

高等政法院校规划教材

法律英语教程

司法部法学教材编辑部编审

沙丽金 林 萍 编写

中国政法大学出版社

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Course Book of Legal English

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说 明

根据国家教委《关于“九五”期间普通高等教育教材建设与改革的意见》，为适应市场经济发展，培养跨世纪法律人才的需要，我们紧密结合教学改革实际，在确保质量前提下，增加教材品种，编写出一批有特点、适用性强的教材，供各法律院校选用。

这批教材坚持以邓小平建设有中国特色社会主义理论为指导，力求完整准确地阐述各学科的基本概念、原理和基础知识，努力做到科学性、系统性和实用性的统一。

《法律英语教程》是其中一种，编写目的旨在提高学生的基础英语水平，培养初步的阅读理解与法律有关文献的能力，在选材上本着法律知识的介绍与基础英语训练相结合的原则，使学生通过每课的学习既能接触、熟悉和掌握一定范围的法律词汇、表达方法及语言特色，又能扩大基础英语词汇量，巩固、扩充语言语法知识，从而全面提高英语水平。

《法律英语教程》由李荣甫教授主审，沙丽金、林萍编写。全书共32课，分四个阶段，供二年使用，按语言的难易程度，适当考虑专业特点进行编排。

由于时间仓促，编者水平与经验有限，教材中不妥之处在所难免，希望广大读者批评指正。

责任编辑 尹雪梅

司法部法学教材编辑部

1997年6月

Contents

Lesson 1	Law and Law Courts	(1)
	Grammar Highlights 基本句型	(5)
Lesson 2	An Unwritten Constitution	(14)
	Grammar Highlights 名词	(20)
Lesson 3	Law in Business	(29)
	Grammar Highlights 冠词和数词	(34)
Lesson 4	Torts	(42)
	Grammar Highlights 代词	(49)
Lesson 5	Crimes and Punishments	(58)
	Grammar Highlights 动词	(64)
Lesson 6	The Laws of Business Associations	(77)
97-2071 已用	Grammar Highlights 形容词和副词	(82)
Lesson 7	Adoption	(93)
	Grammar Highlights 时态	(99)
Lesson 8	The Law of Succession	(110)
	Grammar Highlights 比较级	(116)
Lesson 9	Functions of Criminal Justice	(127)
	Grammar Highlights 不定式	(134)
Lesson 10	The Law of Property	(143)
	Grammar Highlights 动词 - ING 形式	(150)
Lesson 11	Contracts	(160)
	Grammar Highlights 主谓一致	(166)
Lesson 12	What Is a Corporation? The Concept of an	
97-2071 已用		

	Artificial Entity	(173)
	Grammar Highlights 被动语态	(179)
Lesson 13	Trademark	(186)
	Grammar Highlights 虚拟语气	(192)
Lesson 14	Wills	(199)
	Grammar Highlights 名词从句	(205)
Lesson 15	The Jury	(214)
	Grammar Highlights 状语从句	(219)
Lesson 16	Patent	(230)
	Grammar Highlights 倒装	(235)
Lesson 17	Dower and Courtey	(242)
	Grammar Highlights 并列结构	(248)
Lesson 18	What Is a Legal System	(255)
Lesson 19	The Lawyers	(271)
Lesson 20	Law and Morality	(288)
Lesson 21	Antitrust Law	(302)
Lesson 22	Arbitration	(319)
Lesson 23	Copyright	(334)
Lesson 24	Income Tax	(345)
Lesson 25	Consumer Protection	(358)
Lesson 26	Trial	(376)
Lesson 27	Criminal Procedure Law	(393)
Lesson 28	Law	(406)
Lesson 29	The Judges	(418)
Lesson 30	International Law	(431)
Lesson 31	The Common Law and Its Competitors	(443)
Lesson 32	An Outline of Court Structure	(458)
	Key to Exercises	(473)

Lesson 1 Law and Law Courts

Wherever people live together in communities, there will always be disputes. Among animals, conflicts result in victory for the stronger or quicker. But human beings believe that in a dispute the one who is right should win. Sometimes the problem is so complicated that it can be settled only in a law court.

