

**1. Match these bodies of law (1-3) with their definitions (a-c).**

<p><b>1 civil law</b>  <b>2 common law</b>  <b>3 criminal law</b></p>	<p>a) area of the law which deals with crimes and their punishments, including fines and/or imprisonment (also <b>penal law</b>);  b) 1) legal system developed from Roman codified law, established by a state for its regulation; 2) area of the law concerned with non-criminal matters, rights and remedies;  c) legal system which is the foundation of the legal systems of most of the English-speaking countries of the world, based on customs, usage and court decisions (also <b>case law, judge-made law</b>).</p>
---	--

**2. Complete the text below contrasting civil law, common law and criminal law using the words in the box.**

based on    bound by    codified    custom    disputes    non-criminal    precedents  
provisions    rulings    legislation

The term 'civil law' contrasts with both 'common law' and 'criminal law'. In the first sense of the term, civil law refers to a body of law 1) \_\_\_\_\_ written legal codes derived from fundamental normative principles. Legal 2) \_\_\_\_\_ are settled by reference to this code, which has been arrived at through 3) \_\_\_\_\_. Judges are 4) \_\_\_\_\_ the written law and its 5) \_\_\_\_\_.

In contrast, common law was originally developed through 6) \_\_\_\_\_, at a time before laws were written down. Common law is based on 7) \_\_\_\_\_ created by judicial decisions, which means that past 8) \_\_\_\_\_ are taken into consideration when cases are decided. It should be noted that today common law is also 9) \_\_\_\_\_, i.e. in written form.

In the second sense of the term, civil law is distinguished from criminal law, and refers to the body of law dealing with 10) \_\_\_\_\_ matters, such as breach of contract.

**3. Complete the sentences below using the words in the box.**

bill    directive    ordinance    regulations    statutes

A bill – (законопроект в парламенте) – draft document before it is made into law;  
A directive – (предписание, директива) – legal device used by the European Union to establish policies at the European level to be incorporated into the laws of the Member States;  
An ordinance – (постановление муниципального органа) – law enacted by a town, city or county government;  
A statute – (государственный нормативный акт, закон) – formal written law enacted by a legislative body;  
Regulations – (нормативные положения) – rules issued by a government agency to carry out the intent of the law authorized by a statute, and generally providing more detail on a subject than the statute.

- 1 The Town Council will conduct a public hearing regarding a proposed \_\_\_\_\_ concerning property tax.
  - 2 According to the \_\_\_\_\_ concerning working time, overtime work is work which is officially ordered in excess of 40 hours in a working week or in excess of eight hours a day.
  - 3 Early this year, the government introduced a new \_\_\_\_\_ on electronic commerce to Parliament.
  - 4 A number of changes have been made to the federal \_\_\_\_\_ governing the seizing of computers and the gathering of electronic evidence.
- S The European Union \_\_\_\_\_ on Data Protection established legal principles aimed at protecting personal data privacy and the free flow of data.

There are several ways to refer to what a law says. Look at the following sentences:

The law **stipulates that** corporations must have three governing bodies.

The law **provides that** a witness must be present.

The patent law **specifies that** the subject matter must be 'useful'.

These verbs can also be used to express what a law says:

The law **states / sets forth / determines / lays down / prescribes that ...**

### Types of Courts

Courts can be distinguished with regard to the type of cases they hear.

**4. Match each of the following types of court (1-9) with the explanation of what happens there (a-i).**

<b>1 appellate court</b> (or court of appeals, appeals court)	a) This is where a person under the age of 18 would be tried.
<b>2 crown court</b>	b) This is the court of primary jurisdiction, where a case is heard for the first time.
<b>3 high court</b> (or supreme court)	c) This is where small crimes are tried in the UK.
<b>4 juvenile court</b>	d) This is where law students argue hypothetical cases.
<b>5 lower court</b> (or court of first instance)	e) This is where a case is reviewed which has already been heard in a lower court.
<b>6 magistrates' court</b>	f) This is where cases involving a limited amount of money are handled.
<b>7 moot court</b>	g) This is where serious criminal cases are heard by a judge and a jury in the UK.
<b>8 small-claims court</b>	h) This is where a group of specially chosen people examine legal problems of a particular type, such as employment disputes.
<b>9 tribunal</b>	i) This is usually the highest court in a jurisdiction, the court of last resort.