

IDIOMS: LAW

This month we're looking at some idioms to do with **law**. Most of them are common in everyday speech too.

Break the law



To do something illegal.

"The politician had to apologise after being caught breaking the law."

In trouble with the law



If someone is "in trouble with the law", they've done something illegal and have been (or will be) arrested.

"He's in serious trouble with the law."

Not have a leg to stand on



If you "don't have a leg to stand on", you cannot prove that something is true.

"He accused us of stealing the money, but he didn't have a leg to stand on."

Have a brush with the law / have a run-in with the law



If someone "has a brush with the law", they do something illegal and the police arrest or question them.

"He had a number of run-ins with the law."

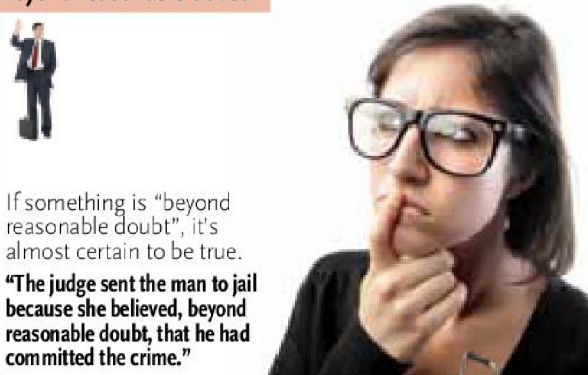
In bad faith



If someone does something "in bad faith", they do it knowing that it's illegal or "wrong".

"The judge ruled that the man had sold the goods in bad faith – knowing full well that they'd been stolen."

Beyond reasonable doubt



If something is "beyond reasonable doubt", it's almost certain to be true.

"The judge sent the man to jail because she believed, beyond reasonable doubt, that he had committed the crime."

Grey area

A "grey area" is a subject or problem that isn't clear or well-defined – there are no clear rules about it.

"The legal difference between a guarantee and a warranty is a bit of a grey area."



A case of mistaken identity



If something is a "case of mistaken identity", the wrong person has been arrested or accused of something.

"Although the man looked a lot like the suspect, it was clearly a case of mistaken identity as he was nowhere near the scene of the crime when it took place."