Defendant was hired to transport some boxes of goods to Southampton. Instead of carrying them to Southampton, he broke open the boxes and took the contents.

Is this a crime if he was given possession of the goods?

What do you think the law was in 1473?

Do you think the law is still the same today? Why or why not?
One guy, let’s call him Juan Guy, decides that his rose bushes need trimming, so he heads out and chops away! It turns out, however, that the bushes are right on the border between his land and that of his neighbor, who we will call Nancy Neighbor. When Juan Guy cuts the branches, they fall onto Nancy’s lawn. So, without asking her permission, Juan runs around the bushes onto Nancy’s property and picks up the clippings. Nancy Neighbor is upset that Juan Guy has trespassed on her lawn. She is also upset the thorny branches fell onto her lawn.

Is it a crime that Juan Guy went onto his neighbor’s lawn?

Is it a crime that the thorny branches fell onto the neighbor’s lawn?

What if it had been a really LARGE branch from a tree? If it had fallen on her house?
Weaver v. Ward, 1616

Weaver and Ward are both soldiers in the army. One day, they had to do an exercise to practice their hand-to-hand fighting skills. The exercise involved the use of loaded weapons. Somehow, in the midst of the exercise, Ward’s gun went off and harmed Weaver.

Should Ward be liable for Weaver’s harm?

What do you think the law was in 1616?

Do you think the law is still the same today? Why or why not?
Butterfield v. Forrester, 1809

The defendant, while making repairs on his home, put a pole across part of the road. The plaintiff came out of a local public house (a bar), got on his horse, and rode “violently” down the street. He ran into the pole and fell onto the ground. A bystander said that there was enough light on the street to see the pole from 100 yards and that if the plaintiff had been riding more slowly, he would have seen it.

Should the plaintiff be able to get damages for his injuries from the defendant?

Why or why not?

What do you think the law is today?
Hadley v. Baxendale, 1854

The plaintiffs were milliners and operated a mill. A crankshaft that they used to operate their mill broke, and they were no longer able to run the mill. The plaintiffs gave the crankshaft to the defendant’s company, a delivery company, to be repaired. The delivery of the shaft was delayed by negligence. As a result, the mill lost its profits for many days. The milliners did not tell the delivery company that the mill would be shut down on delay.

Should the plaintiff be able to win damages for all of the profits because of the delay of the mill?

What if the delivery company had known that there was the potential to lose all of the profit in the mill if there was a delay in delivery?

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