

For Legal Eagles exclusively

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Many words in Legal English acquire new meaning or function in different contexts than in General English. Especially when word-formation becomes involved we have to pay attention to retain the meaning originally intended. Have a look at the following examples:

1. PROVIDE

The verb PROVIDE and its nominal form PROVISION may have two distinct meanings:

- PROVIDE SERVICES/PROVISION OF SERVICES – świadczyć usługi/świadczenie usług
- THE CONTRACT PROVIDES/PROVISION OF A CONTRACT – umowa określa/postanowienie umowne

In LE you may also encounter PREVISION (foresight) and PROVISIO, which generally has a narrower meaning than PROVISION (a contractual term).

*Please note that if a noun follows directly the phrase THE CONTRACT PROVIDES then a preposition “FOR” must follow it to make it grammatically correct. Note that in both cases the word PROVIDE means ‘określa’:

- The doctrine of privity of contract PROVIDES *that* a contract cannot confer rights or impose obligations arising under it on any person or agent except the parties to it.
- The contract PROVIDES FOR the terms of her employment.

2. OBSERVE

This word forms two nouns: OBSERVATION and OBSERVANCE, yet only the latter may be used as a nominal form in the legal meaning of observing the provisions of law.

- OBSERVANCE - obeying, complying with a rule
- OBSERVATION - study or a judgment or conclusions from what one has seen

TASK

Will you be able to form new words in the correct form to fill in the gaps in the sentences?

	Sample sentence	Polish meaning
1	OBSERVE The state must enforce the _____ of human rights in its domestic legal order.	
2	PROVIDE The Act of 18 July 2002 on the _____ of services by electronic means enables the implementation of the Directive 2000/31/EC of the European Parliament	
3	PROVIDE The _____ of the Act do not apply, among other things, to dissemination or distribution of radio programmes.	
4	OBSERVE She made three original _____ about the new situation.	
5	PROVIDE The purpose of the penalty provision is to _____ for damages.	