

## COURTS AND TRIALS

1. Match each word on the left with its definition on the right.

judge weapon reprehensible probation community work victim crown counsel (BrE) the accused residence ordeal counselling defence counsel client incident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a situation that may involve violence</li> <li>• the activity of giving professional advice to people in need</li> <li>• the place where someone lives</li> <li>• doing work to help others instead of going to prison</li> <li>• a person being tried in court for a crime</li> <li>• bad, morally wrong</li> <li>• the person with the power to decide how to apply the law</li> <li>• an object used to kill or hurt people</li> <li>• someone who suffers as the result of a crime</li> <li>• a person who receives advice in return for payment</li> <li>• a lawyer who presents a case against an accused person</li> <li>• a period spent outside prison but under supervision</li> <li>• an extremely unpleasant experience or situation</li> <li>• a lawyer who acts on behalf of an accused person</li> </ul>
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2. Match the words in the first column with those in the second column to form collocations connected with law and order. Then write each one in a sentence showing you understand the meaning.

1. to commit 2. to keep 3. to bring 4. first time 5. to break 6. sniffer 7. to catch 8. to escape 9. track 10. to give 11. dawn 12. minor	a. the law b. someone down c. dog d. someone red-handed e. a crime f. chase g. offence h. raid i. the peace j. offender k. someone to trial l. prosecution
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3. Look at the definitions of some crimes below and circle words in the word square which make the name of the crimes. You can read forwards or backwards, across, down or diagonally.

- a) Breaking into a building and stealing something.
- b) Getting money by threatening to tell a secret about somebody.
- c) Taking things in and out of a country against the law.
- d) Going on to privately owned land without permission.
- e) Attacking and robbing someone.
- f) Sexual assault.
- g) The premeditated killing of someone.

T	R	E	S	P	A	S	S	I	N	G
F	L	T	M	H	D	P	Z	U	Q	O
O	Z	B	U	R	G	L	A	R	Y	L
M	C	L	G	P	H	J	C	Z	R	P
U	H	A	G	D	P	Q	M	A	E	X
V	Y	C	L	Z	J	Y	P	X	D	G
S	J	K	I	P	M	E	N	L	R	S
X	P	M	N	A	I	J	U	C	U	E
N	D	A	G	N	I	G	G	U	M	K
T	Q	I	O	Y	H	O	R	M	O	I
Y	B	L	S	L	E	A	D	F	R	T

4. Number the following 1 – 8 in the order they happen.

- a) the judge sums up \_\_\_\_\_
- b) there is a trial \_\_\_\_\_
- c) the accused is charged \_\_\_\_\_
- d) the judge passes sentence \_\_\_\_\_
- e) witnesses give their evidence \_\_\_\_\_
- f) a crime is committed **1** \_\_\_\_\_
- g) the jury reach a verdict \_\_\_\_\_
- h) someone is arrested \_\_\_\_\_

5. Fill in the gaps with the words in the box.

<b>burglaries</b>	<b>recover</b>	<b>sniffer</b>	<b>warrant</b>
<b>raid</b>	<b>observations</b>	<b>patrols</b>	<b>partnership officers</b>

### DAWN RAIDS NET HAUL OF STOLEN GOODS

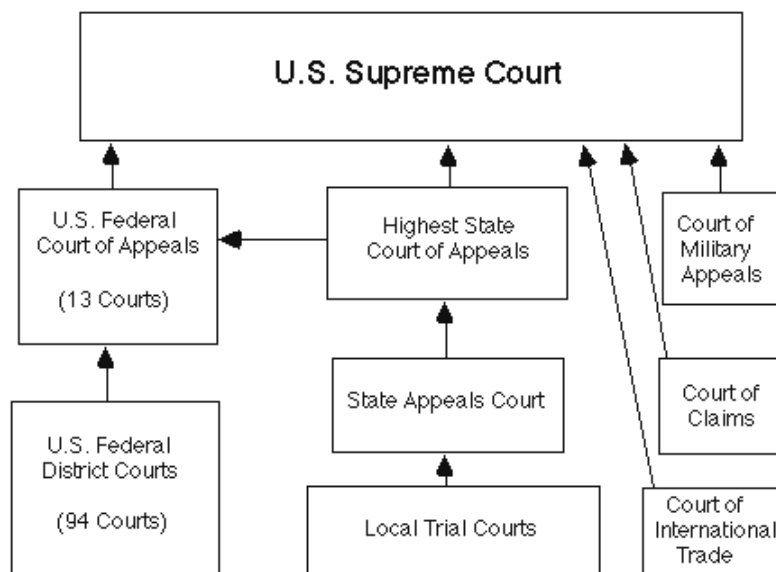
A total of 50 police \_\_\_\_\_ raided nine houses at dawn, arresting eight people in connection with thefts from supermarkets and \_\_\_\_\_. Stolen property was recovered when uniformed CID officers, dog handlers and \_\_\_\_\_ dogs entered a total of nine premises in Berinsfield early on Monday morning with a \_\_\_\_\_.

