

TRANSCRIPT



SLE Podcast Episode 84

My Trip to Gray's Inn (Vlog)

Get \$10 USD in italki credits to study languages online with your first lesson purchase:

go.italki.com/studylegalenglish *(affiliate link). Try it out! ☺

INTRO

[00:00:00] You're listening to the Study Legal English Podcast, helping lawyers and law students become fluent in Legal English.

[00:00:09] For more information visit studylegalenglish.com.

INTRODUCTION

[00:00:19] LOUISE: Hello and welcome to episode 84 of the Study Legal English Podcast.

[00:00:25] I'm your host Louise and today I've got something all about a confusing topic which students often ask me about and that is - barristers.

[00:00:34] In this episode we listen to a recording of a vlog I made over the summer and in that particular video

[00:00:42] which you can find on YouTube at www.youtube.com/studylegalenglish you can see my visit to an Inn of Court

[00:00:51] in which I talk about Inns of Court and barristers.

[00:00:55] So, here we're listening to that recording and in this recording I answer some of these questions: What are Inns of Courts? What is a barrister? How do you become a barrister?

[00:01:08] What is the difference between barristers and solicitors? Where do they work? And so on.

[00:01:15] Now, I recorded this video back in June and it was a lovely sunny day and then just as I started to,

[00:01:23] press record on my camera, it started to rain!

[00:01:27] If any of you live in London or perhaps you've visited London, you know

TRANSCRIPT

[00:01:33] that the weather in England is very changeable and it is not a bad idea to pack an umbrella with you, even in the summer months! Anyway, I hadn't packed an umbrella, so, thankfully the rain on my vlogging day

[00:01:47] stopped just as quickly as it had started, so I was able to record the video without getting soaking wet!

[00:01:55] So, before we listen to the recording I must mention that I got permission to video in Gray's Inn and I'm very grateful for that,

[00:02:03] however, this podcast episode and the video on YouTube are not endorsed by Gray's Inn.

[00:02:10] I'd also like to say that after you listen to the podcast head over to the YouTube channel and

[00:02:16] you'll find this video called 'My Visit to Gray's Inn' and it's worth watching as you'll actually get to see what a really cool place it is.

[00:02:25] Really, you wouldn't believe that these kinds of places exist in central London! The Inns of Courts are

[00:02:33] truly magical places and so very typically English. If you visit London, I recommend taking a bit of time out to visit them, you will not be disappointed.

QUESTION FOR LISTENERS

[00:02:45] I also have a question for you: In England and Wales we distinguish between barristers and solicitors, in your country is there a distinction between different types of lawyers?

[00:02:57] Let me know, send me an email to Louise@studylegalenglish.com or

[00:03:02] join in the conversation on social media, you can find me on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, by searching for 'study legal English' or 'Legalenglisher'

[00:03:13] that is 'Legal English' and then with the letters 'e'r on the end. So, now, let's listen to that recording!

[00:03:21] I'm here in the legal heart of London.

[00:03:25] Just a stone's throw away from the Law Society and a short walk from the Royal Courts of Justice and

[00:03:33] the Old Bailey - the Central Criminal Court.

[00:03:38] Why? Well, because today I am going to talk to you a little bit about the Inns of Court and actually visit one in particular.

TRANSCRIPT

[00:03:46] So, let's go!

WHAT ARE THE INNS OF COURT?

[00:03:53] There are four Inns of Court: The Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn, The Honourable Society of Inner Temple,

[00:04:03] The Honourable Society of Middle Temple, and the Honourable Society of Gray's Inn.

[00:04:11] Today, I'm here at Gray's Inn. Now, the Inns of Courts date back

[00:04:17] for centuries, they have been around for a very long time, but their role has of course changed over the years.

[00:04:27] Today they are membership and educational bodies which provide training and support to their members and students.

[00:04:38] If you visit an Inn of Court, you'll probably see a lot of people walking around and many of them will be barristers.

[00:04:45] But how do you become a barrister and what exactly are they?

HOW DO YOU BECOME A BARRISTER?

[00:04:53] To become a barrister, there are several stages of training to undertake.

