

# Pants Suit? *text & worksheet -Listening [here](#)*

**‘Wrong trousers’ dispute ends in a multi-million dollar court case.**

Washington judge, Roy Pearson, takes some suits to a shop called Custom Cleaners. He wants them to do some **alterations**. Two days later, Mr Pearson returns. Custom Cleaners hand over the altered garments. The business transaction is complete

But according to Mr Pearson something is wrong. And he is very upset

‘They tried to give me a pair of charcoal grey trousers,’ a tearful Pearson later tells a court. ‘My pants had had red and blue stripes!’

At the time he asks for the full price of his suit. ‘It cost over \$1,000!’

## **Compensation claim**

Custom Cleaners are a small family business. They don’t want to pay \$1,000. They insist the grey trousers are the ‘lost’ ones. ‘These are the pants you gave us!’ they say.

Mr Pearson disagrees. He goes to court to **claim compensation**. Now he wants more than \$1,000. In fact he asks for US \$65 million.

You might think \$65 million buys a lot of trousers. You could buy a trouser factory and still have plenty of change. So how does Mr Pearson justify his claim?



## **Satisfaction Guaranteed?**

Mr Pearson points out that Custom Cleaners have ‘Satisfaction **Guaranteed**’ sign above the counter of their shop. Breaking this promise has caused Judge Pearson ‘mental suffering, inconvenience and discomfort’. Naturally, it will take millions of dollars to rebuild his life.

Plus there are his legal costs. Judge Pearson has hired himself as a lawyer. And Judge Pearson doesn’t come cheap!

## **The Ruling**

The judge in the case rules in favour of Custom Cleaners.

‘Satisfaction guaranteed,’ she writes in her ruling, does not apply to ‘a customer’s unreasonable demands.’



## **Vocabulary**

**Alterations** - changes to size

**Claim Compensation** - request money to pay for loss

**Frivolous** - unserious, silly

**Garments** - clothes

**Guaranteed** - promised

**Pants** - trousers (US) underwear (UK)

**Ruling** - judgement/decision

**Stripes** - vertical lines

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# Pant Suit *Complete worksheet*

## Quick Check - True, false or disputed?

1. The case concerns a pair of trousers.
2. Mr Pearson bought the trousers at Custom Cleaners.
3. No trousers were returned to Mr Pearson.
4. The wrong trousers were returned to Mr Pearson
5. Mr Pearson asked Custom Cleaners for \$1000 dollars for his lost trousers.
6. Mr Pearson went to court to ask for compensation.
7. The judge agreed that the 'wrong trousers' affected Mr Pearson's mental health.
8. The lawyer acting for Mr Pearson asks for millions of dollars.
9. The key to the case is what is meant by 'satisfaction guaranteed'.
10. The judge did not accept that Mr Pearson's claim was reasonable.

## Understanding

*Which best describes Mr Pearson's case*

- a) He believes that Custom Cleaners deliberately damaged his trousers.
  - b) He thinks that Custom Cleaners did not fulfil their promisee.
  - c) He just wants an apology
10. What is the judge's ruling?

## Vocabulary

- I. A **garment** is something you can a) wear b) clean with
- II. A **lawsuit** is heard in a) a court b) a prison c) a hospital
- II. You receive **compensation** a) correct an injustice b) reward you.
- III. Something **frivolous** is a) serious b) not serious c) very loud
- IV. **Stripes** on trousers are: a) circles b) horizontal lines c) vertical lines
- IV. A **dry-cleaners** a) makes b) cleans c) dries clothes
- V. A **guarantee is a** a) lie b) promise c) discount

## Listening

[video summary](#) \* [extension activity](#)

## Writing - *answer Q1 and one of the other questions*

1. Write a short description of what the judge decides max *25 words*
2. Write a short newspaper report about this case. Try to present the facts rather than your opinions.  
*100-200 words*
3. Imagine you are Judge Roy Pearson. Write why you think you deserve \$54 million. *100-200 words*
4. Write a letter to a friend about what happened

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