

**To Kill a Mockingbird** Judicial Words

In Chapter 20, Atticus says, "In this country, our courts are the great levelers, and in our courts, all men are created equal." In other words, he believes that the U.S. judicial system offers a solution to prejudice. Consider these twelve words and phrases and define each as it is used in the text.

misdemeanor (n.)	felony (n.)	appeal (n.)	expunge (v.)	prosecutor (n.)	defense attorney (n.)
indict (v.)	corroborating evidence (n.)	circumstantial evidence (n.)	acquit (v.)	convict (v.)	hung jury (n.)

RL.9-10.1 Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

L.9-10.3 Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening.

Answer Key

<p>misdemeanor (n.)</p> <p>a minor wrongdoing</p>	<p>felony (n.)</p> <p>a serious crime for which the guilty party could receive at least a year in prison</p>	<p>appeal (n.)</p> <p>to turn to a higher court to try and have a lower court's decision reversed</p>	<p>expunge (v.)</p> <p>to erase a crime or wrongdoing from a criminal record</p>	<p>prosecutor (n.)</p> <p>a lawyer who produces evidence that proves the guilt of the person or persons accused of a crime</p>	<p>defense attorney (n.)</p> <p>a lawyer whose job is to represent one accused of a crime and try to prove their innocence</p>
<p>indict (v.)</p> <p>to formally accuse a person of a crime, based on evidence, before bringing him or her to trial</p>	<p>corroborating evidence (n.)</p> <p>evidence that adds to or supports existing evidence, strengthening a legal case</p>	<p>circumstantial evidence (n.)</p> <p>less-than-direct evidence that requires a judge or jury to make an inference about its relationship to a case</p>	<p>acquit (v.)</p> <p>to find a defendant "not guilty" or release the accused from the charges brought against him or her</p>	<p>convict (v.)</p> <p>to find or prove that someone is guilty of a crime</p>	<p>hung jury (n.)</p> <p>a jury whose members can't agree on a verdict, typically leading to a mistrial</p>