

# English Vocabulary – “Lawyers”

In English, there are different names for a lawyer. For example:

## 1. An advocate

This is a general term for somebody who speaks or writes in support or defense of a person.

## 2. A counselor / counselor at law

This is a general term for somebody who a person who counsels or advises other people.

## 3. An attorney / attorney at law

This is simply a synonym of “lawyer” and is used more in the USA than in the UK.

## 4. A barrister

This is a lawyer who acts in court to prosecute or defend an accused person.

## 5. A solicitor

This is a lawyer who prepares cases for barristers (who attend courts).

### Here is some relevant vocabulary:

- practice law
- advocacy services
- client
- witness
- judge
- jury
- represent a client
- court of law
- court proceedings
- legal matters
- legal guidance
- legal research
- trial preparation
- expert advice
- present arguments
- cross-examine
- draft legal documents
- negotiate settlements

## **Areas of law**

There are about 30 different areas of law. For example:

- criminal law
- corporate law
- family law
- intellectual property law
- employment law
- immigration law
- international law
- personal injury law
- real estate law
- tax law

## **The Role of a Lawyer**

A lawyer, also known as an attorney or counselor at law, is a broad term that encompasses various legal professionals involved in the practice of law. Lawyers play a fundamental role in advising and representing clients in legal matters. They are trained to provide legal guidance, draft legal documents, negotiate settlements, and advocate for their clients' interests in courts of law. Lawyers can specialize in different areas of law such as criminal law, corporate law, family law, or intellectual property law.

## **The Role of a Barrister**

In contrast to lawyers, barristers have a more focused role within the legal system. Barristers are highly specialized advocates who predominantly represent clients in court proceedings. They often work alongside solicitors (another type of lawyer) who handle pre-trial matters such as advising clients, carrying out legal research, and preparing cases for trial. Barristers are typically instructed by solicitors to provide expert advice and advocacy services in court. They are skilled in presenting arguments, cross-examining witnesses, and persuading judges or juries.