

## Vocabuilder: The Legal System

### VOCAB LIST: People in the Court

**sus'pect (n.)** – the person who the police think is guilty

**suspect' (v.)** – to think or have a strong feeling that someone is guilty

*Jason is the main suspect in the police's murder investigation.*

*The police suspect Jason is the person who murdered the woman.*

**lawyer (AmE = attorney; BrE = solicitor)** – a person who studies the law and argues in court

*I need to get a good lawyer because I am the main suspect in the police's criminal investigation. Hopefully, my lawyer can keep me out of jail.*

**prosecutor** – the lawyer who works for the government and argues for the people

**defense attorney** – the lawyer who works for the defendant

**defendant (also: accused)** – when suspects are in court, they are called “defendants” or “the accused”

*The defense attorney argued that the defendant was innocent, but the prosecutor argued that the defendant was guilty.*

**judge (BrE = magistrate)** – the person in court who makes the decisions

*The judge ruled that the defendant was guilty and should go to jail.*

**jury** – the group of people (usually 12 people) who decide if a defendant is guilty or innocent

*The jury found that the defendant was “guilty”, and he was sentenced to 20 years in prison.*

**witness** – a person who sees a crime happen, or a person who has information that can be used in court

*The witness said that he saw Jason murder the woman.*

**criminal** - a person who has broken the law

*It is a prosecutor's job to try to send criminals to jail. It is a defense attorney's job to represent and defend criminals.*

**victim** - a person who is hurt or killed by someone/something else

*The prosecutor argued that the defendant murdered the victim for money.*

## Vocabuilder: The Legal System

### VOCAB REVIEW: People in the Court

*Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the list on the previous page.*

The main \_\_\_\_\_ in the murder of 21 year-old Jenny Page appeared in court today. His name is Jason Black, and standing next to him was his \_\_\_\_\_, who argued that Mr. Black was not guilty because he was at work when the \_\_\_\_\_ was killed. However, according to the \_\_\_\_\_, there are no \_\_\_\_\_ who can testify that they saw Mr. Black at work. Therefore, the prosecutor argues that Mr. Black is guilty and he is a dangerous \_\_\_\_\_ who should be sent to prison. The 12 people on the \_\_\_\_\_ have listened to the two lawyers' arguments and considered the evidence, and they have heard the instructions from the \_\_\_\_\_. Now, they must go deliberate and decide if Jason Black is guilty or innocent.

#### **Additional Vocabulary:**

**court (n.)** – the place where lawyers argue and judges or a jury make decisions

*My lawyer told me to arrive at court at 9:00 tomorrow morning.*

**guilty (adj.)** – responsible for doing something wrong

**innocent (adj.)** – not responsible for doing something wrong

*The jury must decide whether the defendant is guilty or innocent.*

**testify (v.)** – when a witnesses provides information in a court

*The witness testified that she saw the defendant at the victim's house on the night of the murder.*

**prison (n.)** – a place for criminals who are found guilty

*After the jury found him guilty, the criminal went to prison for 5 years.*

**evidence (n.)** – proof; information that shows the truth about what happened

*The jury decided that the defendant was not guilty because there was not enough evidence.*

**deliberate (v.)** – when a jury discusses the evidence and tries to reach a decision

*The jury had to deliberate for three days before they were finally able to agree that the defendant was guilty.*