[00:04:59] First of all, you must carry out a Law degree or a Graduate Diploma in Law a GDL.

[00:05:07] Next, all students who hope to become barristers must join an Inn of Court before commencing the next stage of their training.

[00:05:16] The next stage, is to complete the Bar Professional Training Course or BPTC for short.

[00:05:24] Successful students who pass examinations and complete this stage will then be called to the bar

[00:05:32] by an Inn of Court. The Inns of Court have the exclusive right to call their members to the bar.

[00:05:41] And they do this when the members have successfully completed all the examinations for a career at the bar,

[00:05:48] however, upon being called to the Bar there is still another requirement.

[00:05:54] Ones who successfully complete the BPTC must secure and complete a pupillage. This is a probationary stage in which they must work for 12 months in chambers,

TRANSCRIPT

[00:06:09] under supervision, before they can become fully fledged barristers. And when student members, when trainee barristers, undertake this pupillage, they are known as pupils.

WHAT ARE BARRISTERS?

[00:06:23] Well, in the UK, we do have a distinction between barristers and solicitors - the two types of lawyers.

[00:06:34] The traditional distinction is that barristers practise advocacy in court

[00:06:40] whereas solicitors carry out more transactional matters outside of court.

[00:06:47] However, nowadays the distinction is not quite as clear-cut,

[00:06:51] because in fact, solicitors have rights of audience in the lower courts and they can also exercise these rights in the higher courts once they comply with particular assessment requirements.

[00:07:06] Another distinction could be that barristers work in chambers.

[00:07:12] Chambers are what we call the offices where self-employed barristers work and they are located in the respective Inns of Courts. So, here we do find many sets of chambers.

[00:07:25] On the other hand, solicitors generally work in law firms and a common business structure of law firms is a limited liability partnership or

[00:07:36] LLP for short.

[00:07:38] However, this again, is also not so clear-cut because many barristers are actually employed - they work for organisations or bodies or institutions such as the [00:07:51] Crown Prosecution Service.

[00:07:55] On the other hand, solicitors also don't always work for law firms. They can carry out a range of activities and work for a range of organisations, for example, many work in-house for companies.

WHAT CAN WE FIND AT AN INN OF COURT?

[00:08:14] So, first of all, as I've already mentioned, we find chambers here, the barristers' offices, or sets of chambers.

[00:08:24] We also find some administrative buildings, where the Inns of Courts have their official offices.

[00:08:31] And we may also find a bar, now by bar, I don't mean the legal term - 'Bar' relating to the

TRANSCRIPT

[00:08:40] legal profession of barristers as a whole, but rather the general English term

-

[00:08:46] the 'bar' where you go for a drink after a hard day's litigation! So, here at Gray's Inn, there is a private bar for students,

[00:08:56] members, and benchers, and a bencher means a senior member who has been elected to be involved in the running of the Inn.

[00:09:07] There is normally a large dining hall where barristers, and members, and students, can of course eat and attend formal events.

[00:09:17] There is also normally a library for members and students, and as well as that, sometimes we find residential properties,

[00:09:27] where barristers actually live. So, that's about the Inns in general, what about this particular Inn of Court?

WHAT CAN I SEE AT GRAY'S INN?

[00:09:40] Well, this particular Inn of Court is the smallest of all the Inns of Court, and I am told that apparently it's very friendly here, it's got a very nice,

[00:09:53] atmosphere, it's supposedly the friendliest of all the Inns of Courts. And students, pupils, and barristers, all receive quite a lot of support here, there are a lot of scholarships available for pupil barristers.

[00:10:08] Historically it's had some really big legal names who have been members here.

[00:10:15] And even still today, there are lots of big names, lots of big players, in the legal field who are currently members here.

[00:10:25] Past and present members include many High Court judges

[00:10:31] and former Lord Chief Justice John Thomas. Currently Baroness Hale, the UK's first female president of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom is a bencher here.

WHAT ARE SOME STORIES FROM GRAY'S INN?