A law court is a meeting place set up by the government for the just and peaceful settlement of disputes and for the enforcement of law. Courts and methods of carrying out justice have changed as society has changed. Over the centuries the changes have been very great.

In the past, people in Europe often settled disputes in ways that seem extremely cruel and unfair to us. One method was called the cold-water ordeal. The accused person was tied and put into water. If he sank, he was considered innocent. If he floated, he was considered guilty and was punished. Another method was called the hot-water ordeal. The accused person put his hand in boiling water and pulled out a stone. If his hand showed no injury after three days, he was considered innocent. In still another method, the accused had to swallow a big piece of food without choking on it.

From these barbaric methods, however, developed through the centuries the present system of trials in courts of law.

Courts handle two kinds of disputes: civil and criminal, but it is not always easy to tell the difference between the two. In general, a civil case is a dispute between two private citizens. The court must

decide which one is right. A criminal case is a dispute between an individual and the whole community. A policeman claims that the person has broken a law or committed a crime that harms the community. The court must decide if the person is guilty of this crime.

Laws are rules that define people's rights and responsibilities towards society. They are agreed on by society and made official by governments.

Some people look on laws with fear or hatred. Laws seem to limit a person's freedom to do many things he would like to. Though laws may prevent us from doing things we wish to do at the moment, laws also stop others from doing things that might harm us. Laws make everyone's life safer and more pleasant. Without laws, we could not hold on to our property. We could not go to bed at night expecting to wake up in the morning and find we had not been robbed. No stores in which we buy food, clothes, and other necessities could stay open and sell to us. Our banks would not be safe places for our money. Social life would be impossible without laws to control the way people treat each other. But unless laws are enforced, they cannot protect us.

Law enforcement has four steps: arrest of a suspect; decision about his guilt or innocence; sentencing and punishment. Primitive tribes in ancient times settled the question of guilt or innocence quickly. Sometimes they used torture. More common were trials by fights between the accused and the injured or his representative. The winner was thought innocent, because primitive people believed that gods helped the innocent. Primitive societies used many punishments. For personal injuries it was common to act according

to the rule “an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth.” If a man knocked out someone's tooth, his own tooth would be knocked out in return. Today, capital punishment for murder is based on this idea: if a person kills someone, he must pay with his own life.

(607 words)

New Words

- community[kəmju:niti] n. 社会,
dispute[dispju:t] n. 争论, 争端
conflict[kɒnflikt] n. 抵触, 冲突
complicated[kəmplikeitid] a. 错综复杂
jury[ˈdʒʊəri] n. 陪审团
settlement[ˈsetlmənt] n. 调停, 解决
enforcement[ɪnfə:smənt] n. 执行, 施行
justice[ˈdʒʌstis] n. 公平
extremely[ɪksˈtri:mli] ad. 非常
ordeal[ɔ:ˈdi:l] n. 神审判法
accuse[əˈkju:z] v. 指控, 告发
innocent[ˈɪnəsnt] a. 无罪的, 清白的
guilty[ˈgilti] a. 有罪的
injury[ˈɪndʒəri] n. 损伤, 伤害
swallow[ˈswələu] v. 吞食
choke[tʃəuk] v. 哽住
barbaric[bɑ:ˈbærik] a. 野蛮的, 残暴的
trial[ˈtri:l] n. 审判
handle[ˈhændl] v. 处理
civil[ˈsɪvl] a. 民事的
criminal[ˈkrɪmɪnl] a. 刑事的

