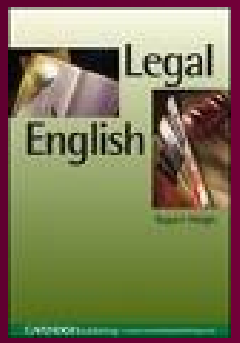
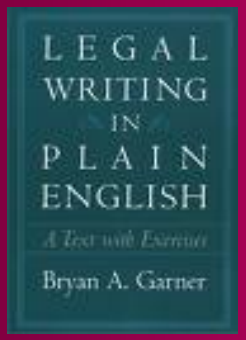


LEGAL ENGLISH







XII SEMINARIO DE ESTUDIO COMPARADO DE SISTEMAS JUDICIALES Y DE COOPERACIÓN JUDICIAL INTERNACIONAL A TRAVÉS DEL LENGUAJE JURÍDICO

ÁGUILAS 2010

CONTENTS

- General features of legal English.
- Attitudes towards legal English.
- The syntax of legal English.
- The vocabulary of legal English.
- Legal genres in English.

1. General features of legal English

Features in common with legal Spanish:

1. Types of vocabulary.
2. Sentence length and complexity.
3. Old-fashioned expressions and fixed formulae (e.g. latin expressions).
4. (Some) couplets.
5. Specific collocations.
6. Existence of pre-determined text formats (macrostructures).

1. General features of legal English

General difference with legal Spanish:

Legal Spanish is far more conservative, formal, cryptic and rigid, with a clear opposition to “plain legal language”.

Curiosity: some legal texts *in English* easier to understand than their Spanish counterparts for native speakers of Spanish.

1. General features of legal English

Legal Spanish far less transparent than legal English (I):

EU legislation: actos jurídicos comunitarios.

Prohibition: auto inhibitorio.

Housebreaking: allanamiento de morada.

Damage to rights: vulneración de derechos.

Right of action: legitimación de la demanda.

Reactive: de intervención rogada.

Commencement: incoación.

Failure to appear: declararse en rebeldía.

Abandonment of action: desistimiento.

To create (an offence): tipificar.

Examining judge: juez instructor.

1. General features of legal English

Legal Spanish far less transparent than legal English (II):

To be taken before a magistrate: pasar a disposición judicial.

To be a party to a case: personarse en un juicio.

Courts: órganos jurisdiccionales.

Court officers / officials: personal jurisdiccional.

As a witness: como fedatario.

Employment tribunal: Juzgado de lo Social.

Surviving spouse: cónyuge supérstite.

Rule-making power: potestad reglamentaria.

Case law / judge-made law: jurisprudencia.

Suspect/accused: imputado.

Setting of a date for trial: señalamiento.

Estate of a deceased person: caudal hereditario.

1. General features of legal English

- Latinisms: *nulla poena sine lege*, *res judicata*, *bona fide*, *offence of absconding,* etc.

- Terms of French or Norman origin (1066 invasion): *on parole*, *feme sole*, etc.
  - Suffix –ge: *damages*, *salvage*, *demurrage*, etc.
  - Suffix –or/-er: *debtor, mortgagor, promissor*
  - Suffix –ee: *debtee, mortgagee, promisseee*

Examples of Latinisms

- It was said that the agents had acted ultra vires.
- He represented himself as a bona fide purchaser.
- There were allegations of negligence by the expert acting qua expert.
- Some crimes require proof of both actus reus and mens rea.
- The documents were submitted for in camera inspection by the court.

1. General features of legal English

- Formal register and archaic forms:
  - "This indenture (…) *witnesseth* that …"; "Whereas the party of the first part *witnesseth*…"
  - Compound adverbs: *wherefore* (+/- = accordingly), *hereinafter (___ referred to as…)*, *thereby*, *thereunder (Article 6 thereunder)*, *whereby*, *thereunto,* etc.
  - *Pursuant to, without prejudice to, in accordance with, notwithstanding*, *having regard to*, *in witness whereof,* etc.

