

ROOT OF THE DAY

ject — Latin *jacere* — to throw · “throw”

eject — e- (out) + ject (throw) = to throw out

inject — in- (into) + ject (throw) = to throw/force into

reject — re- (back) + ject (throw) = to throw back, refuse

project — pro- (forward) + ject (throw) = to throw forward, plan

conjecture — con- (together) + ject (throw) = to throw ideas together, a guess

trajectory — tra- (across) + ject (throw) = the path of a thrown object

POWER WORDS

promulgate v.

“The government promulgated the new rules by gazette notification, bringing them into force at once.”

Meaning: to make a law or decree publicly and officially known; to put into effect

Syn: proclaim · **Ant:** repeal

HOOK: PROMULGATE = PROMote + reguLATE: officially announce a rule

attributable adj.

“The wrongful seizure was attributable to the State because a customs officer committed it in official capacity.”

Meaning: able to be regarded as caused by or belonging to someone

Syn: ascribable · **Ant:** unrelated

HOOK: ATTRIBUTE + able: able to be credited to a source

indigenous adj.

“The Kusha missile is an indigenous system built by DRDO and Indian industry partners.”

Meaning: originating or produced naturally in a particular place; native

Syn: native · **Ant:** imported

HOOK: INDI-genous: born INDIa-side, home-grown

mitigate v.

“Better embankment planning could mitigate the damage the shifting river causes.”

Meaning: to make less severe or painful

Syn: alleviate · **Ant:** aggravate

HOOK: MITI- (mild) -gate: make milder

salient adj.

“The editorial listed the salient objections to the drone programme.”

Meaning: most noticeable or important

Syn: prominent · **Ant:** negligible

HOOK: SALIENT leaps out at you (Latin salire, to leap)

pacta sunt servanda phrase

“Under pacta sunt servanda, every treaty in force binds the parties to perform it in good faith.”

Meaning: the principle that agreements/treaties must be kept

Syn: good-faith compliance · **Ant:** repudiation

HOOK: PACT + SERVE: a pact must be served/kept

preclude v.

“Valid self-defence may preclude the wrongfulness of a State’s use of force.”

Meaning: to prevent from happening; make impossible

Syn: forestall · **Ant:** permit

HOOK: PRE (before) + CLUDE (close): close off in advance

bifurcate v.

“The Cabinet bifurcated the ministry into two separate departments.”

Meaning: to divide into two branches or parts

Syn: split · **Ant:** merge

HOOK: BI (two) + FURCATE (fork): fork into two

prima facie phrase

“The complaint disclosed a prima facie case, so the court ordered an investigation.”

Meaning: based on first impression; accepted as correct until proved otherwise

Syn: on its face · **Ant:** conclusively disproved

HOOK: PRIMA (first) FACIE (face): at first face/glance

CONFUSABLE PAIRS — DON’T MIX THESE UP

mitigate vs **mitigate**

mitigate: to lessen the severity of something

mitigate: to have force/weight (against), to work against

TIP: You mitiGATE damage; factors miliTATE against a claim.

principle vs **principal**

principle: a fundamental rule or truth

principal: main/most important; a head of a school

TIP: A rule is a principLE; your pal the principaL is the head.

elicit vs **illicit**

elicit: to draw out (a response)

illicit: forbidden by law

TIP: You Elicit a reply; Illicit goods are Illegal.

precede vs **proceed**

precede: to come before

proceed: to go forward/continue

TIP: prE-cede = come bEfore; prO-ceed = gO onward.

statute vs **statue**

statute: a written law passed by a legislature

statue: a carved or cast figure

TIP: A statuTe is a law (T for text); a statue stands in a park.

