

Plaintive and plaintiff

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These two words sound almost the same, and are different.

A plaintiff (demandante) is someone who goes to a court with a complaint. Two examples:

- Mr. Sanchez, the plaintiff, went to court (...el demandante, fue a juicio...) to silence Mr. Feijoo.
- The jury resolved the dispute in favour of the plaintiff (...a favor del demandante).

Mortals can be plaintive, that is, sounding or looking sad or sorrowful (afligado/triste). Two examples:

- You have a plaintive look today (...una cara lastimera hoy).
- Mr. Sanchez said goodbye to Mr. Johnson in a plaintive voice (...una voz lastimera).

Perhaps you have been a plaintiff and in the court - or another place - you had a plaintive face. Who knows?