



Differences Between Legal Terms

Ask your partner about the differences between any of the things below which you aren't sure about.

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



- manslaughter/ murder
- offender/ reoffender
- official warning/ warning
- open prison/ other kinds of prison
- police station cell/ prison cell
- profiting from prostitution/ prostitution
- prosecute/ sue
- the Japanese legal system/ the legal system in other countries

Homework One

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

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

Homework Two

After you check you understand all the differences above, find five **more** pairs of legal terms (including words **not above**) that could be confused and/ or are difficult to explain the differences between, writing them below. Prepare to explain the differences for your partner.

1	_____ / _____
2	_____ / _____
3	_____ / _____
4	_____ / _____
5	_____ / _____