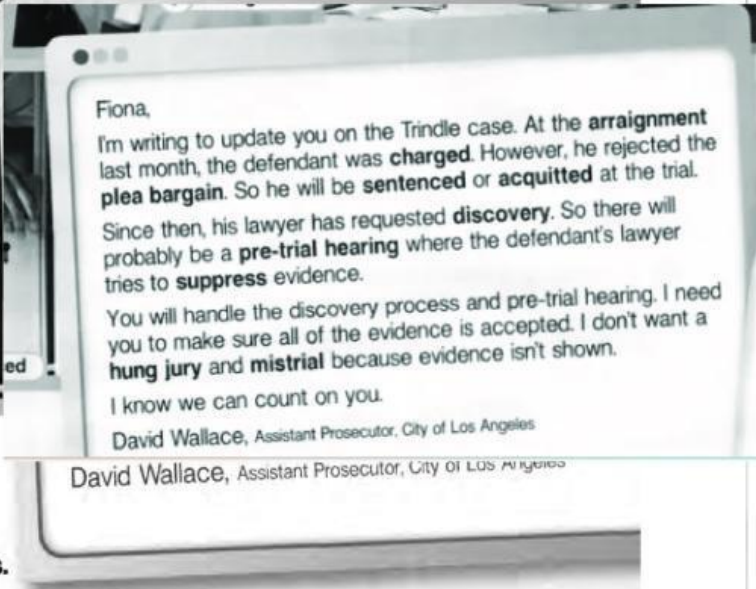


9 Court process

Get ready!

1 Before you read the passage, talk about these questions.

- 1 What are some things that happen before a case goes to court?
- 2 Why might a jury not be able to agree on a verdict?



Reading

2 Listen and read this email between an attorney and his colleague. Circle the correct answers.

- 1 What is the email about?
 - A a recent case which has been tried
 - B the proceedings leading up to a trial
 - C a new client who has been sentenced.
 - D a court case that ended in a mistrial
- 2 Which of the following has NOT yet happened?
 - A an arraignment
 - B a request for discovery
 - C a pre-trial hearing
 - D a plea bargain
- 3 What can you infer about the defendant?
 - A He will be charged with a crime.
 - B He was acquitted in a previous trial.
 - C He successfully suppressed evidence before.
 - D He was offered a lesser sentence to avoid a trial.

Fiona,

I'm writing to update you on the Trindle case. At the arraignment last month, the defendant was charged. However, he rejected the plea bargain. So he will be sentenced or acquitted at the trial. Since then, his lawyer has requested discovery. So there will probably be a pre-trial hearing where the defendant's lawyer tries to suppress evidence.

You will handle the discovery process and pre-trial hearing. I need you to make sure all of the evidence is accepted. I don't want a hung jury and mistrial because evidence isn't shown. I know we can count on you.

David Wallace, Assistant Prosecutor, City of Los Angeles

David Wallace, Assistant Prosecutor, City of Los Angeles

Vocabulary

3 Write a word that is similar in meaning to the underlined part.

- 1 The woman was proven not guilty of shoplifting charge.
a _ _ _ _ _ d
- 2 The defense lawyer wants to prevent being shown some of the evidence.
_ u _ _ _ _ _
- 3 The prosecutor offered Mr. Tilney a c say he was guilty in return for a lesser
_ _ _ a _ _ r _ _ _ _
- 4 The defendant's lawyer has requested information from the other side concerning
_ _ s _ _ _ _ _

4 Read the sentence pairs. Choose where the words best fit in the blanks.

1 sentenced / charged

The woman was found guilty and was _____ to two years in prison.

The man was arrested and _____ with theft.

2 trial / arraignment

At the _____, the man was formally charged with the crime.

At the end of the _____, the man was found guilty.

3 mistrial / pre-trial hearing

The case resulted in a _____ because some of the evidence was false.

The lawyers hope they can solve the problem at a _____.

Listening

5 Listen to an attorney speaking to a colleague on the phone. Mark the following statements as true (T) or false (F).

- 1 ___ The man is pleased with the results from the pre-trial hearing.
- 2 ___ The judge will not allow all of the evidence to be shown at the trial.
- 3 ___ The woman hopes to prosecute the case against the defendant.

6 Listen again and complete the conversation.

A 1: Hello, Fiona Barksdale speaking.

A 2: Fiona, it's David. I'm calling about the 1 _____ yesterday. How did it go?

A 1: It went really well. The judge didn't 2 _____ any evidence.

A 2: That's good. I was worried when the defense attorney requested 3 _____. When is the 4 _____ scheduled for?

A 1: November. We still have some time to prepare.

A 2: Good. I really don't want this to end in a 5 _____.

A 1: Me neither. In fact, I'd like to 6 _____ it myself.

A 2: Good. I think you can win it.

Speaking

7 With a partner, act out the roles below based on Task 6. Then, switch roles.

USE LANGUAGE SUCH AS:

I'm calling about ...

The judge didn't ...

When is the trial scheduled for?

Student A: You are an attorney talking to a colleague. Talk to Student B about:

- the pre-trial hearing
- trial date
- who will try the case

Student B: You are an attorney talking to a colleague. Answer Student A's questions.

Writing

8 Use the conversation from Task 7 to fill out notes about the pre-trial hearing.

Trindle Case – Pre-trial Hearing

Date of Hearing: _____

Judge's decision on evidence: _____

Trial scheduled for: _____

Who will handle case: _____

