

Offer & Acceptance

Law

Distinguishing an offer from an invitation to treat.

Common situations.

Situation	Usually is
Goods displayed in a shop	Invitation to treat
Advertisement	Invitation to treat, usually
Auction lot	Invitation; the bid is the offer
Tender request	Invitation to treat
Automatic vending machine	Offer, accepted by payment

Educational reference. A counter-offer destroys the original offer; it cannot then be accepted without renewal.