

Introduction

Legal English Practice. Enhancing Legal Language Proficiency is designed as a practice book for Italian Law students to focus on and improve their proficiency in English within legal contexts. The content is structured to align with the chapter divisions commonly found in recent legal English publications, ensuring comprehensive coverage of the various branches of law typically addressed in such resources. This alignment allows students to approach the material in a familiar and systematic way, facilitating a deeper understanding of legal English.

The materials in this book are intentionally designed to serve as starting points rather than comprehensive or definitive resources. Their primary purpose is to provide learners with a practical framework for engaging with Legal English. By using these texts as “pre-texts,” learners are encouraged to actively practice their English skills, reinforcing their language proficiency while simultaneously exploring key legal concepts. The texts are not intended to provide exhaustive coverage of any single area of law or to be treated as a final authority on legal matters. Instead, they serve as tools for learners to revisit and deepen their understanding of both language and law.

By incorporating opportunities for practice and revision, the book supports a flexible learning process. Learners can adapt the materials to their individual needs, whether they are focusing on refreshing general English skills, improving their command of specialized legal terminology, or revisiting aspects of legal systems and procedures. The objective of this book is to facilitate active learning, where the provided texts act as a springboard for discussion, analysis, and application, rather than as a passive repository of information.

The exercises in this book mirror the format and structure of tasks found in Cambridge English language certifications, such as the First (FCE), Advanced (CAE), and Proficiency (CPE) exams. These include multiple-choice cloze tasks (testing vocabulary and grammar in context) and open cloze tasks (requiring learners to fill gaps in a text with grammatically correct words). Reading comprehension exercises test the ability to extract key information and interpret nuanced meaning from texts related to law studies, much like those in Cambridge exams. Other exercises, such as gapped text tasks, involve reor-

ganizing paragraphs into a logical sequence, paralleling the “Reading and Use of English” sections in Cambridge exams, where learners demonstrate their ability to understand cohesion and coherence within a text. Matching tasks require pairing questions or statements with corresponding sections of a passage, fostering skills in pinpointing specific information. In the writing sections of the book learners are guided to develop well-reasoned arguments and maintain clarity in style and organization.

By adopting these familiar formats, the exercises combine language practice with legal content to ensure relevance to the field of study of Law students. This dual focus strengthens students’ proficiency in Legal English while simultaneously honing the practical skills needed for both academic and professional success.