

## 4 Speaking A: Explaining what a law says

There are several ways to refer to what a law says. Look at these sentences:

The law **stipulates that** corporations must have three governing bodies.

The law **provides that** a witness must be present.

The patent law **specifies that** the subject matter must be 'useful'.

These verbs can also be used to express what a law says:

The law **states** / **sets forth** / **determines** / **lays down** / **prescribes that** ...

Choose a law in your jurisdiction that you are familiar with and explain what it says using the verbs listed in the box above.

## 5 Reading D: Types of court

Courts can be distinguished with regard to the type of cases they hear.

Match each of these types of court (1–9) with the explanation of what happens there (a–i).

- 1 **appellate court** (or court of appeals, appeals court)
- 2 **crown court**
- 3 **high court**
- 4 **juvenile court**
- 5 **lower court** (or court of first instance)
- 6 **magistrates' court**
- 7 **moot court**
- 8 **small-claims court**
- 9 **tribunal**

- a This is where a person under the age of 18 would be tried.
- b This is the court of primary jurisdiction, where a case is heard for the first time.
- c This is where small crimes are tried in the UK.
- d This is where law students argue hypothetical cases.
- e This is where a case is reviewed which has already been heard in a lower court.
- f This is where cases involving a limited amount of money are handled.
- g This is where serious criminal cases are heard by a judge and a jury in the UK.
- h This is where a group of specially chosen people examine legal problems of a particular type, such as employment disputes.
- i This is usually the highest court in a jurisdiction, the court of last resort.

## 6 Speaking B: Civil-court systems

Work in small groups and discuss these questions.

- 1 Describe the different types of court in your jurisdiction and the areas of law they deal with.
- 2 Select one type of court in your jurisdiction and explain what kinds of case it deals with.