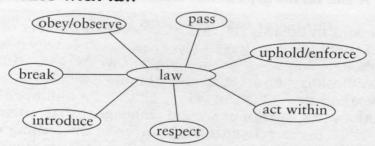
34

Laws and punishments

A Verbs that collocate with law



We must all observe the law at all times. [formal]

People who refuse to obey the law should be punished. [less formal]

A new law has been introduced/passed forbidding the use of mobile phones while driving. The company acted within the law as regards the rights of its employees. [formal]

It is the job of the police to uphold/enforce the law. [make sure that people obey the law]

B Noun and verb collocations

The new law forbids/prohibits smoking in all public places. [the law does not allow] The rules permit/allow members to bring guests into the club only at weekends. These rules/regulations apply to all students, not just new ones. [the rules are for] If we follow the rules, at least 20 people must be present at the meeting. [do what the rules say] The regulations require/stipulate that all students must register for the course. [formal: the rules say that]

We have to comply with the regulations concerning the testing of equipment. [formal: do what the rules say]

I hope we can bend the rules and let her take the exam on another day. [informal: break the rules in a way that is not considered important]

C Punishments

collocation	example
carry out an investigation	Police are carrying out an investigation into a major theft in a factory in Woodvale.
appear in court	The trial starts today but the witnesses will be appearing in court tomorrow.
go on trial	George Arthur Lode, accused of murdering his wife, went on trial today.
reach a verdict	The jury are expected to take several days to reach a verdict.
a fair trial	It now seems impossible that Harold Graves can receive a fair trial, given the media publicity surrounding his case.
be severely punished	That judge believes that all shoplifters should be severely punished.
pay/face a heavy fine	People who park on double yellow lines face a heavy fine.
face the death penalty	If he is found guilty of murder, he will have to face the death penalty.
act as a deterrent	People often support the death penalty because they say it acts as a deterrent.
suffer the consequences	Anyone who commits a crime has to suffer the consequences.
a harsh penalty/sentence	Some judges are more likely to give harsh sentences than others.
a hard legal battle	After a hard legal battle, she won compensation for the accident.
win a case	You will need a very good lawyer if you are going to have any hope of winning your case.

Exercises

Choose the correct verb from A to fill the gaps in this paragraph. Use each verb once only 34.1 and put it in the correct form.

In law-abiding societies ordinary citizens are usually happy to (1) or (2) the law. But there are also rather different societies where most people feel that it is not such a serious matter to (3) the law. In such places, people do not seem to (4) the law and even the most honest of citizens does not expect always to (5) within it. The rulers of such societies have no difficulty in (6) or (7) new laws but the police have considerable problems when it comes to (8) or (9) those laws.

Match the beginning of each sentence on the left with its ending on the right. 34.2

1 The rules apply

with the regulations.

2 The rules prohibit

to all students in the college.

3 The rules allow students

the rules to allow Mary to submit her coursework a little late.

to book college guestrooms at weekends. 4 The regulations stipulate

5 Most students follow

the use of mobile phones in class.

6 The authorities bent

that coursework must be handed in on time.

the rules without too many complaints. 7 All students must comply

Put these events in a crime story in order. 34.3

- a) A number of witnesses appear in court.
- b) Bill Sikes goes on trial.
- c) Bill Sikes is found guilty.
- d) Bill Sikes is severely punished.
- e) Bill Sikes robs a bank.
- f) The jury reaches its verdict.
- g) The police carry out an investigation.

Answer these questions using one of the collocations from C opposite. 34.4

- 1 What does every lawyer in a trial hope to do?
- 2 What does every wrongly accused person who appears in court hope to receive?

3 What do the police do after a major crime is committed?

- 4 What may happen to people in some countries if they are found guilty of a very serious crime like murder or terrorism?
- 5 How might the death penalty help to prevent serious crime?
- 6 What does the jury have to do at the end of a trial?
- 7 What kind of punishments does a hard-hearted judge give?
- 8 What kind of fine might a judge impose if the offence is quite serious?

Rewrite each sentence using the word in brackets, so that it keeps the same meaning. 34.5

- 1 Everyone must observe these regulations. (COMPLY)
- 2 All citizens must obey these rules. (APPLY)
- 3 The jury found the accused guilty. (REACHED)
- 4 The police are investigating the bank robbery. (INVESTIGATION)
- 5 Our company would never break the law. (ACTS)
- 6 The rules prohibit eating and drinking in the classrooms. (ALLOW STUDENTS)