

**Res-judicata**

1. According to ordinary dictionary meaning, 'res judicata' means a case or suit involving a particular issue between two or more parties already decided by a court. Thereafter, if either of the parties approaches the court for the adjudication of the same issue, the suit will be struck by the law of 'res judicata'.
2. Res judicata as per Section 11 of the Civil Procedure Code, 1908:  
  
*"No Court shall try any suit or issue in which the matter directly and substantially in issue has been directly and substantially in issue in a former suit between the same parties, or between parties under whom they or any of them claim, litigating under the same title, in a Court competent to try such subsequent suit or the suit in which such issue has been subsequently raised, and has been heard and finally decided by such Court".*
3. Thus, the principle of 'Res Judicata' is a common law doctrine meant to bar re-litigation of cases between the same parties in Court. Once a final judgment has been handed down in a lawsuit subsequent judges who are confronted with a suit that is identical to or substantially the same as the earlier one will apply 'res judicata' to preserve the effect of the first judgment.
4. This prevents injustice to the parties of a case supposedly finished, but perhaps mostly to avoid unnecessary waste of resources in the court system. 'Res Judicata' not only prevents future judgments from contradicting earlier ones but also prevents them from multiplying judgments. It is to be noted that the doctrine of res judicata is not merely a matter of procedure but a doctrine evolved by the Courts in the larger public interest. Section 11 merely recognises the said doctrine which is basically based on public policy.