

EXERCISE: BT 1

Module:	Transfer Skills
Type of Exercise:	Text of monologue for recording for simultaneous interpreting practice
Topic:	Defence statement in Magistrates' Court
Learning Outcome(s):	<p>On completion of this exercise, trainees will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• deliver a simultaneous interpretation of 2 minutes (approx) of legal discourse• identify and process legalese• manage specialised terminology and phraseology.
Language Combination:	English/Other language
Equipment:	Language laboratory/digital or analogue recording and playback equipment
Time:	30 minutes
Suitable for:	Intermediate/Advanced
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Notes:	<p>This exercise could comprise one part of a lesson on simultaneous mode interpreting. It is recommended that it is used along with pre-teaching of the terminology found in the text, for mapping of the courtroom environment and with follow-up exercises.</p> <p>This exercise links to BT 9 (Charge and indictment exercise).</p>

TRANSCRIPT

“Your worships, I appear as the defence for Mr. Weston. First of all, my client would like to say that he is sincerely sorry for the distress he has caused and for the damage to property, and that he is ready to make full financial restitution to the victims of his behaviour.

The background to this matter is that Mr Weston has been unemployed for some 2 years since being made redundant from his job at the Toyota car plant near Gobowen. During this time, he has suffered repeated bouts of depression, for which he is taking medication and he has a drinking problem. On the night previous to the commission of both offences, namely the night of the 21st September, Mr Weston had been drinking all night with his girlfriend and a group of other young men and had not slept at all. He has told me that when he is drunk he often becomes aggressive and behaves in a way that he would not normally do. It was while under the influence of alcohol that he caused the damage to the shop, caused the graffiti to be written on the walls and exhibited the notice outside the Primary School. Mr Weston says that he now recognises that he has a drinking problem and that he is going to seek professional help.

Mr Weston would like to state that he is not a racist and that he does not hold racist views. He has indicated to me that he is surprised and shocked by what he did on the 22nd September and that it is not in anyway a reflection of his true feelings. Since that incident, he has separated from his girl friend, Miss Shona West, and he states that he believes she was a bad influence on his behaviour. In short, your worships, I would like to indicate that Mr Weston’s actions are out of character. In this respect I would draw your attention to the fact that Mr Weston has no previous record of criminal behaviour and that this is the first time that he has come to the attention of the Magistrates’ Court for a serious offence.

In considering your sentence I would also ask you to bear in mind Mr Weston’s early guilty plea and to give him credit for this in your sentencing decision. Your worships, unless there is any further way in which I can assist the Bench, that is the testimony for the defence.