

GLOSSARY

- clause** is a grammatical unit consisting of a group of words that include a subject and a verb. Sometimes the subject is an *implied* subject, for example, when the *-ing form* and participle *-ed* are used instead of a verb: *Reaffirming the principals of the original treaty . . .*. The implied subject would be the High Contracting Parties to this treaty. (Sections 9.1, 9.1.1, 9.3.1)
- dependent clause** (DC) has a subject and verb, but it cannot exist on its own, e.g.: *When John studied law at Padua*. To complete the thought, the main independent clause is necessary, e.g.: *When John studied law at Padua* (DC), *he lived with his parents*. Dependent clauses are also called subordinating clauses. (Section 9.3.1)
- independent clause** (IC) is a group of words which include a subject and verb and express a complete thought. Every sentence must have at least one independent clause, e.g.: *John studied law at Padua*. (Section 9.1)
- mandative subjunctive** is often used in prescriptive legal texts when the main clause contains a strong recommendation or command. It is used in the subordinate *-that* clause without *to*, e.g.: The judge moved *that the court be adjourned* (which is more common in AmE). In BrE, the putative *should* + infinitive or the indicative are more common, e.g.: *The judge moved that the court should adjourn*. *The judge moved that the court adjourns*. (Section 9.9)
- modal auxiliaries** (*can, should, etc.*) are used to modify the meaning of verbs. They combine with the base form of the main verb (without *to*), to express obligation (*should*), capacity/permission (*can*), necessity (*need/needn't*), advice/suggestion (*must*), prohibition (*mustn't*), and possibility/probability (*may, might*). (Section 10.5)
- modifiers** can change the meanings of a word, a phrase, or a clause. Adjectives modify nouns and pronouns while adverbs modify verbs, adjectives, and other adverbs.
- nominalization** is the process through which a verb is changed into a noun. For example, instead of writing *The contract obligated the two parties . . .*, the verb *obligated* is transformed into the noun *obligation* to create this clause *The contract obligation between two parties . . .*. Nominalization is a distinct feature of legal discourse.
- non-finite -ed participle and non-finite -ing form in adverbial clauses** occur in a subordinate clause and usually lack an explicit reference to time or person. When used in legal texts, they create the sense of an

action continuing from the past to the present. e.g.: *Concerned about continuing violence*, a meeting was called. (Section 11.3)

non-restrictive or non-defining clauses contain words that add information, but do not identify the subject of the sentence (they are framed by commas), e.g.: My cousin Sally, *who is a judge*, practices law in Boston. (Section 9.6.4)

noun phrase - Nouns can combine with other words to form noun phrases. Their main function is to add information to the main noun or subject. They can be placed in a pre- or post-modifying position (before or after the noun). An example of a post-modifying position: The jurors *in the year-long Old Bailey trial* heard of plans to target a shopping centre. (Sections 9.5 and 11.2.2)

noun phrase (appositive) identifies the same person(s) or thing(s) in a sentence but with different names or words. Word(s) can be easily substituted for the others without changing the meaning, e.g.: The defendant, *a colleague of mine*, has been accused of murder. *or* A colleague of mine, *the defendant*, has been accused of murder. (Section 9.6.1)

phrase can be a single word or group of words and lacks the subject-predicate structure typical of clauses, e.g.: *Nevertheless*, he was convicted of homicide. *By the way*, the judge is my sister. (Section 9.3.2).

predicate consists of the verb and the sentence elements that follow it. A sentence (independent clause) contains a subject and a predicate, e.g.: The professor *walked into the classroom*. (Sections 9.1 and 9.1.1)

restrictive or defining clauses identify a person or thing in the sentence. If we removed the defining clause, we would not be able to identify the subject. In the following example, *which* judge is identified: e.g.: The judge *who walked into the courtroom* is my cousin. (Sections 9.6.3, 9.6.4)

subordinating conjunctions join an dependent clause to an independent clause and express a relationship between the two clauses. Observe the following cause/effect relationship in a clause: *Because* I didn't study, I didn't pass the exam. (Section 9.3.1)

syntactic organization is the grammatical organization of words in a sentence or paragraph in order to create meaning. Rules of grammar govern this organization.

verb phrase can be a single verb indicating the past or present tense, or more than one verb, plus its auxiliaries, e.g.: A court *may not substitute* its own reasoning for that of medical experts. (Sections 9.1.1).