

Preface

OVERVIEW

This book offers a comprehensive overview of legal English as it is used in modern, international legal practice.

It is principally aimed at legal professionals, law students and others whose first language may not be English but who regularly deal with legal documents written in English. It constitutes a concise and practical reference resource that will help you both to understand English legal language as it appears in contemporary written and verbal contexts and to use clear, accurate English in everyday legal and business situations.

The book comes with a companion website that can be found at www.routledge.com/cw/haigh. This contains self-study exercises on the main areas covered in the book, which are supported by an automatic marking facility. The website also features four videos, together with exercises and transcripts, in which different legal scenarios are depicted by talented actors.

This fifth edition builds upon the success of its predecessors by addressing issues raised by reviewers and students. In particular, it contains new sections on writing law essays and applying for legal positions, together with additional troubleshooting tips and guidance on good style as well as expanded glossaries. In combination with the companion website, this new edition continues to further the aim of providing an innovative integrated e-textbook comprising online and traditional paper elements, as well as both reference and self-study elements.

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

The book and its website are not intended to be read straight through from beginning to end, although masochists may do so if they wish. They have been carefully modularised and integrated by topic, and the best way to use them is to dip into them on a topic-by-topic basis.

The book, together with its online component, has three aims:

- To clarify and explain, by reference to numerous examples, various tricky areas of legal English usage.
- To act as a reference resource, particularly regarding terminology usage, contract clauses and drafting issues.

- To offer an interactive self-study and teaching resource that students can access in order to test and improve their skills in relation to various different areas of legal English usage, and which teachers can access in order to obtain materials that may be of use in the classroom.

The first two of these aims are covered in the book, while the third is also covered in the online component. The online and paper elements of the book are integrated, so that having read one chapter of the book dealing with a certain topic, the reader can go to the website to find exercises on that topic and check his or her knowledge of it – and vice versa.

BRITISH AND AMERICAN ENGLISH

This book is written in British English, but makes reference to American English standards where these depart significantly from British English. Chapter 9 contains a survey of the key differences between British and American English.

FEEDBACK

Feedback from students, practitioners and other readers of the book is one of the main methods by which it has been updated through its various editions, and is always gratefully received. Comments and enquiries about the book may be emailed to the author at rupert.haigh@ruperthaigh.com.