



# Disturbing the peace

**LO:** To understand the civil and criminal law of England.



## **Lady Justice**

The Lady Justice is a common sight in legal institutions. Originally known as the goddess Themis, she represents the fairness of the judicial system. In Greek, Themis means 'order'.

# Civil Law and Criminal Law

**There are two types of law:**

- Civil law
- Criminal law

The courts of England and Wales are headed by the Senior Courts of England and Wales:

- The High Court of Justice (for civil cases)
- The Crown Court (for criminal cases).
- The Supreme Court is the highest court in the land for both criminal and civil appeal cases





# Civil Law

Civil law is concerned with the rights and duties of citizens in dealings with other citizens.

Civil law covers activities such as:

- Lending and borrowing money
- Entering into contracts
- Disputes with neighbours
- Getting married
- Inheritances and wills



## Challenge:

Can you think of any more civil law activities?

# Criminal Law

Criminal offences are regarded as offences against society. It includes the punishment of people who break these laws.

It deals with matters such as:

**Crimes against people:**

E.g. murder, assault

**Property crimes:**

E.g. theft, burglary, fraud and vandalism



**Challenge:**

Can you think of any more criminal law activities?



## The Old Bailey

The Central Criminal Court of England and Wales, commonly known as the Old Bailey from the street on which it stands, is a court in London, and one of a number of buildings housing the Crown Court.



# Compensation or Punishment?

In civil law, the courts award compensation when someone can prove the other party is in the wrong.

In criminal courts, the aim is to punish wrongdoers and impose a sentence which prevents them from reoffending.



## **Compensation**

This refers to the act of providing a person with money or other things of value in order to provide for the costs of injuries that they have incurred.

## **Sentence**

This can generally involve imprisonment, a fine and/or other punishments against a defendant convicted of a crime.