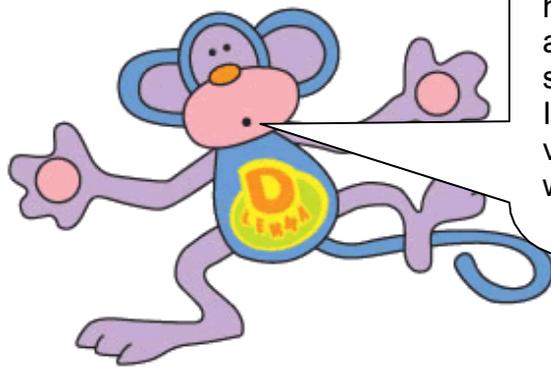


## **Di Lemma goes to court**



Hi everyone, Di Lemma here again. I am allowed to go to court to support my neighbour. I am a bit nervous but very interested in what will happen

Di Lemma was listening to his mum and dad talking quietly in the kitchen, when he heard them mention that one of their neighbours was going to court. Di Lemma became really worried as he had seen court on TV and he knew it was a place where criminals went, "Surely Mr Jones isn't a criminal?" he thought.

**Is Di Lemma right to be worried? Why do you think Di Lemma thinks court is a place for criminals?**

Di Lemma became so worried that in the end, he went into the kitchen and asked his mum and dad what Mr Jones had done wrong. "He hasn't done anything wrong" said his dad a bit confused, "why do you think he has?"

"Because you said he was going to court. He must have broken the law, that's why people go to court. Then they get sent to prison. I've seen it on TV!" said Di Lemma.

**Is Di Lemma right, do people get sent to prison after going to court?**

Di Lemma's mum smiled, "Oh dear Di Lemma you shouldn't think everything you see on TV is true or indeed the same for everyone. There are many different reasons why people go to court, they're not always guilty of something and they don't always get sent to prison."

**Di Lemma tried to think of some other reasons why people go to court, can you help him out?**

His mum explained to Di Lemma that people might have to go to court if they are the victim of a crime, have seen a crime and must act as a witness, can't resolve an argument with someone and need someone to help "Or" she said "it might be your job to go to court"

"Ok, so why is Mr Jones going to court if he hasn't done anything wrong?" asked Di Lemma.

"Well" said his mum "he works for the local newspaper, so he often goes to listen to different court cases and reports them, so people can find out what has happened.

"Wow, that's really cool, I'd love a job like that" said Di Lemma "what other reasons are there that mean you have to go to court then?"

"There are lots of reasons, if you are a solicitor, a judge, a witness, a policeman, you report for a newspaper or you want to sit in the public gallery and observe." His mum said.

**Do you think it would be nice going to court and listening to crimes, offences and problems? Who can go into a court and listen to a case?**

"It's not all exciting" said his mum "you might hear some nasty things, or shocking things and then see people sent to prison or fined lots of money. That's not always cool!" "I know the case tomorrow is about a man that keeps throwing litter on the floor, I'll phone Mr Jones and ask him to take you to see what it's like."

The next day Di Lemma set off with Mr Jones to the magistrates court, he was surprised that you could go to court for littering the streets.

**What other reasons can you think of that people might have to go to court?**

When they got there Di Lemma was a bit disappointed, it wasn't like on TV, there was no jury, just three people listening to the cases and making decisions. Mr Jones explained that a magistrate court didn't have a jury. Juries were for more serious cases; these are heard in Crown Court.

**Di Lemma knows that a jury is made up of 12 people, but do you know why criminal cases have a jury? What do the jury do?**

"Can we go there instead?" said Di Lemma "Well it's my job to report here today, maybe another time." Said Mr Jones.

**Do you think that Di Lemma is right to be excited? Do you think he should be a bit more serious about going to court?**

**Decide what fine you would give to the man who keeps throwing litter all the time and say why this would be his punishment.**

Di Lemma says bye until next time.....