

SOLICITORS AND BARRISTERS

Exercise 1

Diana Williams is a lawyer. Today she is going to visit a school in her town to talk to the students about a career in law. Here are some of Diana's notes for her talk. In this section she is talking about the two separate professions that exist in England, solicitors and barristers. Fill in the gaps in the text with the correct word from the box below.

- | | | | |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| • partner | • judge | • client | • audience |
| • qualify | • practices | • solicitor | • associate |
| • partnerships | • court | • attorney | • issued |

My notes for careers talk at Chatsworth Hill School

In England we have two different types of lawyer. One is known as a (a) _____ and the other is a barrister. Both are called 'lawyers'. This can be a little confusing because in the USA every lawyer is usually known as an (b) _____. An English law student has to decide at some time during their university studies which type of lawyer they would like to (c) _____ as.

Most English law students decide to become a solicitor. These are the lawyers that a (d) _____, the person who pays for the services of a lawyer, will usually meet first. Often the solicitor can help the client without the need for a barrister.

Most solicitors work in small private businesses, known as (e) _____, in what are called 'High Street firms'. This phrase 'High Street firm' refers to a typical, small group of solicitors working together in the type of offices that you can find on the major streets of any English town or city. Many law firms are set up as (f) _____. A new lawyer will usually work first as an (g) _____ of the firm and gain some experience while being paid a fixed salary before being offered the opportunity to become a (h) _____. A typical High Street solicitor usually specialises in a particular area of law, such as family, employment or commercial law. Many people believe that solicitors cannot act for their clients in (i) _____ but this is untrue. Thousands of solicitors appear in court every day, especially in the County Courts where most claims are (j) _____.

The second type of lawyer found in England is known as a barrister. Barristers are usually specialists in a very particular area of law. They give advice and opinions to solicitors and their clients. Barristers have the right of (k) _____ (the right to be heard by a judge) in all of the courts in the land. Barristers often share offices, known by the traditional name of 'chambers', although they usually work alone as individuals rather than in partnerships.

After several years of experience, members of either profession may apply to preside over cases and sit as a (l) _____. Within the English legal system a law student cannot take an exam to be a judge but has to wait to be appointed after some years of experience as a lawyer.