



HEARD TO APPEAL DEPP'S VICTORY



Scan to review worksheet

Expemo code:

19MA-E6X8-623J



1

Warm up

You are going to watch a video about the recent trial between Amber Heard and Johnny Depp. First, read the information below and discuss the questions in pairs.

The trial took place after Depp sued his ex-wife Heard for damages due to an article she wrote being published in the Washington Post. Depp claimed the article defamed him. Heard countersued, and the trial concluded on June 1, 2022, with the jury ruling that Heard had defamed Depp.

1. Have you ever had an argument with a partner or spouse that wasn't easily resolved?
2. Would you ever consider taking a former partner to court? Why/why not?
3. In the modern world, is there ever a way to protect members of a jury from outside influences, such as social media?
4. Should everybody have the right to appeal a court decision?
5. Do you have faith in the legal system of your country? Does it need improving?
6. Have you had a conversation with anybody about the Depp vs. Heard trial? Did you agree or disagree with the outcome?





2 Pre-listening task: vocabulary focus

Part A: Match the words with the correct definitions.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 1. <u>demonize</u> (v) | a. describing something that is connected to a court, a judge or legal judgement |
| 2. <u>compensatory</u> (adv.) | b. describing something that is intended as a punishment |
| 3. <u>defame</u> (v) | c. the page in a newspaper opposite the editorial page that contains comments on the news and articles on particular subjects |
| 4. <u>op-ed</u> (n) (US English) | d. say or write bad or false things about someone |
| 5. <u>judicial</u> (adj.) | e. describing something that lacks balance, with one side being favored more than the other |
| 6. <u>punitive</u> (adj.) | f. describing something that is intended to make up for something, such as loss, injury, etc. |
| 7. <u>lopsided</u> (adj.) | g. describe someone in a way that is intended to make other people think of them as dangerous or evil |

Part B: Complete the sentences with the missing words from Part A. You may need to change the form of the word.

1. My grandfather once wrote an _____ for a famous newspaper.
2. At school, we had to play rugby against the teachers, which was a very _____ contest.
3. The _____ payments I received from the hospital have been very useful.
4. Studies have shown that female leaders tend to be _____ in the press more than their male counterparts.
5. The publisher has been accused of _____ some of its writers, by printing false stories about them.
6. The government has requested a _____ inquiry into the incident.
7. _____ measures may deter some criminals, but others will commit crimes regardless.



3 Listening for specific information

Watch the first part of the report about the trial between Depp and Heard (00:00 – 01:33). Match the numbers mentioned with the things they relate to.



\$10 million

\$2 million

\$350,000

\$5 million

\$8,350,000

- _____ : the amount the judge ruled Heard owes Depp in compensatory damages
- _____ : the initial amount the judge ruled Heard owed Depp in punitive damages
- _____ : the reduced amount the judge ruled Heard owed Depp in punitive damages
- _____ : the amount the jury decided that Depp owes Heard
- _____ : the total amount that Heard owes to Depp according to the court ruling

Now, watch the report again and answer the questions true, false or not given.

- According to some legal experts, Amber Heard may have to pay some damages before her appeal. _____
- The judge reduced the amount of the punitive damages owed by Heard after hearing new evidence. _____
- Amber Heard's lawyer thinks that the trial presented Heard unfairly. _____
- Amber Heard's op-ed was printed in The Washington Post. _____
- Elaine Bredehoft implies that medical records exist that could have altered the outcome of the trial. _____
- Heard's lawyer has accused the jury of being biased. _____
- Heard's lawyer implies that the trial was biased in favor of Johnny Depp. _____

In the video, there is a reference to the trial being "a zoo".

- What do you think this means?
- Do you think the trial was fair, or unfair?

