Without assuming prior legal knowledge, books in the Directions series introduce and guide readers through key points of law and legal debate. Questions, diagrams, and exercises help readers to engage fully with each subject and check their understanding as they progress. Tort law is designed to address the consequences of loss. This is accomplished mainly through compensation and deterrence. A third aim of tort law is corrective justice. This chapter discusses the compensation aim of tort law, focusing on personal injury caused by accidents. It examines whether this aim has been successfully accomplished and considers the relative merits of other forms of compensation. After providing a historical overview of the tort system of compensation, the chapter looks at the function of tort as a form of compensation for loss and places tort in the context of other forms of compensation. It also analyses insurance, no-fault liability, and alternative compensation schemes before ending with a discussion of current debates concerning possible high levels of personal injury litigation.
2. Trespass to the person and to land

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