

Government and Law Summons

CASAS Competencies:

- 5.3.3-1 Interpret basic court procedure
- 5.3.1 Interpret common laws and ordinances, and legal forms and documents

Outcomes:

- Identify overall appearance of court summons
- Select and define key vocabulary terms used in summons
- Read and interpret main purpose for summons

Teacher Prep and Materials:

- Overhead transparency and class copies of Handout 1 - a summons involving Margie's Restaurant
- Class copies of Handout 2 - a list of key vocabulary terms without definitions
- Class copies of Handout 3 - a vocabulary matching activity
- Class copies of Handout 4A - a summons, and 4B - assessment questions

Why?

Warm up:

Present a “scenario” in which a neighbor destroys some of your (the learners) property and refuses to pay you for it. What could you do?

Example: Let's say that you bought a brand new lawn mower. You used it once or twice. Your neighbor really admired your lawn mower and asked if he could use to mow his lawn. You're a nice person, so you lend him the lawn mower. He returns it the next day, but it is in bad shape. The blade is bent, the handle is torn off and it doesn't start. You, of course, are upset and ask what happened. Your neighbor doesn't really know. He was just mowing his lawn and it happened. He refuses to pay you for damages. What should you do?

Facilitate discussion.

Introduce “summons” and “take him to court”.

What?

Use the overhead projector to introduce the summons by showing Handout 1, the summons for Margie's Restaurant. Explain that we are going to read and study the summons - a notice to come to court - to get an understanding of how and when it is used. Ask, “Who is suing? and, “Who is being sued?”

Do!

Controlled Practice: Distribute copies of Handout 1, the summons for Margie's Restaurant, along with Handout 2, the list of vocabulary terms:

defendant plaintiff sue complaint summons damages

Ask for group definitions of each word and write a definition of consensus that each person will record on their vocabulary sheets (Handout 2).

Most likely definitions:

1. plaintiff: person who is suing someone
2. defendant: person being sued
3. sue: take someone to court for damages
4. complaint: why someone is suing someone else
5. summons: official document or notice of calling someone to court
6. damages: amount of money being demanded

Group Practice: Have learners put away Handout 2, the vocabulary list they just finished. Distribute Handout 3, a vocabulary matching activity. Have learners work in groups of 3 or 4 to complete the matching activity without looking at their notes. Allow enough time, and then go through answers to see how much they remembered.

So What?

Assessment: Assess learners' understanding with Handout 4A, the assessment, and 4B, the Dale's Sporting Goods summons form. Correct and discuss answers. Correct answers 1. e; 2. d; 3. c; 4. a; 5. b; 6. f

Follow-up: With the large number of court TV shows, suggest that learners watch an episode and see if the vocabulary terms they heard are used on TV.

Summons

Civil Court of the City of Fall Creek

County of Dunn

Margie's Restaurant

Against

Susan Stillman

Margie Martin is suing Susan Stillman for damages to

Ms. Martin's restaurant in the amount of \$1500

Vocabulary

Define these terms.

1. defendant
2. plaintiff
3. sue
4. complaint
5. summons
6. damages

Vocabulary: Match the word with the definition

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| _____ 1. plaintiff | a. why someone is suing someone else |
| _____ 2. defendant | b. official notice to call a person to court |
| _____ 3. sue | c. take someone to court for damages |
| _____ 4. complaint | d. person being sued |
| _____ 5. summons | e. person who is suing someone |
| _____ 6. damages | f. amount of money being asked for |

Summons

Civil Court of the City of Hammond

County of St. Croix

Dale's Sporting Goods (**Plaintiff**)

Against

Martin Lindberg (**Defendant**)

COMPLAINT

Money damages in the amount of \$2000.00 are
due the plaintiff

Summons Assessment

Study the summons and circle the correct answer.

1. Who is being sued?

- a. Dale's Sporting Goods
- b. Martin Lindberg
- c. City of Hammond
- d. County of St. Croix

2. Where will the case be heard?

- a. sporting goods store
- b. county library
- c. civil court
- d. Supreme Court

3. Which of these statements is true according to the summons?

- a. Martin Lindberg believes that Dale's Sporting Goods owes him money
- b. The court believes that Martin Lindberg and Dale's Sporting Goods should drop the case
- c. Dale's Sporting Goods believes Martin Lindberg owes them some money and wants Martin Lindberg to pay them
- d. The court believes Martin Lindberg owes the store some money