



Podcast Episode 89 Vocabulary Lists

Collocations

Collocations & Phrases	Definition	Example
To progress through the ranks (collocation)	Work one's way to the top.	The lawyer progressed through the ranks to become senior partner.
A wide range of something (phrase)	A lot of things which are different to each other.	Intellectual property law involves a wide range of areas such as copyright, patent, and trademark law.
To put someone's needs first/second. (phrase)	Prioritising someone else's needs over one's own.	Lawyers put their client's needs before their own.
To resolve a matter (phrase)	To settle or determine the outcome of a matter.	The matter was resolved in favour of the applicant.
To bring in business (collocation)	To introduce new clients to the law firm's services.	The lawyer had an ability to bring in business.
To secure clients (phrase)	To find clients.	The purpose of the meeting was to secure the client.
To meet a deadline (phrase)	The latest date by which something should be completed.	The deadline for accepting the offer is tomorrow.
To serve a client (phrase)	To work for and assist the client.	The law firm serves clients in the energy industry.
To meet someone's billable targets (phrase)	To meet the required threshold of hours worked which can then be charged to a client.	The junior lawyer exceeded their billable targets.
To gain an understanding of something (phrase)	To gain knowledge of something	By participating in note-taking during meetings, the junior lawyer gained an understanding of the matter.
An attractive remuneration package (phrase)	A good salary and benefits.	Our firm offers trainees an attractive remuneration package.
Someone is expected to put in the hours (collocation)	Refers to the expectation that someone will do the hard work.	At the beginning of their career, lawyers are expected to put in the hours.

Prepositions

Prepositions	Definition	Example
To work (under) pressure	To work with constraints such as time, budget or lack of knowledge.	Resource constraints forced the lawyers to work under pressure.
To work (in) an industry	To work in a particular field.	My client works in the construction industry.
To specialise (in) an area of law	To attain a particular level of expertise in a certain area.	I specialise in commercial law.



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To work (with) people	To engage in a particular task with a person or people, usually in a professional setting.	I am working on this project with my colleagues Sarah and John.
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Vocabulary

Vocabulary	Definition	Example
To outsource (verb)	To contract out part of the work to another person or company.	Legal research is commonly outsourced by law firms to experienced barristers.
In-house (adjective, adverb)	Activity conducted within a company.	In-house lawyers are fully involved in the details and operation of the business which they serve.
Private practice (noun, adjective)	A professional business which is not owned or paid for by the government or a company.	It is usual for lawyers to spend a few years working for a company or the government before opening up their own private practice.
Law firm (noun)	A firm engaged in the provision of legal services.	There are many different types of law firms.
Pigeon-holed (verb)	To place in a particular category.	Commercial law firms tend to pigeon-hole their lawyers into one, particular area of law.
Lucrative (adjective)	Something which is profitable and produces a high income.	Working in a top-tier law firm is a lucrative career.
The grind (noun)	A colloquial phrase for hard work on a daily basis.	Becoming self-employed allowed the lawyer to escape the daily grind.
Work-life balance (noun)	The optimal division of time between work and leisure.	More and more lawyers are prioritising work-life balance when choosing which law firm to work at.
Driving force (noun)	The motivation or energy behind something.	The quest for justice was the driving force behind the student's decision to study law.
To go wrong (verb)	To make a mistake.	The client always blamed his legal team whenever something went wrong.
Fixed-fee (noun)	A set price which is paid for work or a service.	Modern law firms now charge a fixed-fee for their service.
Billables (adjective)	Hours which are chargeable.	The lawyer met their billables for the month.
Business acumen (noun)	An ability to make good judgements concerning business matters.	The lawyer was known for her keen business acumen in matters of commercial dispute.
Counsel (noun)	A legal adviser such as a lawyer or barrister.	Counsel for the defence was experienced in litigation.
Junior counsel (noun)	A barrister who is lower in rank than the Queen's Counsel (QC) and who plead outside the bar.	She was junior counsel to the QC in that case.
To lack (verb)	To miss.	The junior lawyer had solid knowledge but lacked experience.



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Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) (noun)	A partnership in which the partners have limited liabilities. If the partnership fails, creditors cannot get a hold of the partner's personal assets.	Law firms commonly choose a limited liability partnership structure for their business.
Trainee solicitor (noun)	A person training to be a solicitor by working at a law firm.	She is currently a trainee solicitor but will soon qualify to become a lawyer.