

# Introduction

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*Absolute Legal English (ALE)* is a book designed for both students of law and practising lawyers who wish to improve their level of English. It is suitable for those who wish to work in an international legal environment and need to extend their language skills to be able to read and understand English in a legal context and to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing.

*ALE* provides practice in all language skills and uses a variety of legal text types and situations to provide stimuli for tasks and to develop a range of vocabulary, including collocations, phrasal verbs, word formation, and formal and informal equivalents. Many sections of the units give integrated skills practice by developing a thematic link, so language is frequently recycled in different contexts. Many tasks also help develop certain legal skills at the same time as giving linguistic practice. Tasks which are specifically aimed at developing language are flagged as 'Language work'. There are also tasks which require students to do further research on one of the topics of the unit; these are flagged as 'Research' and could be set for homework in a classroom-based context.

*ALE* will help prepare students who wish to take the ILEC examination. The final two pages of each unit provide practice in task types from each of the four papers, all related to the topic of the unit, and there is a useful exam tip with each task. An overview of the ILEC examination follows this introduction.

*ALE* covers the main legal areas studied in International law, and at the end of the book there is a short glossary of additional useful terms not specifically covered in the units, relating to the sale of goods, supplies of services, negotiable instruments, secured transactions and legal Latin. *ALE* is aimed at students who are studying in either the United Kingdom or their own countries. The answers to the tasks and transcripts of recordings are all at the back of the book, so *ALE* is equally appropriate for use in class or for self-study.