

Legal English – Vocabulary

English	Portuguese
law	lei
legal	legal
lawyer	advogado
judge	juiz
court	tribunal
to charge	acusar
prisoner	prisioneiro
trial	juízo
jury	júri
to convict	condenar
to plead *	declarar-se
plea bargain	acordo judicial
evidence	evidência
guilty	culpado
not guilty / innocent	inocente
fine	multa
sentence	sentença
defendant / accused	réu / acusado
prison / jail	prisão / cadeia
witness	testemunha
to testify	testemunhar
testimony	testemunho
to sue	processar
lawsuit	ação judicial / processo
verdict	veredito
alibi	álibi
defense	defesa
defense lawyer	advogado de defesa
defense	acusação (advogado do autor do crime)
prosecutor	promotor

Judge: “How do you plead?
Guilty or not guilty?”

Accused: “Not guilty, your honour.”



Types of Law

Type of Law	Explanation
Civil law	A legal system that serves as the primary source of law.
Criminal law	This relates to behaviour that is perceived as threatening, harmful or endangering to property, health, safety or welfare of people.
Labour law	This mediates the relationship between workers, employers, trade unions and the government.
Corporate law	This law governs the rights, relations and conduct of persons, companies, organizations and businesses.
Contract law	A contract is an agreement that specifies certain legally enforceable rights and obligations pertaining to two or more parties. A contract typically involves consent to transfer of goods, services, money or promise to transfer any of those at a future date.
Constitutional law	This law defines the role, powers, and structure of different entities within a state, namely, the executive, the parliament or legislature, and the judiciary; as well as the basic rights of citizens and the relationship between the central government and state, provincial, or territorial governments.
Administrative law	This law governs the activities of the executive branches of government. It includes executive branch rule making, adjudication, and the enforcement of laws.
Tort law	A tort is a civil wrong that causes a claimant to suffer loss or harm, resulting in legal liability for the person who commits the act.
Trust law	A trust is a legal relationship in which the owner of property gives it to another person, who must manage and use the property solely for the benefit of another person. The party to whom it is entrusted is called the "trustee", the party for whose benefit the property is entrusted is known as the "beneficiary".
International law	This law is the set of rules, norms, and standards that states and countries must obey in their mutual relations.

Note: The word "persons" is a legal word. The word "people" is used in all other contexts.