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Topic	Attempt to commit offence
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1. Introduction

"Attempt to commit offence" is an important concept in criminal law. It applies when a person intends to commit a crime and takes steps towards it, but the crime is not completed.

The law punishes attempts because they show a dangerous intention (mens rea) and a real action (actus reus) toward committing a crime.

2. Definition

An attempt to commit an offence means:

When a person, with the intention of committing a crime, does some act towards its commission but fails to complete it.

Simple words:

A person tries to commit a crime but cannot finish it.

3. Relevant Provision (PPC)

The main provision is:

Section 511 of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC)

It deals with punishment for attempting to commit offences.

Applies where no specific punishment for attempt is given in the law.

Punishment:

Up to half of the punishment of the main offence, or

Fine, or

Both.

4. Relevant Sections with Definition & Examples

(a) Section 511 PPC – Attempt to Commit Offence

Definition:

Whoever attempts to commit an offence punishable with imprisonment, and does any act towards committing it, shall be punished.

Example:

A tries to poison B by putting poison in his drink, but B does not drink it.

 This is an attempt to commit murder.

(b) Section 307 PPC – Attempt to Murder

Definition:

If a person does an act with intention or knowledge that it may cause death, it is attempt to murder.

Example:

A shoots at B but B survives.

 A is guilty under Section 307 PPC.

(c) Section 393 PPC – Attempt to Robbery

Definition:

Attempt to commit robbery.

Example:

A tries to snatch a bag using force but fails.

- Punishable under Section 393 PPC.

(d) Section 376 read with attempt (Attempt to Rape)

Example:

A tries to rape a woman but is stopped before completion.

- This is attempt to rape.

5. Important Elements of Attempt

Intention to commit offence

Preparation

Act towards commission (attempt stage)

Failure to complete the offence

- Mere preparation is not punishable, but attempt is punishable.

6. Conclusion

Attempt to commit an offence is a serious stage of crime where the offender goes beyond preparation and starts execution. Even if the crime is not completed, the law punishes the attempt to protect society and discourage criminal behavior.

Section 511 PPC ensures that offenders cannot escape liability simply because their crime was unsuccessful.