ESL Brains

AI goes to court

1. **Think of five reasons a person might seek a lawyer's services.**

2. **Look at the headline of an article in ex. 3 and discuss the questions.**
   - How much would you say you know about the topic?
   - Which three issues might be explored in the article?

3. **Read the first part of the article and name two things that mean Garfield AI made history.**

AI lawyers could save you thousands

by Louis Goss in *The Telegraph* (article abridged)

Philip Young was on a 9,000-mile road trip from Boston to Seattle when ChatGPT was first launched in November 2022.

He had left his job as a corporate lawyer just a few months earlier and had expected to take a break from the legal industry, having spent over two decades working on high-stakes legal battles in both London and Hong Kong.

However, the new technology left him stunned. "I just could see instantly it was going to totally change the way lawyers do things," he says.

He soon started testing the AI chatbot, using scenarios from old cases he'd worked on. "What I was struck by was that even ChatGPT 3.5 was able to give an answer that was well within the ballpark of an acceptable legal answer," he says.

The following year he launched Garfield AI, a completely automated AI law firm that uses a legal chatbot to fight claims worth up to £10,000. It was approved by the Solicitors Regulation Authority last year, making it the first AI firm allowed to practise in the UK.

Last month it won its first ever case in court, when Tamires Camal Taquidir, a freelance HR professional, used Garfield AI's bot to recover £7,000 from a former employer, including by drafting legal letters and filing the claim form.

The landmark case was won after a three-hour trial at Wandsworth County Court, involving seven separate witnesses. It marked the first time in British history that a court case has been won by AI.

Copyrights by **ESL Brains**. For use only with license.

Licensed to Наталья Крушинская (279731)

AI goes to court

4. Look at the first part of the article in ex. 3 again and find two words or phrases for each point below.

A. tasks lawyers do

B. synonyms for 'surprised'

C. ways to refer to important legal cases

5. Say if anything surprised you in the first part of the article. Explain.

6. Read the second part of the article and say whether it suggests that AI will replace lawyers in the future. Underline the parts that support your answer.

The legal industry is viewed as particularly vulnerable to the impacts of AI because of the technology's abilities to quickly sift through large amounts of written information and make judgments based on clear rules.

Young says this is just the start of a major shift that will eventually see AI used to do the vast majority of the "grunt work" in the legal industry.

Law firms have traditionally been insulated from many of the waves of technological innovation which have transformed Britain's economy, mainly because the complexity of the work has prevented it from being easily automated.

At the same time, high fees have also locked many people out of hiring lawyers, with few people able to pay the hundreds of pounds an hour needed for solicitors and barristers' fees.

New AI technologies now offer to make legal services much cheaper. In the case of Garfield AI, the chatbot will draft legal letters for as little as £2 each and file claim forms for sums of £50.

Raj Panasar, the founder of AI law firm LawFairy, says AI firms could help improve access to legal advice by making it significantly cheaper while also helping firms work more efficiently.

In the recent case won by Garfield AI's bot, Taquidir, the claimant, was represented in court by Dominic Li, a recently qualified barrister from One Essex Chambers.

The hospitality business, on the other side, was represented by Irawell Law, a high street law firm from Manchester.

"It's notable that in this case, AI did not conduct the matter, but a barrister was brought in to represent the claimant during the hearing," an Irwell Law spokesman said. "The AI served only to augment this. This reinforces our belief that AI alone cannot be relied on for legal issues, rather it should be used in combination with talented legal professionals."

Copyrights by **ESL Brains**. For use only with license.

Licensed to Наталья Крушинская (279731)

AI goes to court

7. Brainstorm some potential issues of using AI in the legal industry.

8. Read the final part of the article and compare it with your ideas in ex. 7.

However, the new technology has also put law firms in awkward positions when so-called "hallucinations" cause bots to simply make up evidence.

In May, Pinsent Masons, one of Britain's biggest corporate law firms, was reprimanded by a judge after a series of AI errors was discovered in its filings.

Sullivan & Cromwell, one of the world's most expensive law firms, separately admitted using AI to draft legal documents filed in a court in New York, when a series of mistakes was found in the filings, including fake cases and false citations.

In some cases, individuals without any legal training are even using free chatbots like Claude and ChatGPT to fight cases themselves.

In one case from July 2025, a web developer called Marc Gunnerson admitted using AI to build a case against HM Revenue & Customs after his legal filings were discovered to be filled with fictitious cases. It resulted in Gunnerson losing the case and being rebuked by a judge.

The rise of such AI-powered, DIY claimants has prompted fears of a spike in claims for Britain's already creaking court system.

The spokesman for Irwell Law added: "We've seen a significant increase in the number of claims being made by individuals representing themselves with the use of AI.

"Not only does this increase the complexity of claims, many of which rely on inaccurate legal arguments, it also adds to the burden of courts."

9. Tick which person or company from the text in ex. 8 each statement refers to.

	Marc Gunnerson	Pinsent Masons	Sullivan & Cromwell
A. got criticized by a judge			
B. used cases that didn't exist			
C. didn't win the case			
D. came clean about using AI			

Copyrights by **ESL Brains**. For use only with license.

Licensed to Наталья Крушинская (279731)

AI goes to court

10. Discuss the questions.

- In your opinion, is AI more of an opportunity or a threat for the legal industry? Consider the perspectives of lawyers, policy makers and people seeking legal assistance.
- Do you think AI will ever be able to represent a client without a human professional? Explain.
- Would the lower cost of an AI lawyer outweigh the risks? If so, which legal tasks would you trust it with?
- Do you know whether AI is being used in the legal system in your country? If so, how?



11. Look at the definitions for the phrases from the article and correct the mistakes. One definition is correct. Go back to the article if you need more context.

A. If an answer is **within the ballpark**, it's exactly correct. [line 10]

B. People usually **sift through** a large amount of information to find something they need. [line 22]

C. If people are **locked out of** a service, they can use it. [line 29]

D. If you are **reprimanded by** someone, you have done something right. [line 50]

E. If something **adds to** a problem, it makes the problem less serious. [line 66]

Copyrights by **ESL Brains**. For use only with license.

Licensed to Наталья Крушинская (279731)

AI goes to court

12. Complete the gaps with the words in the boxes in the correct form.

add	ballpark	draft	file	landmark
lock	reprimand	sift	stun	

A. There is a future for AI judges too – not only can they make decisions that are well within the _____ of those made by human judges, but they could even make fairer ones.

B. What makes a good lawyer stand out is their ability to _____ through large amounts of information and use it to win a case.

C. People are _____ out of services that are more essential than legal services because of high prices, so AI could have an even greater impact there.

D. To avoid being _____ by judges, lawyers should always come forward about using AI.

E. AI isn't helpful for the legal system because, by encouraging more people to file claims, it _____ to the burden of the courts and slows the system down.

F. If AI takes over routine legal tasks like _____ claims, there will be fewer opportunities for junior lawyers.

G. The speed at which AI is improving leaves me _____ , so I wouldn't be surprised if AI doctors and AI accountants became available too.

H. The AI's court victory became a _____ case only because it was the first of its kind. There's nothing amazing about it.

I. The legal industry is vulnerable to AI mainly because it involves routine tasks such as _____ legal letters. AI won't have the same impact on most other industries.

13. Choose at least four statements in ex. 12 and say if you agree or disagree with them. Explain your reasoning.

Copyrights by **ESL Brains**. For use only with license.

Licensed to Наталья Крушинская (279731)