

MORE ON LEGAL ENGLISH ON THE WEB

By M^a Victoria Fernández

Universidad de Vigo

Vigo, Spain

victoria @ uvigo.es

Introduction

This paper attempts to help the Legal English (LE) teacher of non-native speakers (NNSs) find useful web-based resources for his teaching. Even though there are many websites which approach the task of teaching English as a Foreign Language (EFL), this is not the case with LE. We have few printed resources to approach the task of teaching LE and we have even fewer on the web. Therefore, the aim of the present author was to search the Web and find some of the available websites which could help LE teachers in their daily practice.

Legal English on the Web

The reason why I call this paper “More Legal English on the Web” is that we already have “[Recommended websites: Top Ten Web Sites for the Legal English Teacher](#)”, in which ten different websites for the legal English teacher are the subject of analysis. But I have come across other interesting sites on the Web for the language teacher and in this paper I have also included sites which will help us with the world of legal Latin, so common in legal English texts.

1. The Onestop English for Specific Purposes bank

(<http://www.onestopenglish.com/Business/Bank/>)

The Onestop English for Specific Purposes bank is defined as a growing bank of lesson plans covering a wide range of professions. The aim of this section, according to the website, is to build a bank of practical materials for teachers of English who are working with students with specific linguistic needs related to their professions, including EAP (English for Academic Purposes), CLIL (Content and Language Integrated Learning), Banking and financial services, General ESP, Hotel and tourism, Human resources, Law, Marketing, Medicine, The oil industry, Sales and Science.

The lesson plans on a range of *legal subjects* provided at <http://www.onestopenglish.com/Business/Bank/Legal/index.htm> include the following topics so far:

- The English Constitution, <http://www.onestopenglish.com/Business/Bank/Legal/constitution.htm>
- Solicitors and Barristers, <http://www.onestopenglish.com/Business/Bank/Legal/solicitors.htm>
- An overview of the legal profession, <http://www.onestopenglish.com/Business/Bank/Legal/legalprofession.htm>
- Defamation, <http://www.onestopenglish.com/Business/Bank/Legal/defamation.htm>
- The law of contract, <http://www.onestopenglish.com/Business/Bank/Legal/contract.htm>

2. About.com (http://esl.about.com/library/lexical/bllexlist_legal1.htm)

According to this site, the use of this lexical approach is essential for successful language acquisition in English for Specific Purposes. However, teachers are often not equipped with the exact English terminology required in very specific trade sectors. For this reason, core vocabulary sheets go a long way in helping teachers provide adequate materials for students with English for Special Purposes needs. In order to amend this problem, the site provides English for Special Purposes Core Vocabulary Lists in the following fields:

- English for Advertising
- English for Banking and Stocks
- English for Book Keeping and Financial Administration
- English for Business and Commercial Letters
- English for Human Resources
- English for the Insurance Industry
- English for Logistics
- English for Marketing
- English for Production and Manufacturing
- English for Sales and Acquisitions

Additionally, *English for Legal Purposes* section (http://esl.about.com/library/lexical/bllexlist_legal1.htm) features a three-page Legal English Glossary, including legal terms or expressions.

3. Legal English Web Resources

3.1. *Legal Latin* (<http://www.dl.ket.org/latin3/mores/legallatin/>)

Roman Legal System (<http://www.dl.ket.org/latin3/mores/legallatin/legal01.htm>)

Legal Roles - Then and Now (<http://www.dl.ket.org/latin3/mores/legallatin/legal02.htm>)

Roman Prisons (<http://www.dl.ket.org/latin3/mores/legallatin/prisons.htm>)

Legal Vocabulary (<http://www.dl.ket.org/latin3/mores/legallatin/legal03.htm>)

Latin Phrases used in Legal English

(<http://www.dl.ket.org/latin3/mores/legallatin/legal04.htm>)

Activities (<http://www.dl.ket.org/latin3/mores/legallatin/legal05.htm> sentence completion; game: Caede Draconem; crossword puzzle; comprehension questions; Heracles Meets the Law, activity answer keys.

3.2. *Online law dictionaries*

Dictionary (FindLaw.com) - <http://dictionary.lp.findlaw.com/>

HLS Library: One-L Dictionary (Harvard Law School) -
http://www.law.harvard.edu/library/services/research/guides/united_states/basics/one_l_dictionary.php

Law.com Law Dictionary - <http://dictionary.law.com/>

yourDictionary.com: Law Dictionary links -
<http://www.yourdictionary.com/diction5.html#law>

3.3. *Legal news*

American Lawyer Media's Law.com - <http://www.law.com/index.shtml>

CNN.com Law - <http://www.cnn.com/LAW/>

FindLaw Legal News - <http://news.findlaw.com/>

JURIST Legal News - <http://jurist.law.pitt.edu/>

Justice Talking (audio) - <http://www.justicetalking.org/home.asp>

3.4. Legal humor and lawyer jokes

The Funniest Darn Lawyer Jokes in the WDW (Duhaime.org) -
http://www.duhaime.org/Law_fun/jokes.aspx

Lawyer Jokes and Legal Humor (ExpertLaw.com) - <http://www.lawlaughs.com/>

Legal Humour - <http://www.legalhumour.com/>

4. Resources on Latin:

Latin Legal Maxims - <http://www.vancouverfamilylaw.com/maxims.html>

Latin in Modern Legal Terms - <http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Sparta/9909/legal.html>

Understanding Latin Legalese -
<http://www.dummies.com/WileyCDA/DummiesArticle/id-1435.html>

Glossary – Latin Terms - <http://www.hmcourts-service.gov.uk/infoabout/glossary/latin.htm>

Legal Glossary - <http://www.uklegal.com/articles/latin.htm> (includes Latin and also English terms that are in common use in law)

Latin: It's All Around Us: Legal Phrases and Sentences -
<http://www.bjupress.com/resources/products/latin/legal.html>

List of legal Latin terms (from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia) -
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_legal_Latin_terms

Legal Latin - <http://www.swarb.co.uk/lawb/genLegalLatin.shtml>

Conclusion

Even though there is an enormous range of legal material to be found on the Web, legal English teachers suffer a lack of teaching materials for the NNS LE student. I have made a selection of different websites where NNS LE students can get in touch with the legal language, not only with the legal English language, but also with legal Latin. My main objective is to offer teachers this website selection as a starting point for their own search of the Web resources which best suit their students' language needs.