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| **1st Amendment**  **What the Amendment Says:** Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.  **What it Means:** The first amendment guarantees some of our most important rights including freedom of religion, freedom of assembly, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and freedom to petition the government.  Freedom to petition the government protects Americans right protest and to make formal complaints against the government.  **5 Freedoms Explained**   1. Religion (establishment clause, free-exercise clause) 2. Assembly (protest, have a parade, gather in public) 3. Speech (You can say whatever you want, as long as it doesn’t cause danger) 4. Press (you can print anything you want as long as it’s not lies or classified info) 5. Petition (you can protest, complain against the gov.)   There are limits to these freedoms because there needs to be law and order | **2nd Amendment**  **What the Amendment Says:** A well-regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.  **What it Means:** The second amendment means the right to bear arms or the right to own a gun.  When the amendment was passed in 1791 arms meant weapons. The word arms did not necessarily only mean guns, but it definitely included guns. The Second Amendment did not specifically explain what categories or types of arms nor did it list what weapons were considered arms.  Militias were what protected the towns in the early years of our country and because of this most men over the age of 16 owned a gun or some other type of weapon. This was why the amendment was included to make sure that towns and the country could be protected.  Although the Second Amendment does allow for people to own guns, it does not prevent government regulation of firearms. |
| **3rd Amendment**  **What the Amendment Says:** No soldier shall, in time of peace, be quartered in any house without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.  **What it Means:** The Third Amendment prevents the government from making citizens shelter soldiers in their homes. This amendment was drafted in response to abuses by British forces during the Revolutionary War.  This amendment has little purpose today as the government would never ask citizens to house soldiers in their homes.  The amendment has been used to demonstrate a citizen's right to privacy by saying that it implies that the government cannot enter private property without the consent of the owner. | **4th Amendment**  **What the Amendment Says:** The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.  **What it Means:** Americans right to privacy is protected under the 4th Amendment. It protects against unnecessary or unreasonable searches and seizures. Police must have a court issued warrant or “probable cause” to search someone or his/her property.  A "search" under the Fourth Amendment is when a public employee (like a police officer) looks at something that is considered "private".  It typically takes two things in order for something to be considered "private":  1) The citizen thought it was private and it would not be able to be viewed by the public (For example, something inside a house would be private, something on the driveway could be viewed by anyone).  2) These expectations of privacy are realistic (It wouldn't be realistic to expect something on your driveway to be private).  When someone is "seized" they are not free to leave (like being arrested and placed in jail). When something is "seized" it cannot be taken back (like the police taking your wallet and not giving it back). |
| **5th Amendment**  **What the Amendment Says:** No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a grand jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the militia, when in actual service in time of war or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation.  **What it Means:** The Fifth Amendment prohibits double jeopardy, which means that someone cannot be tried twice for the same crime.  The Fifth Amendment also states that people cannot be compelled to testify against themselves (self-incrimination), and it guarantees "due process," which means people accused of a crime must be properly notified of the charges and given a fair hearing.  The amendment also states that a person has a right to "due process of law." Due process means that any citizen charged with a crime will be given a fair trial that follows a defined procedure through the judicial system.  The last section says that the government can't take a person's private property without paying them a fair price for it. This is called eminent domain. The government can take your property for public use, but they have to pay you a fair price for it.  . | **6th Amendment**  **What the Amendment Says:** In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defense.  **What it Means:** The Sixth Amendment establishes the right of an accused person to a public trial by jury. The accused also has the right to have a lawyer, to confront hostile witnesses, and to obtain witnesses in his or her defense.  How fast is speedy? Well, the law doesn't say. What this means is that the government shouldn't needlessly delay the trial. They can't hold someone in jail while purposely delaying a trial. Some trials still take a long time for various reasons. |
| **7th Amendment**  **What the Amendment Says:** In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury shall be otherwise reexamined in any court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.  **What it Means:** The seventh amendment guarantees the right to a jury trial in a civil (private) legal cases in which the amount of money is greater than $20. Civil cases involve disputes (arguments) between people.  **Examples of civil cases include:**  People suing for damages due to faulty products.  They may have been injured and want payment for their medical bills and lost wages.  To settle an argument over who owns a plot of land.  A business suing another business to get money they owe. Workers who sue their employers for unsafe working conditions.  Discrimination lawsuits.  To determine damages and who was at fault in a car accident | **8th Amendment**  **What the Amendment Says:** Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.  **What it Means:** This amendment protects people from cruel and unusual punishment for crimes. It also protects people from having to pay unreasonably high fines or bail – money given to the court in exchange for an accused person’s release from jail before trial.  Certain punishments have been determined to be forbidden by the Eighth Amendment including torture, burning alive, drawing and quartering, and taking away a person's U.S. citizenship. |
| **9th Amendment**  **What the Amendment Says:** The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.  **What it Means:** According to this amendment the people of the United States have other rights than just those That are listed in the previous amendments.  If you break the amendment apart, it is basically saying that the rights listed in the U.S. Constitution should not be used to take other rights away from people. Specifically, enumeration means the numbered items in a list, and construed means to interpret in a specific way, usually to favor your view.  Included in the Bill of Rights because James Madison knew it would be impossible to write down every single right and so this was included to ensure that the people would be protected in the future.  **Examples of Protected Rights**  The right to a job  The right to clean drinking water  The right to privacy | **10th Amendment**  **What the Amendment Says:** The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.  **What it Means:** This amendment says that any power not given to the US Government (those people in Washington DC) belongs to the states and or to the people.  The federal government **ONLY** has the powers that are given to it by the Constitution  The Tenth Amendment was added to insure that the powers of the federal government remain limited. The writers of the Tenth Amendment wanted to make it clear that the power of the federal government comes from the states and the people, not the other way around  **Examples of powers of the federal government**  Raising and maintaining the armed forces  Declaring war  Collecting taxes  Regulating commerce between the states  Coining and regulating money  **Examples of state powers**  Traffic laws  Collecting local taxes  Issuing driver's licenses and marriage licenses  Holding elections  Regulating commerce within the state  Building and maintaining roads and schools  Police and fire departments |