1. Case study - Video

1. Pre-viewing – brainstorming

Imagine you are a lawyer who desperately needs to win a case (to make money).

What would you do?

View short clip of police station and distribute business cards.

Advise on Facebook and in papers.

Stand in front of a police station and distribute business cards.

Wait in hospitals (ambulance chasers).

Advertise on Facebook and in papers.

1.2. Viewing – identify

Watch clips 1 to 5 and complete the tasks below.

2. Staying the case

1.1. SENSITIVE CASE

Can you see any potential ‘to have a case’?

Defamation: suing for insult; harassment in the workplace…

Can you see any potential ‘to have a case’?

Clip

Watch clips 1 to 5 and complete the tasks below.

CLIPS 1-5

1.2. THIS IS AMERICA & REAL DISEASE

Suing L’il Jimmey’s Snack Cakes producers, Lillian Corporation

D._Sequence 

Based on http://legal-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com

Czech translation: bezprostřední příčina

which the injury would not have occurred.

1.3. DISCUSSING THE CASE

Exam Practice: Listen and fill in the gaps with suitable words.

Who did Edwin finally decide to take a legal action against?

To have the case resolved as soon as possible, Shirley decided to …

that they also brought a counter claim for …

Edwin has sued Lillian Corporation because he believed he had qualified …

Exam Practice: Listen and fill in the gaps with suitable words.

¿Qué es la leche de soja?

¿Cómo se consume?

¿Existe alguna investigación sobre sus beneficios y riesgos?

¿Cómo puede afectar la salud humana?

¿Es útil para la prevención de enfermedades?

¿Cuáles son las desventajas?

¿Es adecuado para todos los públicos?

¿Cómo se usualmente prepara la leche de soja?
3. Diplomatic language

What will the lawyer say when she thinks the following:

- Founded in 1971
- The biggest university language centre in the Czech Republic
- Branches at nine faculties of Masaryk University
- 9,000 students per semester
- 100 employees
- Own research activities and educational projects
- Seven languages
- English for Lawyers (4-term course in English for Legal Purposes for five-year Master's programme students)
- Courses for Bachelor's programme students
- English for Public Administration
- Ph.D. students
- Levels: B1-C1 (CEFR)
- Team of seven teachers for English for Legal Purposes
- Other languages taught: German, French, and Spanish for Legal Purposes; Latin for Lawyers

Suggestions:

- I'm afraid I can't really agree to this.
- I'm sorry, but that's not really a possibility.
- I'm not sure that idea is realistic.
- We have a slight problem with that proposal.
- You are behaving unreasonably.

4. Speaking - Practicing negotiation strategies and language

You will be divided into two groups – counsel for Lillian Corporation and for Mr. Mickle.

In groups:

- Identify the legal issues of the case
- Determine the arguments for your side
- List the strengths and weaknesses of your side
- List your goals. What are you willing to give? What are you not willing to give?

Now, pair up with a representative of the opposite party and try to negotiate a settlement.

Report the results of your negotiation to the class.

The outcomes ranged from: a public apology to Lillian Corp. and damages (alternatives: and firing the lawyer responsible, apology at a designated place and time, apology in exchange for a lawsuit dropped) X dropping the case and providing a life-long supply of the snacks; admitting publicly that the company is evil etc.

III. Language Practice Exercise

Accuracy practice

Test each other in pairs; each student gets 4 slips of paper with a connected legal phrase and a possible translation.

Zaplatí, aby se vyhnuli soudnímu procesu – They´ll pay to avoid a trial

Podat žalobu na – File a lawsuit / action against

Bezprostřední příčina – Proximate cause

Vzdát se (zákonem stanovené) lhůty – Waive notice

Podat návrh na zamítnutí žaloby – Bring a motion to dismiss a case

Vznést protinárok – File/bring a counter-claim

Stáhnout žalobu na – Drop/withdraw the case/suit against

Urovnat mimosoudně – Settle out of court

That's not good enough!

You're starting to piss me off.

That's a stupid idea!

That's totally unacceptable.

That's out of the question.

I'm afraid I can't really agree to this.

I'm sorry, but that's not really a possibility.

I'm not sure that idea is realistic.

We have a slight problem with that proposal.

You are behaving unreasonably.

Fill in / fill out vs. file

The Language Centre of Masaryk University in Brno provides a four-semester English for Lawyers course. The course, run at Faculty Law, is designed as a series of interactive seminars covering many aspects of law and developing all of the language skills required in the field of law.

The course, designed by Language Centre teachers, utilizes modern methodology and reflects the needs of two students as well as Faculty of Law students. The research concerning the innovations of the course syllabus and the innovations themselves were carried out within the IMPACT Project. This booklet provides a glimpse into what a 90-minute session for second-year students is like.