

Differences between legal terms

Ask your partner about the differences between any of the things below which you aren't sure about, underlining any which they aren't sure about to ask the class about later.

Legal vocabulary to compare

- accepting bribes/ bribery	- drug trafficking/ smuggling
- tax avoidance/ tax evasion	- drunk driving/ reckless driving
- arrest/ prosecute	- file sharing/ illegal file sharing
- arrest/ take in for questioning	- five-year jail sentence/ suspended five-year sentence
- assault/ attempted murder	- forgery/ piracy
- assault/ mugging	- fraud/ scam
- asylum seeker/ refugee	- graffiti/ vandalism
- attorney/ district attorney (= DA)	- hard drugs/ soft drugs
- bag snatching/ mugging/ pick pocketing	- hijacking/ kidnapping
- barrister/ solicitor	- human trafficking/ trafficking
- black hat hackers/ white hat hackers	- illegal drugs/ prescription drug misuse
- bomb hoax/ terrorism	- imprisonment/ rehabilitation
- bullying/ cyber-bullying	- prisons in your country/ prisons in other countries
- burglary/ shoplifting	- judge/ juror
- buying drugs/ drug dealing	- judge/ magistrate
- capital punishment/ corporal punishment	- libel/ slander
- civil case/ criminal case	- life sentence/ "life means life"
- community service/ hard labour	- manslaughter/ murder
- compensation/ fine	- offender/ reoffender
- corporal punishment/ "an eye for an eye"	- official warning/ warning
- crime/ misdemeanor	- open prison/ other kinds of prison
- criminal record/ permanent criminal record	- police station cell/ prison cell
- criminal/ suspect	- profiting from prostitution/ prostitution
- detective/ private detective	- prosecute/ sue
- drug dealing/ drug trafficking	- the legal system in your country/ the legal system in other countries

Ask about any you underlined, working together as a class to explain the differences.

Homework One

Choose one of the topics above (this time **a single expression, not a pair of things to compare**) and write notes on:

- Its meaning (perhaps with contrasts to similar terms if that helps explain it clearly)
- Your opinion on something related to it (e.g. if "capital punishment" is a good idea)
- Support for your opinions

Homework Two

Think of or find five **more** pairs of legal terms (including words **not above**) that could be confused and/ or are difficult to explain the differences between. Prepare to explain the differences for your partner.