1. General features of legal English

- **BUT we *also* have formal register and archaic forms in Spanish:**
  - *Se **constituyó** el funcionario del Servicio en su domicilio, y no hallándole en él se le dejará el presente aviso... [...] Si no concurre a este llamamiento, le **parará** el perjuicio a que hubiere lugar en derecho e incurrirá en periódicas multas, según ley.*
  - *Según certificado que **obra** incorporado al expediente.*
  - ***Vengo en** decretar que…*
  - ***Cúmpleme** comunicarle que…*
  - ***Habida cuenta de** todas las circunstancias…*
  - *Para los efectos civiles, sólo se reputará nacido el feto que tuviere figura humana y **viviere** veinticuatro horas enteramente desprendido del seno materno.*
  - *Por el presente anuncio se hace saber, para conocimiento de las personas a cuyo favor **hubieren derivado o derivaren** derechos del acto administrativo impugnado y de quienes **tuvieren** interés directo en el mantenimiento del mismo, que (...)*

1. General features of legal English

- Redundancy: ‘doublets’, ‘triplets’:

[near-synonyms: anglosaxon + greco-latin]

false and untrue	sole and exclusive
alter and change	mind and memory
null and void	last will and testament

give, devise and bequeath

rest, residue and remainder

order, adjudge and decree

nominate, constitute and appoint

1. General features of legal English

- **Frequency of performative verbs.**

  [The state of affairs expresed by the words comes into being. They commit the speaker to carrying out the actions expressed by the words]

  - *I pronounce you husband and wife.*
  - *I declare this marriage dissolved.*
  - *Both parties to the contract hereby agree to the following conditions …*
  - *I hereby solemnly swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.*
  - *The Court of Appeal so held when dismissing an appeal by the defendant ...*

1. General features of legal English

- Euphemisms:
  - *Detention during Her Majesty's pleasure*: for an indefinite period (e.g. adults found 'not guilty by reason of insanity').
  - *Act of God*: unforeseen natural disaster or calamity attributable to the forces of nature.
  - *Standing mute by visitation of God*: the jury must decide whether the accused is not 'mute of malice' but through some physical or mental impairment of his/her faculties.
  - *A litigation friend (next friend):* disability, underage (minors) or overage.
  - *Shoplifting.*
  - *A McKenzie friend*: sby to help you in court (layman).
  - *Co-respondent*: adulterer in a petition for divorce.

1. General features of legal English

- Abundant use of the passive voice:

  "No person *has been authorized* to give any information or make any representation other than those *contained or incorporated* by reference in this joint proxy statement/prospectus and, if *given or made*, such information or representation *must not be relied upon* as *having been authorized*."

1. General features of legal English

- As with all specialised languages, there is lack of synonymy:
  - *court* NOT the same as *tribunal;*
  - *judgment* NOT the same as *sentence*;
  - *send* NOT the same as *commit* (as in *send for trial* / commit for trial), etc.

1. General features of legal English

- *Legalese*.

A bureaucrat testifying before a Senate Committee:

"It is a tricky problem to find the particular calibration in timing that would be appropriate to stem the acceleration in risk premiums created by falling incomes without prematurely aborting the decline in the inflation-generated premiums."

2. Attitudes towards legal English

- Legalese / “charabia juridique” / Eurospeak / Eurojargon.
- Defenders of legal language:
  - Guarantee
  - Dynamism
  - Parallel language
- Defenders of ordinary (plain) language:
  - Obscurity
  - Accessibility
- Plain English Campaign / Plain English Movement (www.plainenglish.co.uk) / *Fight the FOG.* Legal-Ease (*legalese*): http://www.legalenglish.com/dictionary.html.
- Simply Stated.

2. Attitudes towards legal English

- Recent changes in Great Britain:

affidavit ---------- statement of truth

writ of summons ----- claim form

plaintiff ---------- claimant

discovery ---------- disclosure

- However, most forms and many terms still in use outside England and Wales (e.g. terms in AmE, such as ‘felony’ (serious crime), ‘misdemeanours’ (minor offences), etc.).