During the \_\_\_\_\_, police found two cannabis plants, a stolen motor cycle and stolen bicycles.

PC Paul Langford from Didcot police praised the residents who had informed the police of their \_\_\_\_\_, and the operation was followed up by \_\_\_\_\_ in the area in the late evening to restore calm to the community.

He said: ‘The co-operation of the residents has enabled the police to \_\_\_\_\_ stolen property and is an excellent example of how the police, working in \_\_\_\_\_ with the local community, can deal positively with criminal behaviour that has impact on the quality of life for the vast majority of Berinsfield residents.’

## U.S. System of Justice



The justice system in the United States is one of the most unique in the world. It consists of two separate levels of courts, state and federal. The type of court that a case is tried in depends on the law, state or federal, that was violated. Most of the laws that govern day-to-day living are state laws; violations of federal law include offenses involving federal government employees, crimes committed across state lines (for example, kidnapping or evading arrest), and fraud involving the national government (such as income tax or postal fraud).

There are two types of trials: criminal and civil. In a criminal trial, the government is prosecuting an individual for an offense that threatens the security of individual citizens or society as a whole. Civil trials are disputes between two parties. In both instances, the person that charges are being brought against is the defendant; in criminal trials, the government ("the State of New Jersey", "the United States of America", depending on the law violated) is the prosecution - in civil trials, the party initiating the action is called the plaintiff.

Although each state is free to arrange its own court system (within certain constitutionally defined boundaries), most states justice systems have several features in common.

The lowest level court in trials where state law was violated is the trial court. This is the only court with the power to determine the actual facts involved in a case (usually done by a jury).

If either party involved in the case feels that the trial judge made an error in one of his rulings, they can appeal, or bring the case to a Court of Appeals. Whereas trials are focused around the testimony of witnesses concerning their actions or observations, appeals feature two attorneys attempting to convince a panel of five judges that the law favors their side. The only issue in a Court of Appeals is whether or not correct trial procedure was followed. Attorneys prepare written briefs citing historical precedents and rulings to persuade the panel of judges to rule in their favor.

If unsatisfied with the appellate court's ruling, a party can appeal to the state Supreme Court. The Supreme Court Justices have the option of whether or not they wish to hear the case. Four Justices must vote to hear it in order to have it brought before the Court.

Out of the approximately 5,000 cases each year appealed to the United States Supreme Court, it actually hears between 100-125 of them. The procedure at this level is similar to that at the appeals court; each attorney addresses the panel of Justices, which can interrupt at almost any

time with questions. The ruling of the U.S. Supreme Court is final, though a future Court may overturn that decision.

In cases on the federal level, the action again begins at federal trial courts. Cases can be appealed from there to the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, of which there are 13 throughout the country. Rulings of this court can again be appealed to the Supreme Court.

As one might imagine, this entire process can be quite costly. One of the primary reasons that parties in a case might appeal their case to the Supreme Court is because they feel that the law which they violated was unconstitutional. The United States Supreme Court alone has the power to strike down Federal or state laws that it finds to be contrary to the United States Constitution. In that sense, the judicial system is the guardian of civil liberties in America.

1. Answer the following questions.

What are the main types of courts in the USA?

Which cases are tried in federal courts and which in state courts?

What is the lowest level court in a state and what powers does it have?

What cases are heard by a court of appeals?

What is the usual procedure of hearing a case at a court of appeals?

Who are the Supreme Court Justices?

Who can cancel the decision of the U.S. Supreme Court?

Which court can decide whether a law is constitutional or not?

2. Complete the sentences below.

There are two types of trials: \_\_\_\_\_ .

The person that charges are being brought against is the \_\_\_\_\_ .

In civil trials, the party initiating the action is called the \_\_\_\_\_ .

In cases on the federal level, the action begins at \_\_\_\_\_ .

There are thirteen \_\_\_\_\_ in the United States.

One of the main reasons that parties in a case might appeal their case to the Supreme Court is \_\_\_\_\_ .

3. Write a paragraph of 10-12 sentences to comment on the following statement:

One of the main functions of the system of justice is to be the guardian of civil liberties.