



Legal English and TOLES Advanced preparation tips

1. It is good to immerse yourself in legal terminology as much as possible. Read legal news articles, watch legal TV series and documentaries and listen to radio documentaries and podcasts related to the subject of law in general.
2. Read legal English blogs e.g. <http://www.aprilking.co.uk/blog/>, [The Times Student Law supplement](#), [The Guardian Law](#) or read specialised magazines such as The New Law Journal and The Lawyer.
3. If you are in the UK, spend some time in a courtroom just to familiarise yourself with legal procedure in this country. Members of the public are welcome to observe cases in the UK Supreme Court, doing this will give you an invaluable insight into the legal procedures in the UK. If you're not in the UK, you can watch online: <https://www.supremecourt.uk/live/court-01.html>
4. Use websites like [Quizlet.com](https://www.quizlet.com/) to learn legal terminology and collocations and then test yourself. You can use pre-made Quizlets or challenge yourself by creating your own.
5. Read landmark cases in different areas of the law e.g. Company Law, Law of Contract, Law of Tort, Employment Law to familiarise yourself with the history of the legal precedents, and the cases are extremely interesting! Many summaries of landmark cases are available online and you can start with Donogue vs Stevenson.
6. Improve your knowledge of collocations, in law there are many fixed collocations that have been used for hundreds of years. Find and highlight these in the blogs and magazines mentioned in point 2. Not sure what a collocation is? [Read this simple explanation.](#)
7. Listen to and imitate your favourite TV lawyers. The law is loved by TV companies and there are hundreds of hours of legal dramas to choose from. One fun way to spend a few minutes is to play some clips from YouTube of a TV lawyer and attempt to replicate what they have said (choose something from a court trial or a client interview ideally). For added value, record or film what you say and play it back to see what you did right or wrong.
8. Read legal texts aloud. Examine case reports and scripts from books on English and Law and read them aloud. Record your speech on audio or video and play it back. By doing this you will become more confident at using unfamiliar sounds as well as understanding legal words and phrases that might not be in course books.
9. Aim to do one [TOLES practice paper](#) a week and keep a record of, and regularly review, your mistakes.
10. Enjoy the whole process of learning. Learning any language is a journey and you will need to dedicate a significant amount of your time to practising it. Do not consider the learning process to be a chore as that will only deter you from your goals. Seek to have fun and to engage with the language in every way you can.