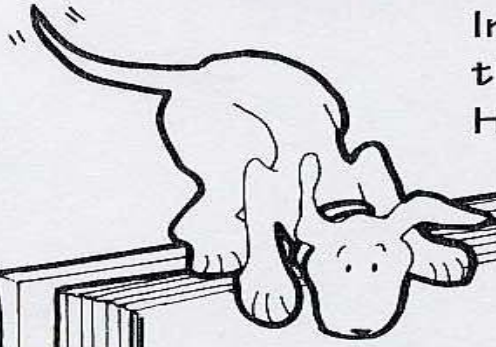


"What does that mean?"

In court, people use a lot of words that we may never have heard before. Here is a list of some of them:



Allegation:
Something that someone says has happened.

Charge:
The law that the police believe the defendant has broken.

Complaint:
A statement to the police accusing someone of breaking the law.

Continuance:
Put off trial until another time.

Cross-examine:
Questioning of a witness by the lawyer for the other side.

Evidence:
Things that witnesses say in court and things (such as photographs, clothes or drawings) that are brought to court to show what happened.

Interview:
A meeting with the police or District Attorney.

Juror:
A person who is on the jury.

Objection:
A reason that a lawyer interrupts a witness to talk to the judge.

Plea:
The answer the defendant gives (guilty or not guilty) to the charge.

Preliminary Hearing:
A hearing where the judge decides whether there is enough evidence to hold a trial in another court.

Sentence:
The punishment the judge gives to someone found guilty of breaking the law.

Statement:
A description that a witness gives to the police and that the police write down.

Subpoena:
A piece of paper that tells a witness when and where to come to court.

Testify:
Answer questions in court.

Testimony:
What a witness says in court.

Transcript:
A typewritten record that is made by the court reporter of what is said in court.

Trial:
A hearing that takes place when the defendant pleads "not guilty" and witnesses come to court to give evidence.