case[keis] n. 案子
private[ˈpraɪvɪt] a. 私人的
citizen[ˈsɪtɪzn] n. 公民, 平民
individual[ˌɪndɪˈvɪdʒuəl] n. 个人, 个体
claim[kleɪm] v. 声称, 主张
commit[kəˈmɪt] v. 犯, 干(错事)
crime[kraɪm] n. 罪, 罪行
define[dɪˈfaɪn] v. 规定
responsibility[rɪˌspɒnsəˈbɪləti] n. 义务
official[əˈfɪʃəl] a. 官方的, 正式的
hatred[ˈheɪtrɪd] n. 憎恨
freedom[ˈfriːdəm] n. 自由
property[ˈprɒpəti] n. 财产, 所有物
necessity[nɪˈsesɪti] n. 必需品
control[kənˈtrəʊl] v. 控制, 操纵
treat[tri:t] v. 对待, 处理
enforce[ɪnˈfɔːs] v. 执行
arrest[əˈrest] n. 逮捕, 扣留
suspect[səˈspekt] n. 嫌疑犯
sentence[ˈsentəns] v. 判决, 宣判
primitive[ˈprɪmɪtɪv] a. 原始的, 早期的
tribe[traɪb] n. 部落
torture[ˈtɔːtʃə] n. 折磨, 痛苦
murder[ˈmɜːdə] n. 谋杀, 凶杀

Terms and Expressions

the enforcement of law 执行法律
settle disputes 解决争端

the cold-water ordeal 冷水审判法

the accused person 刑事被告

civil case 民事案件

criminal case 刑事案件

break a law 犯法

commit a crime 犯罪

rights and responsibilities 权利和义务

capital punishment 死刑

Notes

1. ordeal: 神裁判法。是古时的一种判罪法。使被告经受某种体罚以视其结果,该结果被认为是神的判决。
2. ...an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth: 以眼还眼,以牙还牙。此句出自《圣经 旧约》的《出埃及记》中第 21 章第 24 条杀人之例。即: eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.

Grammar Highlights

句子(sentence)是用以表达一个比较完整的独立的概念,句子开头第一个字母要大写,句子末尾要有句号、问号或感叹号。按其基本结构可分为五种句型。

Basic Sentence Patterns 基本句型:

1. 主--动--主补: Her duties are many; her powers are few.

这种句型里的动词为连系动词(link verb), be 动词是最常见

的连系动词，除此以外还有：

a) become, come, fall, get, go, grow, run, turn 等表示“变得，成为”的动词；

The criminal's face turned red.

b) continue, hold, keep, lie, remain, stand, stay 等表示“保持着某一状态”的动词；

He remained single.

No stores in which we buy food, ... could stay open and sell to us.

c) appear, look, seem 等表示“看起来，好象”的动词；It looks good.

d) feel, smell, sound, taste 等表示“实感”的动词；What the client said sounds reasonable. 但这些动词也可用作及物动词或不及物动词。

2. 主 - - 动 The system has worked well;

3. 主 - - 动 - - 宾：He can deliver the Queen's message.

英语中，多数动词既可作及物动词(transitive verb)，也可用作不及物动词(intransitive verb)。下面是几个容易混淆的及物动词和不及物动词：

a). lay/lie; The lawyer laid the document on the table./ The document was lying on the table.

b). raise/rise/arise; Heavy rain raised the river stage./ The river stage was rising./ A new problem has arisen.

c). adopt/adapt; They adopted the child./ You must adapt yourself to the change.

d). used to/be used to; I used to swim in winter./ I am used to the busy life as a lawyer.

e). sit/seat; The criminal was sitting at the table./ The judge

seated herself in the chair.

f). wait/await; I am waiting for your answer./ I await your answer.

4. 主——动——间宾——直宾:

间接宾语指人, 直接宾语指物; 可带双宾语的动词有: accord, allow, assign, award, bring, cause, deal, deny, do, fetch, give, grant, hand, leave, lend, offer, owe, pass, pay, post, promise, read, recommend, refuse, render, return, sell, send, show, sing, take, telephone, teach, tell, throw, wish, write, build, buy, call, catch, choose, cook, cut, find, fix, get, keep, make, order, prepare, reach, reserve, save

间接宾语后移时, 必须在它的前边加 to, for 等介词。

加介词 to 表示间接宾语是动作的接受者;

如: No stores in which we buy food, clothes, and other necessities could stay open and sell to us.

