The Royal Courts of Justice
What happens at the Royal Courts of Justice?

The Royal Courts of Justice is a court building that houses both the **High Court** and the **Court of Appeal of England and Wales**.

Together the **High Court** and the **Court of Appeal** form the second and third highest court in England and Wales. Only the Supreme Court has more authority.
Types of court in England and Wales

Criminal courts

Supreme Court

Court of Appeal

High Court

Crown Courts

County Courts

Magistrates’ courts

Tribunals

Civil courts
What kind of cases go to the High Court?

- The High Court hears high value civil cases, and cases of high importance.

- Civil law covers non-criminal disputes between businesses and between individuals.

- In 2012, Samsung brought Apple to the High Court to make them declare that their tablet design had not copied the Apple iPad design.

- The High Court judge ruled that Apple had to publish an announcement on their website stating that Samsung had not copied their design.
The Court of Appeal hears appeals from both criminal and civil cases that have been heard at lower-court.

Criminal law deals with crimes and their punishment.

In 2013, a man appealed against his seven-year prison sentence for his role in what is believed to be the UK’s biggest plot to make fake pound coins.

His barrister was Alex Cameron QC, the older brother of the prime minister. The man lost his appeal.
What is the history of the Royal Courts of Justice?

Originally, the High Court heard cases all over London. It wasn’t practical for judges and barristers to have to move across the city from court to court.

It was decided that courts should be built in one place. An architecture competition was held to find a design for the building. They built the winning design by George Edmund Street in Victorian Gothic style.

The Royal Courts of Justice were completed in 1882 and opened by Queen Victoria.