

- a There are two types of lawyer practising in England.  True  False
- b Last year I finished my training contract and I started working for a large international law firm. I am now a qualified solicitor.  True  False
- c Only barristers can speak on behalf of clients in court.  True  False
- d Both solicitors and barristers can work together in partnerships.  True  False
- e In the USA and England lawyers can take a special exam to be a judge.  True  False

## MAKING A CLAIM IN THE CIVIL COURT

In the English and American legal systems we divide the law into two main areas. These are **criminal law** and **civil law**.

This means that everything that is *not* a **criminal matter** is a **civil matter**.

### Exercise 1

Look at these situations and decide if the person needs a criminal lawyer or a civil lawyer. In other words, is it a criminal matter or a civil matter?

- a Mr Bellerby is opening a new factory. He needs to visit a lawyer to get a contract for all of his employees to sign.  
 criminal  civil
- b Mrs Robson is thinking about what she wants to happen to her house and possessions after her death. She needs to visit a lawyer to get the correct document, which is called a 'will'.  
 criminal  civil
- c The police are taking Mr Dean to the police station because they say he stole a car. He needs a lawyer to come and visit him there to tell him what to do.  
 criminal  civil
- d Mr Flynn owns a restaurant. He has a contract with a company to deliver fruit and vegetables to his restaurant. The company didn't deliver them on the agreed date, so Mr Flynn lost money because he could not open his restaurant that day. Mr Flynn needs to see a lawyer about asking the delivery company to give him the money he lost.  
 criminal  civil
- e Mr Allen is a bank manager. The bank is saying that some money is missing. Mr Allen has a new car and expensive clothes. The police are coming to ask Mr Allen some questions. He needs a lawyer immediately.  
 criminal  civil

### Help desk

#### What do these words mean?

**criminal law** – the law that punishes acts against a person or against property that people consider to be harmful to the whole community. The state prosecutes criminals.

**civil law** – the law concerning the rights and duties of private individuals and companies other than criminal matters.

**a matter** – a subject or situation, e.g. a criminal matter, a civil matter.

**a will** – a legal document in which a person gives details of what they want to happen to their property after their death.

**to steal** (stole) – to take something that belongs to someone else with the intention of keeping it.