加介词 for 表示间接宾语是动作的受益者; 如: Can you bring this for me?

间接宾语为代词时, 必须紧跟在动词后面, 如果直接宾语和间接宾语都是代词, 直接宾语一般放在前面; Please give it to her.

5. 主—动—宾—宾补:

所谓宾语补足语即是句子中的宾语是该宾语补足语的动作的執行者或承受者;

如: The judge declared him not guilty and set him free.

Exercise

Comprehension of the Text

Choose the best answer for each of the following

1. Law courts are established by the government for the following purposes except
 - A. the just settlement of disputes.
 - B. the analysis of disputes.
 - C. the enforcement of law.
 - D. the peaceful settlement of disputes.
2. What is talked about in the third paragraph?
 - A. Methods used to settle disputes.
 - B. Attitude (态度) to disputes.
 - C. Time spent on disputes.
 - D. Material used to settle disputes.
3. While handling a civil dispute, courts must decide
 - A. whether the person is guilty.
 - B. whether the person is honest.
 - C. which person is right.
 - D. which person has committed a crime.
4. In the criminal case, the dispute takes place between
 - A. two people.
 - B. two communities.
 - C. a person and the police.
 - D. a person and the community.
5. From the seventh paragraph, we can know

- A. the roles of laws.
 - B. the source of laws.
 - C. the future of laws.
 - D. the shortcomings (缺点) of laws
6. How many steps are there in the law enforcement?
- A. Three
 - B. Five
 - C. Two
 - D. Four
7. In ancient times, the question of guilt or innocence was often solved by
- A. law
 - B. arrest.
 - C. fights between the accused and the injured.
 - D. meetings held by the accused and the injured.
8. Social life can be guaranteed (保证) by
- A. punishment
 - B. laws
 - C. people
 - D. wars

Vocabulary

- I. Choose the definition from Column B that best matches each word in Column A

A	B
1. harm	a. a general public
2. commit	b. not guilty of a crime
3. community	c. fairness
4. barbaric	d. the act of causing great pain in order to forcesomeone to give information
5. complicated	e. do something considered wrong
6. necessity	f. very cruel
7. justice	g. cause injury or damage

- | | |
|--------------|----------------------------|
| 8. torture | h. solve |
| 9. settle | i. something that you need |
| 10. innocent | j. hard to solve |

II. Fill in the blanks with the words or expressions given below.

Change the form if necessary

- | | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|
| carry out | choke | hatred | conflict | accuse |
| break | primitive | suspect | handle | innocent |
| result in | just | consider | agree | look on |

- It is _____ to be the best method to deal with the case.
- I met the new manager today and found that we _____ on basic policies (政策).
- They couldn't, or they wouldn't, _____ the rule.
- Water went down his throat and he started to _____.
- He _____ his partner of having broken his word.
- We intend to _____ our full policy.
- Nations must not settle their differences by armed _____.
- We should all work together to create a _____ society.
- I have lived there so long I _____ the place as my home.
- Who _____ the marketing in your company.
- She is full of _____ for the driver who killed her child.
- He is _____ of the crime.
- Man made himself _____ tools from sharp stones

and animal bones.

14. The _____ is being held at police station for questioning.

15. His angry words _____ a fight.

III. Study the following pairs of words and use them correctly in the given sentences

1. define / definition

1) The powers of the courts are _____ by law.

2) The club must give a clear _____ of its goals.

3) The Constitution _____ the powers of the president.

2. enforce / enforcement

1) The teacher will _____ the rules of the school.

2) The _____ of the law should be strict.

3) It isn't always easy for the police to _____ speed limits.

3. necessary / necessity

1) He doesn't have the _____ skills for the job.

2) They lack (缺乏) the money even for basic food and heating—the _____ of life.

3) Is it _____ for all of us to be present (出席) at the meeting in the afternoon.

4. guilt / guilty

1) The police worked day and night to prove the man's _____.

2) The _____ of the accused man was in doubt.

3) In the eyes of the law, she was not yet _____.

5. injure / injury