



Abdelhafid Boussouf University Center

Faculty of Law and Political Sciences

Departement of Law

Module: Legal Terminology

Lesson 1: Introduction to Legal English

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Introduction to Legal English

1. What is Legal English?

Definition:

Legal English is the type or style of language used by legal professionals (judges, lawyers, legislators) and in legal documents (contracts, laws, court decisions).

2. Characteristics of Legal English:

- Formal tone:** Legal English avoids slang and casual expressions.
- Precise vocabulary:** Each word has a specific legal meaning.
- Passive voice:** Often used to focus on the action, not the person.
- Latin phrases:** Some traditional terms are taken from Latin (e.g., *habeas corpus*, *pro bono*).
- Long sentences:** Legal documents often use complex sentence structures.

ما هي الإنجليزية القانونية؟

التعريف:

الإنجليزية القانونية هي اللغة أو الأسلوب الذي يستخدمه المتخصصون في المجال القانوني مثل القضاة، المحامون، والمشرعون، وتُستعمل أيضًا في الوثائق القانونية كالعقود، القوانين، والأحكام القضائية.

خصائص الإنجليزية القانونية:

- نبرة رسمية:** تتجنب الإنجليزية القانونية استخدام العبارات العامية أو التعبيرات غير الرسمية.
- مفردات دقيقة:** لكل كلمة معنى قانوني محدد وواضح.
- استخدام المبني للمجهول:** يُستخدم بكثرة للتركيز على الفعل القانوني بدلاً من الشخص القائم به.
- عبارات لاتينية:** تتضمن بعض المصطلحات التقليدية المأخوذة من اللغة اللاتينية.
- جمل طويلة ومعقدة:** تميل النصوص القانونية إلى استخدام تراكيب لغوية طويلة ومعقدة لزيادة الدقة والشمول.

Example:

- General English: "You must pay the money."
- Legal English: "The payment shall be made by the party within thirty days."

3. Basic Legal Vocabulary

Word	Meaning	Example
Law	A system of rules created by the government	The law protects people's rights.
Court	A place where legal cases are decided	The court decided he was not guilty.
Judge	The official who controls the courtroom	The judge gave the final decision.
Lawyer	A person who gives legal advice or defends someone	I spoke to a lawyer about my case.
Right	A freedom or entitlement given by law	You have the right to remain silent.
Duty	A legal or moral obligation	It is your duty to obey the law.
Case	A legal dispute brought to a court	The case was about a land dispute.
Crime	An act that breaks the law	Theft is a crime.

5. Legal Expressions and Their Meanings:

1. **“According to the law...”**

→ This means *based on what the law says or as stated in the legal rules*.

Example: "According to the law, children must attend school until a certain age."

2. **“It is the duty of the citizen to...”**

→ This means *the citizen is legally or morally required to do something*.

Example: "It is the duty of the citizen to pay taxes."

3. **“This action is considered a crime under the law.”**

→ This means *the law defines this behavior as illegal or criminal*.

Example: "Stealing is considered a crime under the law."

4. **“The judge ruled in favor of...”**

→ This means *the judge made a decision that supports one side in a legal case*.

Example: "The judge ruled in favor of the plaintiff."