

## Lesson Four: Law

### Passage

*Listen to the following words, focusing on meaning and the use of the words in **bold**.*

While **legal policies** should be **straightforward** in **principle**, the **text** of most **legislation** seems **restricted** to those who have the **status** of lawyer or **academic**. In **brief**, the **principal** rule of a new law is that it must be **constitutional**, and the people must **consent** to this law by voting for it. If the law does not have **adequate** approval, the **author** must make **subsequent** changes or **amendments**, **displaying justification** for the **revisions**. Once the **document** is **acknowledged** as law, the **authority** of law **enforcement** is **required** to protect the new **regulations**.

*Stop the audio now and complete Exercises 1 and 2.*

### Exercise 1 — Definitions in Context

*Define each of the following words (selected from the words in **bold** in the above paragraph). Use the definition illustrated in the passage.*

1. straightforward

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2. status

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3. consent

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4. acknowledge

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Note the following difference:

The **principal** thing is the main or most important one.

A **principle** is the general idea that explains or supports something.

### Exercise 2 – Writing Sentences

*Pick three of the following five words and write a sentence for each that demonstrates you understand the meaning of the word. If a word has multiple meanings, use the same meaning as in the above passage.*

policy

legislation

adequate

justification

authority

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Exercise 3 – Transcribing and Identifying Parts of Speech

*Listen to the audio and write out each word. Then write down the part of speech (noun, verb, adjective) for each in the sentence given. The first one is done for you.*

- |    |            |       |
|----|------------|-------|
| 1. | individual | adj.  |
| 2. | _____      | _____ |
| 3. | _____      | _____ |
| 4. | _____      | _____ |
| 5. | _____      | _____ |
| 6. | _____      | _____ |

## Definitions

*Listen to the following definitions on the audio.*

### **acknowledge**

(v) If you acknowledge something, you show that you know it is there or that it is true.

(n) **acknowledgement**

### **authority**

(n) To have authority means to have the power to make a decision.

(adj) **authoritative**; (adv) **authoritatively**; (n) **authoritativeness**

### **cite**

(v) If you cite people or facts, you write or talk about them to support your point or show where you got your information.

(n) **citation**

### **document**

(n) A document is a written record, often official.

(v) **document**; (n) **documentation**

### **justification**

(n) A justification is a reason given by somebody for doing something.

(v) **justify**

### **partnership**

(n) A partnership is two people or groups working together, especially in business.

(n) **partner**

### **status**

(n) Your status is your level, role, or situation in a group or society or a condition at a particular time.

### **subsequent**

(adj) A subsequent item occurs after a previously mentioned one.

*Stop the audio now.*

#### **Exercise 4 — Using Words Correctly**

*Fill in the following blanks with one of the words defined above. Use the appropriate form or part of speech of the word. Please provide all possible answers.*

1. The defendant could not \_\_\_\_\_ the expenses of an entire trial, so he settled out of court.
2. Most cases involving abortion \_\_\_\_\_ the landmark case of Roe v. Wade.
3. Although most Americans dislike jury duty, they all must \_\_\_\_\_ that it is their responsibility as citizens.
4. When a client meets with a lawyer for the first time, they form a \_\_\_\_\_ that will continue through the trial.
5. Our client was nervous the first time we met, but he relaxed on \_\_\_\_\_ visits.
6. Some Americans want to debate the citizenship \_\_\_\_\_ of children of illegal immigrants even though the parents of these immigrants are not U.S. citizens.
7. While many may want to decide the fate of the defendant, only the judge and members of the jury have the \_\_\_\_\_ to do so.
8. Though the language on most court \_\_\_\_\_ seems boring, it is actually very important.

### Exercise 5 — Latin Word Roots

Many academic English words come from Latin. Given the following words of Latin origin, guess the meaning of the original Latin root.

agriculture, agrarian, Aggie  
agr \_\_\_\_\_ field/farm

matron, matrimony, maternal  
mater/matr \_\_\_\_\_

centennial, centimeter, centipede  
cent \_\_\_\_\_ hundred

omnipotent, omnivore  
omni \_\_\_\_\_

decade, decimal, decimate  
dec \_\_\_\_\_

pacifist, pacify  
pac \_\_\_\_\_

dictator, dictation, dictionary  
dict \_\_\_\_\_

retroflex, retrograde, retrospective  
retro \_\_\_\_\_

fraternity, fraternal  
frater \_\_\_\_\_

senior, senator, senile  
sen \_\_\_\_\_

judicial, judgment  
jud \_\_\_\_\_

unicorn, universal, unanimous  
uni \_\_\_\_\_

liberty, liberate  
liber \_\_\_\_\_

very, verdict, verify  
ver \_\_\_\_\_

linguistics, bilingual  
ling/lang \_\_\_\_\_

revive, survive, vivacious  
viv \_\_\_\_\_

## Pronunciation — Recognizing the Medial Tap

In North American English, when the letters *t* or *d* come before an unstressed vowel, their pronunciation is reduced to a tap or flap. This tap is voiced like a *d*, but it is much faster and involves very little contact between the tongue and the roof of the mouth.

Listen to the difference:

status (t)

aided (d)

status (tap)

aided (tap)

*Circle the following words that follow the above rule and practice pronouncing the words with a tap.*

security

debates

federal

cited

edition

authority