3. The syntax of legal English

- **Complicated syntax & unusually long sentences:**

> "The Chief Land Registrar shall, where the dwelling-house with respect to which the right to buy is a registered land, supply him, if so requested by the Secretary of State, with an office copy of any document required by the State Secretary on payment of the appropriate fee."

3. The syntax of legal English

- **Very complicated syntax with subordination (Education Act 2005):**

(2) For the purposes of the exercise of any function conferred by or under section 2, the Chief Inspector has at all reasonable times—

(a) a right of entry to any premises (other than school premises) on which, by virtue of arrangements made by a school in England, any pupils who—

(i) are registered at the school, and

(ii) have attained the age of 15, or will attain that age in the current school year, but have not ceased to be of compulsory school age, are provided with part of their education by any person ("the provider"),

(b) a right of entry to any premises of the provider used in connection with the provision by him of that education, and

(c) a right to inspect and take copies of—

(i) any records kept by the provider relating to the provision of that education, and

(ii) any other documents containing information so relating,

which the Chief Inspector requires for those purposes.

3. The syntax of legal English

- **BUT we also have a very complicated syntax in Spanish ➔ strange as it may seem, we are in a better position than the average native speaker of English:**

EXAMPLE 1 (not too bad)

Artículo 5.

1. La renta familiar a efectos de beca se obtendrá por agregación de las rentas del ejercicio 2004 de cada uno de los miembros computables de la familia que obtengan ingresos de cualquier naturaleza calculadas según se indica en los párrafos siguientes y de conformidad con la normativa reguladora del Impuesto sobre la Renta de las Personas Físicas y otras Normas Tributarias en la redacción dada por la Ley 46/2002. En todo caso, se excluirán los saldos negativos de ganancias y pérdidas patrimoniales correspondientes a ejercicios anteriores.

3. The syntax of legal English

EXAMPLE 2 (!!!!!!)

A los efectos previstos en el artículo 59.4 de la Ley 30/92, de Régimen Jurídico de las Administraciones Públicas del Procedimiento Administrativo Común, se notifica a Gráficas Badajoz, S.L., con último domicilio conocido en Araucaria, 6, de Badajoz, la Resolución de esta Dirección Provincial de fecha 16 de diciembre de 2002, por la que resuelve declarar sin efecto el aplazamiento (06/05/133/01-E), que le fue concedido y, en consecuencia, de conformidad con lo previsto en el artículo 43 del Real Decreto 1.637/1995, de 6-10-95, por el que se aprueba el Reglamento General de Recaudación de los Recursos del Sistema de la Seguridad Social (B.O.E. del 24), y en el artículo 27.2 de su Orden de desarrollo, de 26- 5-99 (B.O.E. del 4-6-99), proceder a la reclamación de la deuda aplazada y no pagada, así como a los intereses devengados y recargos en que se hubiere incurrido o, en su caso, a proseguir el procedimiento recaudatorio en la fase en que por la concesión del aplazamiento se hubiere suspendido.

ENGLISH IS A SYNTHETIC LANGUAGE, SPANISH IS A PARENTHETIC LANGUAGE

3. The syntax of legal English

ENGLISH IS A SYNTHETIC LANGUAGE, SPANISH IS A PARENTHETIC LANGUAGE:

Fatal accidents: accidentes con resultado de muerte.

Motoring offences: infracciones del Código de Circulación.

Insanity: tener perturbadas las facultades mentales.

Attachment lien: derecho de prioridad del acreedor embargante.

Legal address: domicilio a efectos legales.

Originating summons: citación para la incoación de un proceso.

3. The syntax of legal English

- **Abundant conjunctions:**

  - He said that the time had come for him to guarantee the future of himself and his family if, as and when he decided to withdraw from public life.

  - When and so long as such parties were in the throes of negotiating larger terms …

3. The syntax of legal English

- **Careful with "double prepositions". In Spanish prepositions cannot be left by themselves.**

  - La crisis se deriva de y está motivada por la inflación.

