

## Legal English Course Outline

Among linguists and legal professionals, Legal Language has been generally (and fondly) referred to as *Legalese*, the term implying the fact that we are dealing with a distinct language rather than with a variant of specialized vocabulary. Due to its brilliant complexity, Legal English has become a valuable asset for any specialist in the legal field who wants to be able to read and draft legal documents in English, to communicate with foreign partners, colleagues and clients, to conduct mediation as well as to plead in a trial held abroad.

The Legal English module revises, consolidates and builds upon the trainees' knowledge of English legal vocabulary and basic grammar structures and adds new elements that ensure the passage to an efficient acquisition of specialized vocabulary as well as to its accurate and fluent use.

The course sessions mainly focus on the acquisition of specialized legal vocabulary, on building speaking, listening and writing skills that are useful in real professional communication in the legal field.

The acquisition of legal vocabulary is accomplished through interactive exercises, presentations, discussions, writing, reading comprehension, listening tasks that aim to build accuracy and fluency. Throughout the courses, trainees also become more proficient in using the grammatical structures and skills that are considered the most frequently occurring language patterns in legal English. By means of interactive exercises that revise basic structures, accompanied by brief theoretical explanations, trainees will be able to integrate the acquired legal vocabulary into coherent discourse.

The module is divided into seven thematic sections covering a wide range of legal terminology from several branches of law. Each section is allotted 90 minutes and it requires trainees to actively participate as the main goal is to learn by means of guided practice which is by far the most efficient way of internalizing such a complex type of discourse.

	<b>Title of Unit</b>	<b>Main topics</b>	<b>Duration</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Law – General Terminology: The Practice of Law and the Legal System</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introduction to law: basic concepts</li><li>• People in the law</li><li>• Legal documents</li><li>• Court orders and injunctions</li><li>• Explaining what a law stipulates (useful expressions)</li><li>• Legal Latin</li><li>• Grammar notes: Prepositions in legal language</li></ul>	90 minutes
<b>2.</b>	<b>Criminal Law</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Crime categories (crimes against the person, crimes against property, public order offences, road traffic offences, sexual offences, political offences,</li></ul>	90 minutes

		offences against justice) • Criminal procedure • Sentencing • Guess the offence • On appeal • Grammar notes: Gerunds (verbs in <i>-ing</i> ) and infinitives	
3.	<b>Employment Law</b>	• Employment contracts • Verbal and written warnings • Employment discrimination • Human Resources • Fair, unfair and wrongful dismissal • Grammar notes: Comparatives and superlatives (adjectives)	90 minutes
4	<b>Contracts and Agreements</b>	• Elements of a contract • Privacy and data protection • Types of legal contracts and agreements • Enforceability of contracts, breach of contract and remedies • Grammar notes: Modal Verbs	90 minutes
5.	<b>Real and Intellectual Property</b>	• Real Property • Industrial Property and Copyright • Copyright Infringement • Grammar notes: Active and Passive	90 minutes
6	<b>Company Law</b>	• Company formation and management • Business entities: types and requirements • Registration of new companies • Capitalisation	90 minutes

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bankruptcy</li> <li>• Grammar notes: Question forms, Expressing an opinion</li> </ul>	
7.	<b>International Law, Human Rights Law and Family Law</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International Law and International Trade organizations – abbreviations</li> <li>• International Law and the environment</li> <li>• Human Rights (UN Charter of Human Rights, UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, Equal Opportunities</li> <li>• The Family: Relationships</li> <li>• The Family: Children</li> <li>• Grammar notes: Reported speech</li> </ul>	90 minutes

**Course holder,  
Lecturer PhD Mădălina Matei**

### **Course Bibliography**

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