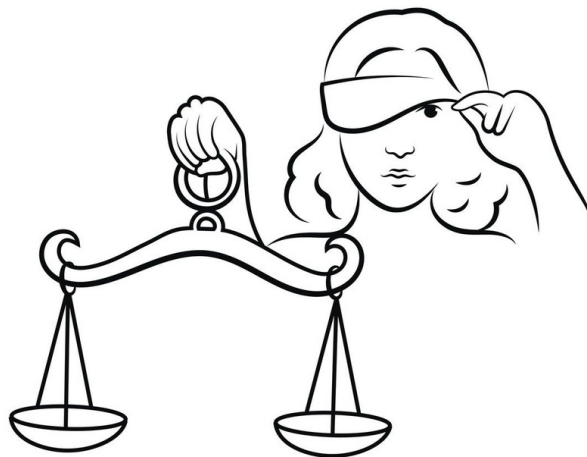


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Listening part 2: legal and general vocabulary

Part A: Match the legal English words and phrases in bold with the correct definitions.

1. After the defendant refused to be quiet during the trial, he was held **in contempt of court**.
2. I completely disagree with the outcome and want to appeal. My lawyer has advised that the next step is to try an **appellate court**.
3. During the **balancing test**, the court decided to take away the defendant's driving license, as they believed he was a risk to the public.
4. The **plaintiffs** allege that the owner of the hotel had installed spy cameras in multiple rooms.
5. The dispute between the employees and their employer had no **probative value** in court because the employer's crime was unrelated to his workers – he was accused of fraud.
 - a. a person who makes a formal complaint against somebody in court
 - b. the ability of a piece of evidence to make a relevant disputed point more or less true
 - c. a subjective test in which a court weighs competing interests, such as a defendant's liberty against the safety of the public, to decide which interest prevails
 - d. the crime of refusing to obey an order made by a court or not showing respect for a court or judge
 - e. a court in which people can appeal against decisions made in other courts of law



**Part B: Match the general English words and phrases in bold with the correct definitions.**

1. The referee provoked the **ire** of the fans by showing the captain of the home team a red card.
 2. I posted a tweet offering to give away a laptop to somebody who needs it yesterday. I've been **inundated** with messages – I haven't had time to read them all!
 3. I can understand the public's **reluctance** to wear masks after years of restrictions, even if scientific advice suggests it's still a wise move.
 4. The Prime Minister is **loath to** admit his mistakes, even though everybody is aware of them.
 5. I **inadvertently** gained thousands of followers last week after my tweet about my father went viral.
- a. the feeling of being unwilling to do something and hesitating before you do it, because you do not want to do it or because you are not sure that it is the right thing to do
 - b. anger (formal)
 - c. not willing to do something
 - d. by accident, without intending to
 - e. give or send somebody so many things that they cannot deal with them all (often passive)

Part C: Complete the short text with the correct words from Parts A and B. You may need to change the form of the words.

I run a radio show offering legal advice to members of the public. We started the whole thing up because my partner and I noticed a _____¹ amongst ordinary citizens to contact professionals if they were unsure about aspects of the law. Of course, a lot of legal advisors charge huge fees, so I can understand why many would _____² get in touch with experts! Since we began, we've been _____³ with calls. One of the cases we featured last week involved a guy called Jack, who had a problem with his neighbor. Jack, and several other _____⁴ from the same building, had taken the neighbor to court over antisocial behavior. The neighbor hadn't shown up, and as such, was held _____⁵. The punishment was relatively lenient, and Jack had now attracted the _____⁶ of his neighbor, who, he alleges, assaulted him outside the apartment building.

Meanwhile, the judge in the original case concluded that, due to a _____⁷, the neighbor's rights to smoke and listen to loud music were more important than Jack's rights not to be disturbed. Jack is now bringing a further case against his neighbor based on the assault. Before appearing on the show, he sent us a photo of his face after the attack, which we advised him would certainly hold _____⁸ in the trial. We also informed Jack of his rights to attend an _____⁹ regarding the original case. As the neighbor had committed a further crime, he has _____¹⁰ weakened his own defense. Jack was very grateful for the support!



Discuss these questions in pairs.

