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With No Grammar and No Textbooks!

Episode #245

The court of Law
Part #2

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Today, let's keep talking about words related to **trials**. And to help you improve your **English fluency**, I have created a fun mini-story. As usual, I will ask you many simple questions you must answer quickly. It's just like having a conversation with someone in real life.

Hi! I'm Georgiana, your English teacher. Thanks for joining me for a new episode. My mission is to help you speak English fluently.

If you want to help, please **share** the podcast. That would mean a lot. Thanks!

Before we start, get the transcript on my website:
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Okay! Let's start!

#1 Expert witness

An **expert witness** is someone who, in a trial, gives their professional and impartial opinion on a specific topic related to the trial. Sometimes they may prepare a report or testify.

Example:

The **expert witness** gave his professional opinion on the box. It was indeed an empty box of chocolate chip cookies.

#2 Witness

A **witness** is someone who has direct knowledge of the facts on trial. Witnesses are essential because they can help determine a defendant's guilt.

For example, a witness can provide key information about the crime's circumstances and help confirm whether the defendant was present at the crime scene.

Example:

The **witness** testified with horror that he saw the defendant eating and tasting the last chocolate chip cookie in the box.

#3 Cross-examination

In trials, an attorney asks the defendant and others questions to find out more about what happened.

For **example**, imagine this **cross-examination** between the prosecutor and the defendant:

- So, why did you lick your fingers?
- Because they were covered in chocolate.
- There are no further questions, Your Honor.

#4 Judge

The **judge** is the most influential person in the courtroom. They preside over the trial and pass sentences. 'Your Honor' is a respectful form to address a judge.

Example:

The **judge** ruled that the defendant was guilty of eating the last cookie without sharing it with his friends.

#5 Jury

On the other hand, a **jury** is a randomly selected group of people to decide whether a person is guilty or not guilty.

Example:

"The judge had to break for lunch as the **jury** got hungry after hearing about cookies for hours."

#6 Sentence

The **sentence** is the **judge's decision** as to the innocence or guilt of the defendant. The judge can either absolve or convict the defendant with the sentence depending on whether they were found guilty.

Example:

The judge passed **sentence** after hearing the prosecutor, counsel, witnesses, expert witnesses, and the defendant himself.

#7 Penalty

In the context of a trial, the word **penalty** is the punishment imposed by the judge if the defendant is found guilty.

For example:

The judge imposed on the defendant the **penalty** of buying cookies every day for his friends for one month.

I hope you're having fun. Let's listen to all the terms we have learned over the last two episodes:

DEFENDANT
COURTROOM
ACCOMPLICE
LAWYER OR ATTORNEY
PRESUMPTION OF INNOCENCE
PROSECUTOR
EVIDENCE
EXPERT WITNESS
WITNESS
CROSS-EXAMINATION
JUDGE
JURY
SENTENCE
PENALTY

Perfect! Now let's continue with a mini-story so that you can practice your spoken English.

Mini-Story

(Practice your speaking)

I will tell a story, by asking simple questions. I use this technique extensively in my [premium courses](#) as it is highly effective.

First, I say a phrase with information. Next, I ask some questions. After each question, there is a pause. It's

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your turn to answer! After each pause, I give a correct answer. That's how I build the story.

And if you want to improve your fluency much faster, check out my [Premium Courses](#) on my website:

There are several levels.

Okay! Let's start!

Ben was accused of eating the last chocolate chip cookie without sharing it with his friends.

Hey, Ben! Did you drink anything?

No. No. I didn't drink anything.

Were you accused of anything?

Yes. I was accused of something.

Were you accused of eating something?

Yes. I was accused of eating the last cookie.

Was it a peanut butter cookie?

No. No. It wasn't a peanut butter cookie. It was a chocolate chip cookie.

Did you share the cookie with anyone?

No. No. I didn't share it with anyone. I ate the last chocolate chip by myself.

Who accused you?

My friends. My friends accused me of eating the last chocolate chip cookie without sharing.

Everybody was in the **courtroom**, and Judy, the **judge**, opened the session, and the **jury** listened attentively to the **expert witness**.

Is the courtroom empty?

No. No. The courtroom is not empty. Everybody is in the courtroom.

Judy, did you open anything?

Yes. I opened the session.

Did the jury listen to you?

No. No. The **jury** didn't listen to me. They listened to the **expert witness**.

Did the jury talk to the expert witness?

No. No. The jury listened to the expert witness. They listened attentively to the expert witness.

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There was also a **witness** in the courtroom who was called upon to testify before the **jury**.

Was there a witness in the courtroom?

Yes. There was a witness in the courtroom.

Did the witness dance?

No. No. The witness didn't dance. The witness was called upon to testify.

Did the witness testify before the judge or the jury?

The jury. The witness didn't testify before the judge but testified before a jury.

Judy, the judge, presented definitive **evidence** - an empty box of chocolate chip cookies.

Judy, have you presented your bibliography?

No. No. Not my bibliography. I presented some **evidence**.

What kind of evidence did you present?

Definitive. I have presented definitive evidence.

What was the definitive evidence? A box of cereal?

No. No. Not a box of cereal. A box of cookies. The definitive evidence was an empty box of chocolate chip cookies.

Judy, did you eat all the cookies?

No. No. I didn't eat any cookies. It was Ben who ate all the chocolate chip cookies. I just presented the empty box as definitive evidence.

Finally, Judy, the **judge**, handed down a severe **sentence**: the **defendant** had to offer chocolate chip cookies to all his friends.

Hey, Judy! Did you hand down anything?

Yes. I handed down something.

Did you shake hands with anyone?

No. No. I didn't shake hands with anyone. I handed down the sentence.

How was the sentence? Severe or minor?

Severe. The sentence was severe.

What did the sentence involve?

Chocolate chip cookies. The sentence involved chocolate chip cookies.

To whom did the defendant have to offer cookies?

To you?

No. No. Not to me. The defendant had to offer chocolate chip cookies to all his friends.

Well, this is the end of this short exercise. If you find it challenging, it's perfectly normal. You should repeat it several times and, if possible, on different days to better understand the material.

As you can see, answering many simple questions can improve your speaking, just like in a real-life conversation. This is one of the powerful techniques I use extensively in my [premium courses](#). The courses contain hundreds of hours of questions and answers. Imagine a podcast episode multiplied by 100.



I recommend you to take a look at:
SpeakEnglishPodcast.com/courses

Okay! We have reached the end of this episode.

See you soon!
Bye! Bye!



Georgiana

founder of
SpeakEnglishPodcast.com

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