  - El derecho común inglés procede de y está relacionado con la costumbre.

4. The vocabulary of legal English

- Higher frequency of vocabulary with Greco-Latin roots than in general English (typical of specialised texts),

BUT AT THE SAME TIME…

- a lot of vocabulary with anglosaxon roots (typical of everyday discourse or colloquial texts) in legal texts of a more economic nature.

4. The vocabulary of legal English

- Vocabulary with Greco-Latin roots in English: very formal (compare tabloid vocabulary with broad sheet newspapers). PHRASAL VERBS (see next page)
- Everyday vocabulary in English: anglosaxon root.

Examples:

teenager / adolescent

speed / velocity

yearly / annually

near / adjacent

spare / superfluous

blame / culpability

4. The vocabulary of legal English

Examples:

put off / postpone

look into / investigate

look up to / admire

turn down / decline (or reject)

look down on / despise

run over / examine

go back / return

get away / escape

break out / appear, commence

make out / distinguish, recognize

make up for / compensate

4. The vocabulary of legal English

Example of text with Greco-Latin root vocabulary:

The limitations period in the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996 (AEDPA) requires a person in custody pursuant to the judgment of a State court to file an application for a writ of habeas corpus within one year of the date on which the judgment became final (8 U. S. C. §2244(d)(1)(A). This case raises the question whether a Texas order of deferred adjudication probation is a judgment under the statute. In essence, a deferred adjudication probation order places a defendant on probation while postponing any adjudication of guilt. See Tex. Code Crim. Proc. Ann., Art. 42.12, §5 (Vernon 2006 Supp. Pamphlet). If the defendant successfully completes the terms of his probation, the charges against him are dismissed, §5(c); if he violates those terms, he is found guilty and sentenced.

3. The syntax of legal English

Example of text with Anglo-Saxon root vocabulary:

(2) Where the assignment is by the tenant under the tenancy, then as from the assignment the assignee—

(a) becomes bound by the tenant covenants of the tenancy except to the extent that—

(i) immediately before the assignment they did not bind the assignor, or

(ii) they fail to be complied with in relation to any demised premises not comprised in the assignment; and

(b) becomes entitled to the benefit of the landlord covenants of the tenancy except to the extent that they fall to be complied with in relation to any such premises.

4. The vocabulary of legal English

- Technical vocabulary:

  - tort, remand, abscond, impugn, mortgage, demurrage, negligent, commital, demurrage, executrix, warrant, penalty, tenancy, premises, lessee, jurisdiction, etc.

- Everyday vocabulary:

  heading, office, rule, employer, wages, worker, etc.

4. The vocabulary of legal English

- Semitechnical vocabulary (I)

  Words and phrases from common stock that have acquired additional meanings in legal contexts.

  [*alimentos*, *evacuar (un informe)*, *instruir*, *interesar, levantar (acta), significar (a alguien algo), reconvención*]

  - The testator died without issue (=offspring, children).
  - The parties could not agree on the issue (=question)
  - The issue of the passport was by the Lewes office (=giving out)
  - Parties must wait for process to issue from the court (=be served)

