

## THE MAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF LEGAL ENGLISH

- Predominant language of international business
- Significant role as a legal language within the European Union
- Unusual features which are related to terminology, linguistic structures, linguistic conventions and punctuation
- Technical terminology, unfamiliar to the layman (e.g. "waiver", "restraint of trade", "restrictive covenant"). Much of this vocabulary is derived from French and Latin.

**1. Legal Referencing Words:** These words refer to time, place, result, etc. in connection with the documents they appear in. They, in a way, play a deictic role. Other legal referencing words: "herein"; "aforementioned" (=mentioned before); "hereafter" (=from this time on).

**2. Syntactic discontinuities:** *discontinuous noun phrases*.

**3. Mandatory "shall".**

**4. Complex prepositional phrases:** P – N – P (Preposition+Noun+Preposition)  
E.g.: "for the purpose of"; "in respect of"; "in accordance to"; "in pursuance of"; "by virtue of".

**5. Phrasal verbs** – often used in a quasi-technical sense.

Parties **enter into** contracts; **put down** deposits, **serve** (documents) **upon** other parties, write off debts, etc.