

Lesson 4: Understanding and Interpreting Legal English

1. What is Legal English? (Reminder)

Legal English is used in laws, contracts, and legal documents. It is a formal and precise (**very exact**).

2. Expressing Rules in Legal English

Legal rules are usually expressed using modal verbs:

Function	Word	Example
Obligation	must / have to	The buyer must pay the price.
Permission	may	The tenant may use the property.
Prohibition	must not	The parties must not break the law.

Read carefully:

- The buyer **must pay** → it is an obligation
- The tenant **may use** → it is allowed
- The parties **must not break** → it is forbidden

3. Understanding a Legal Text

Step 1: Identify Key Information تحديد المعلومات الأساسية في الجملة

Example

- A contract is an agreement between two parties. What is a contract? → An agreement
- The parties must respect the contract. What must the parties do? → Respect the contract
- They may end the contract by agreement. What may they do? → End the contract

4. How to Interpret a Legal Sentence

Legal sentences can look long, but they follow a simple structure:

Example

The seller must deliver the goods.

Break it into parts:

- Subject → The seller
- Verb → must deliver
- Object → the goods

Simplified Meaning

The seller have to delivers the goods

5. Simplifying Legal Language تبسيط الإنجليزية القانونية

Legal English sometimes uses formal words like **shall**.

Examples

- The contract shall be valid.
→ The contract is valid.
- The buyer must pay the price.
→ The buyer has to pay the price.
نستبدل الكلمات الصعبة بكلمات أبسط مع الحفاظ على المعنى

Exercise 1: Choose the Correct Function

What does each sentence express?

1. The buyer must pay the price.
2. The tenant may use the property.
3. The parties must not break the contract.

Answers:

1. Obligation
2. Permission
3. Prohibition

Exercise 2: Understand the Sentence

The seller must deliver the goods.

- Who is the subject?
- What is the action?
- What is the object?

Answers:

- Subject: the seller
- Action: must deliver
- Object: the goods

Exercise 3: Simplify

Rewrite:

1. The contract shall be valid.
2. The buyer must pay the price.

Answers:

1. The contract is valid.
2. The buyer has to pay the price.