4. The vocabulary of legal English

- **Semitechnical vocabulary:**

  - **discharge**[1] (gral/merc descarga; descargar ◊ *The cargo was discharged within 48 hours of the ship's arrival at the port*; V. *unload, empty*).
  - **discharge**[2] (gral/penal disparar, descargar [un arma] ◊ *He discharged his pistol*; V. *shoot, fire*).
  - **discharge**[3] (civil/merc extinción o anulación de un contrato; anular, resolver o extinguir un contrato ◊ *The contract will be deemed to be discharged if any of these conditions are not satisfied*; V. *termination; terminate, repudiate*).
  - **discharge**[4] (proc anular; esta acepción es similar a la anterior, aunque el contexto en este caso es el procesal o de los tribunales ◊ *The freezing injunction was discharged on appeal*; V. *set aside, annul*).
  - **discharge**[5] (laboral/merc/civil finiquito, cancelación, pago; satisfacer, pagar; suele ir acompañado de *debt* o *promise* ◊ *The defendant asked the court to strike out the debt on the ground that it had been discharged*; V. *arrangement; pay, settle*).
  - **discharge**[6] (gral despido; despedir ◊ *He sometimes discharges his employees on the phone*; V. *dismiss, dismissal*).
  - **discharge**[7] (gral dar de baja en el ejército, etc. ◊ *He was discharged from the army*; V. *dismiss, dismissal*).
  - **discharge**[8] (gral dar de baja [de un hospital] ◊ *He was discharged from the hospital*; V. *dismiss, dismissal*).
  - **discharge**[9] (penal perdón o absolución al condenado por algún delito, exoneración, exención; absolver, exonerar, dispensar, liberar, poner en libertad; en este caso es sinónimo parcial de *exonerate, exculpate, acquit* y antónimo de *charge* "acusar"). *Conditional discharge* es un beneficio penitenciario.
  - **discharge**[10] (civil/merc rehabilitación, descargo; rehabilitación del fallido o quebrado; rehabilitar ◊ *Bankruptcy is terminated when the court makes an order of discharge in bankruptcy*).
  - **discharge**[11] (admin/gral cumplimiento [de las funciones] ◊ *It was done in the discharge of his duties in the planning authority office*; V. *perform, performance*).

4. The vocabulary of legal English

- Semitechnical vocabulary in Spanish:

1. Acordar:

Gen.: Llegar a un acuerdo (convenir en algo): “se acordó reanudar las conversaciones”.

Legal: Determinar o resolver una sola persona: “he resuelto acordar la expulsión”.

2. Asistir:

Gen.: (1) Ir a (una reunión). (2) Ayudar (a alguien).

Legal: Tener derecho: “haciéndole saber el derecho que le asiste”

3. Extender:

Gen.: (1) Alargar (la mano). (2) Abrir (una sábana). (3) Rociar de algo (crema). (4) Ampliar (un plazo).

Legal: dar forma escrita a un documento; redactar, otorgar: “poder notarial extendido en...”.

4. Librar:

Gen.: (1) Quitar (responsabilidad: “te libré de una buena”). (2) Llevar a cabo (una batalla, una pelea). (3) estar libre (“libro los martes”).

Legal: Expedir una certificación u otro documento administrativo: “y para que conste y surta los efectos oportunos, libro la presente certificación…”

3. The syntax of legal English

- **English is EXTREMELY tolerant of lexical repetition (‘*she sighed a little sigh’*):**

The SEC has reinforced the insider trading restrictions with promulgation of Rule 14e-3 of the SEC, an independent provision prohibiting insider trading in connection with tender offers. Congress has further reinforced these trading restrictions by providing the SEC with the power to seek a treble penalty under the Insider Trading Sanctions Act of 1984 (ITSA). This legislation empowers the SEC to base enforcement actions on any recognized theory of insider trading restriction.

IN SPANISH LEXICAL REPETITION IS CONSIDERED A VERY POOR STYLE ➔ AVOIDANCE OF REPETITION AT ANY COST (=ambiguity, e.g. “su”)

4. The vocabulary of legal English

- Cognates / false friends(*preservatives, constipation*): ***case***
  - The case was a particularly complex one (*caso, asunto*)
  - There is no case to answer (*la acusación carece de fundamento*)
  - The case for the defence (*versión de los hechos, tesis*)
  - The case was heard in the High Court (*causa, asunto*)
  - Present a strong case (*argumentos sólidos o poderosos*)
  - Win/lose one's case (*juicio, pleito*)
  - The case dragged on for months (*proceso*)
  - Case law (*repertorio de] jurisprudencia*)
  - Appeal by way of case stated" (*argumentos jurídicamente motivados*).

4. The vocabulary of legal English

- Cognates: process, proceedings, procedure

  (a) “an abuse of the process of the court”.