1. Have you ever posted something online and been **inundated** with responses?
2. Do you think the concept of **appellate courts** is a good idea, or should everybody only have one chance for justice?
3. Should there be a severe punishment for those found to be in **contempt of court**?
4. Have you ever said something that **inadvertently** caused offense online?
5. Have you ever been the **plaintiff** in a legal case?
6. Do you think the idea of **balancing tests** is a good one? Can you think of any issues with the concept?
7. Is there anything about yourself that you **are loath to** admit, such as a personality flaw or bad habit?

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Listening for specific information

Watch the second part of the report (01:34 – 04:45). Decide whether the statements are true or false according to the information given in the video.



1. Any kind of legal appeal is unlikely to be successful. _____
2. Heard's appeal could be successful if there is evidence that the jury were affected by the social media coverage of the trial. _____
3. The jury requested a 10-day break because of the extensive social media coverage. _____
4. Jurors could come across information relevant to the trial by accident. _____
5. Amber Heard won a lawsuit in the UK. _____
6. Johnny Depp is planning another lawsuit in the UK, because it is easier to win defamation cases there. _____
7. A date has already been set for Heard's appeal case at an Appellate Court. _____



6 Listening for comprehension

Watch the second part of the report again. Select the answer that most accurately reflects the information given in the video.

1. Why might Danny Cevallos think that Heard's appeal will fail?
 - a. Appellate courts are often reluctant to take away a jury's verdict.
 - b. There is no new evidence to support her appeal.
 - c. Appellate courts generally don't accept civil cases.

2. Which duty does Danny Cevallos expect jurors to honor?
 - a. The duty to serve on the jury if called by the government.
 - b. The duty to step down if they feel confused about the details of a case.
 - c. The duty to mention to a judge that they have encountered information relevant to the trial.

3. Why might it have been easier for jurors to remain unaffected by external information 30 years ago?
 - a. Jurors would have had to actively turn on their TV or read a newspaper.
 - b. Family members were less likely to pass on information to jurors in the past.
 - c. Breaks were not permitted during a trial 30 years ago.

4. What kind of 'hard evidence' does Danny think would be necessary in order to overturn the verdict?
 - a. Evidence that jurors had published their opinions on the trial on social media.
 - b. Evidence that the judge was biased against Heard.
 - c. Evidence that a specific juror or jurors have been influenced by social media coverage of the trial.

5. Why does Danny think that evidence from the UK trial didn't make it into the US trial?
 - a. The court decided that the evidence was prejudiced against Depp.
 - b. The court may have decided that the evidence didn't have probative value.
 - c. The evidence provided in the UK trial was considered to be false in the US.



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Talking point

In pairs or small groups, discuss the following questions.

1. Can you defame somebody by implying something about them?
2. Why do you think the trial between Depp and Heard has had so much publicity? Why are people fascinated with the story?
3. What implications do you think the trial's outcome will have for the #MeToo movement and women's rights in general?
4. Has your opinion of Johnny Depp or Amber Heard changed since the trial ended?
5. Do you think Amber Heard will win her appeal? Why/why not?
6. Has the trial altered your perception of the US justice system? Do you think improvements need to be made?
7. Why do you think Heard won the UK trial, but lost the US trial?

Glossary: *MeToo movement (often stylized with the # sign): A social movement against sexual abuse, harassment and rape culture. The term first appeared on MySpace and was popularized on Twitter following the allegations against Harvey Weinstein in 2017.*

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Extended activity: post-listening

Read the sentences and think about a possible definition. Explain the meanings of each phrase in bold to your partner.

1. I decided to write directly to the publisher instead of submitting my novel to an agent. It was a bit of a **long shot**, but it worked. They accepted my book!

2. The post-Brexit world was **fertile ground** for right-wing politicians such as Trump and Bolsonaro.

3. Tackling climate change has become **an uphill battle** since the war in Ukraine broke out.

Now, complete the sentences with the phrases from above then answer the questions in pairs.

- a. Do you think that the political situation in your country is _____ for a revolution? Why/why not?
- b. Can you think of a time in which something you attempted to do was _____, but you succeeded anyway?
- c. With the trial going Johnny Depp's way, do you think that the #MeToo movement will face _____?