

## Language

Complete the text below with the correct form of these verbs:

sue      get      appeal      award      win      settle      take

If you have an accident at work because the workplace is not safe, you can (1) . . . . . for negligence. One woman was recently (2) . . . . . nearly £40,000 after falling down a badly-lit staircase. She knew she could (3) . . . . . compensation and (4) . . . . . the company to court. The company tried to (5) . . . . . out of court, but the woman wasn't interested. She (6) . . . . . her case, but the company are going to (7) . . . . . against the decision.

## Discussion

Look at the situations below in small groups. Decide if they are legitimate or just a waste of time.

1. A 39-year-old actress is suing for 'emotional distress' after being told that she was 'too old' to play the part of Juliet in Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*.
2. A burglar wants \$50,000 to pay for his hospital bills. In attempting to break into a clothing store, he fell through the roof, broke both his legs and was left immobile. He was found the following morning in severe pain. He claims the store is to blame for having a 'faulty roof'.
3. A man tripped and fell on a pavement because it was uneven. He broke his wrist and is suing the local council for negligence.
4. A woman opened a bag of salad and found a live frog inside. She is suing the supermarket because she suffered 'severe trauma.'
5. A flight attendant is suing the airline she worked for for unfair dismissal. She was sacked because she had become too fat.
6. A woman is suing her health authority because the sterilisation operation they performed the previous year had obviously failed. "Of course I love my new baby," she said, "but this is not what I had planned for my life."
7. A woman who ran over and critically injured a pedestrian is suing the car manufacturer, claiming that the brand new car's horn did not work and therefore she was unable to warn the passing pedestrian.
8. A vegetarian wants \$1 million in damages from a local restaurant. She asked for the 'vegetarian' lasagne and halfway through her meal discovered that there were bits of ground beef in the sauce.
9. A father is suing his son for \$25,000 – the estimated value of the family's car. It seems that the son, aged 19, borrowed his father's new car without asking for permission. He then crashed it. The son was unhurt, but the car was a total write-off.

## Discussion

Which of the following best sums up your attitude to compensation?

1. I'm totally against it. It just encourages people to sue for the slightest thing.
2. I can't get worked up about it. It doesn't bother me. It's never affected me.
3. I'm all for it! The more people can screw out of big companies the better! I wish a waiter would spill some coffee on me!