[00:10:50] So some interesting stories to tell - firstly, Charles Dickens, way back in the 19th century, way back when he was about 15 years old,

[00:11:00] was actually a clerk in one of the chambers here. So, here behind me, there is a building which is both a working chapel on the one side and then on the

[00:11:12] other side,

TRANSCRIPT

[00:11:14] it is a dining hall, it's Gray's Inn Hall. And inside there are a number of rooms which are available for functions, Inn functions and for private hire. So, if you have a very

[00:11:27] special event coming up where you need an extra special venue then

[00:11:34] I think you've got it right here! I think it would be pretty cool to have an event here! What do you think?

[00:11:41] I'm just going to go around to the other side and talk a little bit about this particular building. So, here behind me is Gray's Inn Hall.

[00:11:50] And here, way back in the 16th century, Shakespeare's Comedy of Errors, his great comedic play

[00:11:59] actually premiered here,

[00:12:01] that means that it was put on for the first time. So, it's not too much of a stretch of the imagination, to imagine

[00:12:09] what it would have been like back in the days when Charles Dickens was walking around,

[00:12:15] or even when Shakespeare was walking around here, because really when you come to an Inn of Court,

[00:12:22] it is a bit like stepping back in time. However, I must say that these buildings could fool you because many of

[00:12:31] them aren't actually that old. Gray's Inn for example, was heavily bombed during World War II, during the Blitz, and in fact many of the buildings here were built after World War II.

WHAT OTHER THINGS CAN I SEE?

[00:12:43] So, here I'm stood next to a 19th century watering pump.

[00:12:53] Which basically means that in the olden days when we didn't have taps to bring us water,

[00:13:00] we instead used these watering pumps. You'd have to go and collect your water from a pump just like this pump here.

[00:13:10] Now, I don't know about you, but I'm very happy that we do have taps nowadays and I certainly wouldn't want to

[00:13:17] be stood out here in the cold winter months, queuing to collect my water, before a hard day ahead at court!

[00:13:26] What do you think?

TRANSCRIPT

[00:13:34] And finally, one other thing worth pointing out which you can kind of see behind me just there, and I'll zoom in in a minute,

[00:13:38] it's the griffin. The griffin is the symbol of Gray's Inn and a griffin combines the courageousness of the

[00:13:49] the lion with the boldness of the eagle. I'm sure this is very apt for all

[00:13:54] Gray's Inn members, who I'm sure are very brave and bright people.

[00:14:00] And once you know that the griffin is the symbol of Gray's Inn, you start to see it literally everywhere!

ENDING

[00:14:10] Great! So, that's the end of that recording.

[00:14:13] I hope you found this episode helpful and you've learnt some Legal English vocabulary. I hope now the distinction between barrister and solicitor is a bit clearer and you understand the role of a barrister bit better

[00:14:26] and perhaps you're now curious to visit an Inn of Court. One thing I'd like to mention briefly is that

[00:14:33] if you are already a qualified lawyer in a different jurisdiction, you can become a barrister or solicitor in the jurisdiction of England and Wales. If you want to become a barrister you must apply to the Bar Standards Board of England and Wales and you will likely have to take the Bar Transfer Test.

[00:14:53] If, on the other hand, you want to become a solicitor,

[00:14:55] then you can qualify via the Qualified Lawyers Transfer Scheme known as QLTS for short and this means that you have to study and take a series of assessments.

[00:15:08] So, these are some things for you to bear in mind, as becoming a barrister or solicitor in England and Wales would certainly be an attractive addition to your CV and would make you a truly international lawyer.

[00:15:21] Before I go. don't forget to check out this video over on YouTube -

[00:15:25] www.youtube.com/studylegalenglish and send me an answer to my question, I will remind you of the question, it is:

[00:15:35] In England and Wales we distinguish between barristers and solicitors, in your country is there a distinction between different types of lawyers?

[00:15:43] Send me an email to Louise@studylegalenglish.com or join in the conversation on social media, just search for 'legalenglisher'.

TRANSCRIPT

[00:15:53] So, thanks for listening and see you next time! Thanks for listening to the Study Legal English Podcast.

[00:16:01] If you really want to get ahead why not become a member and gain access to many learning resources. Visit studylegalenglish.com/pricing.

[00:16:07] (Music)