  (b) “in due process of law”.

  (c) “serve proceedings”.

  (d) “bring proceedings against a party”.

  (e) “stage of proceedings”.

  (f) “stay proceedings”.

  (g) “a record of proceedings”.

  (h) “rules of procedure”

  (i) “correct procedure.

4. The vocabulary of legal English

FREQUENT LEGAL FALSE FRIENDS

- **Legislature**: legislative power (Spanish "legislatura"= *term of office* or *life of Parliament*).
- **Magistrate**: lay judge (Spanish "magistrado"= *higher rank judge*).
- **Sentence**: punishment imposed after verdict (= "condena, pena, castigo"). E.g. acquittal / conviction.
- **Prorrogue**: to put off, to postpone (NOT t*o extend* as in Spanish).
- **Statutory**: NOT *compulsory* BUT "legislado".
- **Affirmation**: NOT "afirmación" BUT "promesa solemne" (witnesses: on oath or by affirmation).

4. The vocabulary of legal English

- **POLYSEMY**
  - ***absolute*** (definitivo, categórico, final, firme, inapelable – *absolute acceptance*: aceptación completa; *absolute divorce:* divorcio firme);
  - ***qualified*** (preparado, profesional / condicional, limitado – *qualified judge*: juez de carrera / *qualified acceptance*: aceptación limitada / *qualified date:* fecha límite*);*
  - ***constructive*** (constructivo; equivalente, inferido, sobreentendido – *constructive dismissal* – no ha habido despido por pte. de la empresa, pero como si lo hubiera habido);
  - ***actual*** (antónimo del anterior) (real, efectivo, expreso – *actual dismissal / actual assets, etc*).
  - ***defence*** (defensa; contestación a la demanda; eximente)
  - ***articles*** (período de prácticas –*serve articles*-; sección de una ley)
  - ***consideration*** (*take into consideration;* prestación contractual)

4. The vocabulary of legal English

- Anisomorphisms
  - *statutory*: recogido en una ley o *act*
  - *legal (< law):* opuesto a *illegal*
  - *lawful* (<*law*): de pleno derecho; atiende más al fondo ético de la ley, la costumbre o el Derecho
  - "legal": marco legal (*statutory*).
  - "jurídico": relacionado con el derecho en sentido amplio (*el inglés jurídico*)
- ➢ Tricky translations: *legal*
  - legal English
  - the legal profession
  - legal action
  - legal advice
  - the legal department
  - the legal owner
  - a legal nullity

4. The vocabulary of legal English

- Lexical collocations

  - **Act**

    As object of verbs:

    - introduce an Act (*promulgar una ley*)[1]
    - repeal an Act (*derogar una ley*)
    - enforce an Act (*hacer cumplir una ley, velar por su cumplimiento*)

    As subject of verbs:

    - an Act provides (*una ley dispone*)
    - an Act establishes (*una ley determina*)
    - an Act abolishes (*una ley deroga*)
    - an Act consolidates (una ley consolida o refunde)

  - **Appeal**

    As noun

    - bring an appeal (*interponer un recurso*)
    - lodge an appeal (*interponer un recurso*)
    - allow an appeal (*estimar un recurso*)
    - dismiss an appeal (*desestimar un recurso*)

    *As verb (*AmE= “appeal” transitive, e.g. “appeal a decision, appeal a sentence”).

    - appeal against a decision/judgment/sentence, etc (*recurrir una resolución/un fallo/una sentencia/una condena, etc*)
    - grant leave to appeal (*admitir a trámite un recurso*)
    - refuse leave to appeal (*inadmitir un recurso, no admitirlo a trámite*)

    Prepositional phrase

    - on appeal (*en la instancia de apelación, a raíz del [oportuno] recurso, tras la interposición de un recurso*)