IDIOMS & ONE-WORD SUBSTITUTION



Idioms in context

- **the last word** — the final, decisive say in a matter
“The river, patient and immense, will have the last word over the engineers.”
- **a facade** — a deceptive outward appearance
“The company was a mere facade to hide the fraud, so the court lifted the veil.”
- **to smuggle in (an assumption)** — to introduce something quietly without it being noticed
“The tidy argument had smuggled in assumptions that did not survive scrutiny.”
- **to have the last word** — to make the final, decisive statement in a dispute
“However high the embankments, the river will have the last word.”

One-word substitution

- one who is thrown out or exiled → **outcast**
- a government by the wealthy few → **plutocracy**
- an agreement between two states → **bilateral treaty**
- a state having nuclear weapons → **nuclear power**
- the killing of a large group / a people → **genocide**
- one who studies or promotes peace → **pacifist**

WORDS IN THE WILD — FROM TODAY’S NEWSPAPER

- **pacta sunt servanda** — treaties must be kept in good faith
“A ratified treaty binds a State, which cannot invoke internal law to escape it.” — CLAT Gurukul brief on the Law of Treaties, 24 Jul 2026
- **proliferation** — the spread of nuclear weapons/technology
“The US-Saudi 123 Agreement raised concerns about proliferation in West Asia.” — CLAT Gurukul brief on the US-Saudi nuclear deal, 24 Jul 2026
- **indigenous** — home-grown, natively produced
“DRDO’s indigenous Kusha missile reduces dependence on the imported S-400.” — CLAT Gurukul brief on DRDO Kusha, 24 Jul 2026
- **bifurcate** — to split into two
“The Cabinet bifurcated the Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry into two departments.” — CLAT Gurukul brief on the urban ministry split, 24 Jul 2026

LEGAL & LATIN TERMS EVERY ASPIRANT MUST KNOW

- **pacta sunt servanda** — agreements/treaties must be kept
- **prima facie** — on the face of it; at first sight
- **ultra vires** — beyond the powers (of a body/company)
- **suo motu** — on its own motion (a court acting by itself)
- **opinio juris** — belief that a practice is legally obligatory
- **erga omnes** — owed to the international community as a whole
- **rebus sic stantibus** — things standing thus; a fundamental change of circumstances
- **mens rea** — the guilty mind; criminal intent
- **actus reus** — the guilty act; the physical element of a crime
- **res ipsa loquitur** — the thing speaks for itself
- **audi alteram partem** — hear the other side; a rule of natural justice
- **force majeure** — an irresistible force or superior event beyond control

PRACTICE DRILL

1. PROMULGATE most nearly means:

A) repeal quietly · B) officially proclaim and put into force · C) debate endlessly · D) translate

2. To PRECLUDE an outcome is to:

A) cause it · B) prevent it in advance · C) delay it briefly · D) welcome it

3. An INDIGENOUS product is:

A) imported · B) native/home-grown · C) counterfeit · D) luxury

4. To BIFURCATE is to:

A) merge · B) split into two · C) enlarge · D) abolish

5. Choose the correct word: The heavy rain will ____ the risk of flooding, not reduce it.

A) mitigate · B) militate against · C) aggravate · D) preclude

6. PRIMA FACIE means:

A) conclusively proven · B) on first appearance, until disproved · C) beyond the powers · D) by its own motion

7. ULTRA VIRES describes an act that is:

A) within powers · B) beyond the powers of a body · C) morally right · D) urgently needed

8. SALIENT features are those that are:

A) hidden · B) most noticeable/important · C) trivial · D) temporary

Answer key: 1-B · 2-B · 3-B · 4-B · 5-C · 6-B · 7-B · 8-B

ETYMOLOGY TRAIL

From the Latin *jacere*, ‘to throw’, a whole family of words was thrown into English. A legislature may **promulgate** a statute; a diplomat, bound by **pacta sunt servanda**, cannot reject a ratified treaty on a mere conjecture. When a State’s act is **attributable** to it, only a force majeure may **preclude** its wrongfulness. The **salient** lesson is **indigenous** to law itself: what you project into an agreement, you must be ready to keep.