4. The vocabulary of legal English

- **Judgment**
  - give judgment (fallar, resolver, dictar sentencia, pronunciar el fallo)
  - judgment agsinst the plaintiff (fallo condenatorio)
  - judgment for the defendant (fallo absolutorio)
  - default judgment (fallo condenatorio por incomparecencia del demandado)
  - deferred judgment (sentencia dictada tras un intervalo discrecional para deliberación)
- **Witness**

  Adjectival phrases:
  - casual witness (testigo fortuito)
  - key witness (testigo clave)
  - character witness (testigo de solvencia moral)
  - chief witness (testigo principal)
  - compellable witness (testigo forzoso, persona legalmente obligada a prestar declaración)
  - Crown witness/witness for the prosecution (testigo de cargo)
  - defence witness/witness for the defence (testigo de descargo)
  - eyewitness (testigo ocular/presencial)
  - witness statement (testimonio, declaración)

  As verb:
  - witness a will (firmar un testamento como testigo)

4. The vocabulary of judges

ser (*can be*) ...; tener fama de (*have the reputation of*) ...; pasar por (*pass for*) ...; ser tenidos por (*be taken as*)...

abiertos (*open-minded*).
accesibles (*approachable / accessible*).
arbitrarios (*arbitrary*).
buen juicio, de (*sensible*).
cautos (*careful, cautious*).
comedidos (*moderate*).
comprensivos (*understanding*).
corruptos (*corrupt*).
cumplidores (*reliable*).
depravados (*depraved, morally corrupt*).
déspotas (*despotic*).
dignos (*honourable*).
distantes (*aloof, distant*).
ecuánime (*even-tempered*).
equilibrados (*well-balanced*).
equitativos (*fair, equitable*).
frívolos (*frivolous*).
honestos, honrados (*honest*).
imparciales (*impartial*).
implacables (*implacable*).
imprudentes (*imprudent*).
incorruptibles (*incorruptible*).
indignos (*unworthy*).
indiscretos (*indiscreet*).
injustos (*unfair*).
insensatos (*foolish, senseless*).
insobornables (*incorruptible*).
intachables (*impeccable, irreproachable, unimpeachable*).
íntegros (*upright*).
intransigentes (*intransigent*).
intratables (*impossible*).
justicieros (*avenging*).
justos (*just, fair, equitable*)
liberales (*open-minded, liberal*).
mesurados,moderados (*moderate, restrained*).
objetivos (*objective*).
parciales (*partial*).
ponderados (*balanced*).
precavidos (*cautious*).
prevaricadores (*corrupt, deliberately biassed/biased*).
probos (*righteous*).
prudentes (*prudent*).
razonables (*reasonable, fair*).
rectos (*upright*).
reservados (*reserved*).
rígidos (*over-strict*).
rigurosos (*strict*).
sensatos (*sensible*).
severos (*severe*).
sobrios (*sober, moderate*).
tolerantes (*tolerant*).
venales (*venal*).

4. The vocabulary of judges

The main function of judges is to ‘decide’:

administrar justicia (*administer justice*).
citar ante la justicia (*summon before a court*).
declarar ante la justicia (*give evidence in court*).
deponer ante la justicia (*make a statement, give evidence, testify*).
falsear la justicia (*pervert the course of justice*).
hacer justicia (*do justice*).
hacer caer el peso de la justicia (*bring the full weight of the law to bear*).
huir de la justicia (*escape from justice, abscond*).
manipular la justicia (*manipulate the law for one’s ends*).
obrar/proceder en justicia (*proceed in accordance with the law, act in due form of law*).
pedir justicia (*ask for/seek justice*).
poner a disposición de la justicia (*bring to justice, bring before a court*).
recurrir a la justicia (*have recourse to law, go to law*).
ser de justicia (*be fair/right*)
sustraerse a la acción de la justicia (*abscond, jump bail, fail to surrender to custody*).
tomarse la justicia por sus manos (*take the law into one's own hands*).

Before a court, citizens may:

apelar (*appeal*).
declarar (*testify, give evidence*).
deponer (*depose*).
manifestar (*declare, state*).
recurrir (*appeal*).
suplicar (*petition*).