

ROOT OF THE DAY

rupt — Latin *rumpere* (past participle *ruptus*) — to break, to burst · “break, burst”

disrupt — dis- (apart) + rupt (break) = to break apart; to throw a service, process or event into disorder

interrupt — inter- (between) + rupt (break) = to break in between; to stop something, or someone speaking, for a time

abrupt — ab- (off) + rupt (broken) = broken off; sudden and unexpected, or curt in manner

erupt — e- (out) + rupt (burst) = to burst out; to break out suddenly, as violence or a volcano does

rupture — rupt (break) + -ure (act of) = the act of breaking; a sudden breach in a relationship or a pipe

bankrupt — Italian *banca rotta*, ‘broken bench’ = a trader whose bench was broken when he could not pay; legally unable to pay debts

POWER WORDS

draconian *adj.*

“Critics have long argued that arrest powers for a tax dispute were draconian, since most GST cases concern paperwork rather than fraud.”

Meaning: excessively harsh and severe, especially of laws or punishments

Syn: harsh · **Ant:** lenient

HOOK: Draco, the Athenian lawgiver whose laws prescribed death for petty offences

ephemeral *adj.*

“A 24-hour internet suspension may look ephemeral, yet for a trader who sells only online it can cost a full day's business.”

Meaning: lasting for a very short time

Syn: fleeting · **Ant:** enduring

HOOK: epi (on) + hemera (day) → lasting only a day

fractious *adj.*

“Climate negotiations grow fractious whenever finance is discussed, which is why India urged flexibility on all sides before Antalya.”

Meaning: irritable and quarrelsome; hard to control

Syn: unruly · **Ant:** amenable

HOOK: fractio (a breaking) → a group that keeps breaking into quarrels

palliative *adj.*

“Refunds for a cancelled flight are only a palliative measure; they do nothing about the danger in the airspace itself.”

Meaning: relieving the symptoms of a problem without dealing with its cause

Syn: mitigating · **Ant:** curative

HOOK: pallium (a cloak) → cloaking the pain without curing the disease

abstruse *adj.*

“Carson's work draws on Greek fragments that many readers find abstruse, yet the Academy praised its playful dialogue with the classical tradition.”

Meaning: difficult to understand; obscure

Syn: esoteric · **Ant:** lucid

HOOK: abs (away) + trudere (to push) → pushed away out of sight

evince *v.*

“Choosing a career diplomat over a political appointee was seen to evince the delicacy of New Delhi's ties with Kathmandu.”

Meaning: to reveal or show clearly the presence of a quality or feeling

Syn: manifest · **Ant:** conceal

HOOK: evincere (to overcome, prove) → to prove by showing

abet *v.*

“A telecom operator that refuses to implement a lawful suspension order cannot be said to abet a protest merely by keeping its network running.”

Meaning: to encourage or assist someone to commit a wrong or an offence

Syn: aid · **Ant:** thwart

HOOK: Old French abeter (to bait a dog on) → urging someone on to mischief

jettison *v.*

“By recommending the omission of Section 69, the GST Council chose to jettison arrest powers altogether rather than merely restrict them.”

Meaning: to abandon or discard something no longer wanted

Syn: discard · **Ant:** retain

HOOK: jactare (to throw) → goods thrown overboard to lighten a ship

bellicose *adj.*

“The Houthis' bellicose warning to global airlines ‘for the last time’ was followed within hours by missiles over Riyadh.”

Meaning: eager or quick to argue or fight; aggressive

Syn: belligerent · **Ant:** peaceable

HOOK: bellum (war) → war-minded

pre-empt *v.*

“Hamilton's priority-driven software was designed to pre-empt a crash by shedding less important tasks before the computer was overwhelmed.”

Meaning: to act in advance in order to prevent an anticipated event

Syn: forestall · **Ant:** provoke

HOOK: prae (before) + emere (to buy) → to buy first, before anyone else can

parochial *adj.*

“India argued that climate action must respect national circumstances, while denying that this position was parochial.”

Meaning: having a limited or narrow outlook, concerned only with local interests

Syn: insular · **Ant:** cosmopolitan

HOOK: parish → a view that never travels beyond the parish boundary

assuage *v.*

“Health workers hope that JOSH volunteers can assuage the fear and stigma that keep many patients from completing TB treatment.”

Meaning: to make an unpleasant feeling less intense; to soothe

Syn: allay · **Ant:** aggravate

HOOK: ad (to) + suavis (sweet) → to sweeten a bitter feeling

CONFUSABLE PAIRS — DON'T MIX THESE UP

erupt *vs* **irrupt**

erupt: to burst out, as a volcano or violence does

irrupt: to burst in; to enter forcibly or suddenly

TIP: E- is for Exit (bursting out); IR- is for In (bursting in).

historic *vs* **historical**

historic: important or likely to be remembered in history

historical: relating to or belonging to the past

TIP: A HISTORIC outcome makes history; a HISTORICAL record merely describes it.

allusion *vs* **illusion**

allusion: an indirect reference to something

illusion: a false idea or a deceptive appearance

TIP: An ALLusion ALLudes (refers); an ILLusion is an ILL-founded belief.

adherence *vs* **adhesion**

adherence: faithful observance of a rule, belief or course of treatment

adhesion: the physical sticking of one surface to another

TIP: Patients show ADHERENCE to treatment; glue shows ADHESION to paper.

forgo *vs* **forego**

forgo: to give up or do without something

forego: to go before; to precede

TIP: FORGO is to go without; FOREgo goes BEFORE (as in 'a foregone conclusion').

IDIOMS & ONE-WORD SUBSTITUTION

One-word substitution

- a diplomat or representative sent by one government to another



- **to pull the plug on** — to stop something from continuing, abruptly and decisively
"The Delhi Police pulled the plug on mobile internet within a 4-km radius of the Janpath–Kartavya Path crossing for 24 hours."
- **to meet (someone) halfway** — to compromise by conceding part of what one wants
"India's call for flexibility at the Pre-COP was, in effect, an appeal to rich and poor nations to meet each other halfway."
- **a bolt from the blue** — a sudden and completely unexpected event
"The laureate was surprised but very happy, though the prize was hardly a bolt from the blue for a writer named as a contender for years."
- **to hold the fort** — to take responsibility for a place or task while others are away
"Until the new ambassador receives his agrément, junior officers at the mission must hold the fort in Kathmandu."

- a person honoured with an award for outstanding achievement → **laureate**
- a person who collects and studies postage stamps → **philatelist**
- a phrase or inscription written in memory of a person who has died → **epitaph**
- a person who takes up arms against an established government → **insurgent**

WORDS IN THE WILD — FROM TODAY'S NEWSPAPER

- **curtail** — to reduce or restrict something, especially a right or a power
"Both may be curtailed only by reasonable restrictions under Article 19(2) (which includes "public order" and the "sovereignty and integrity of India") and Article 19(6) (in the interests of the general public)." — CLAT Gurukul daily brief (Delhi mobile internet suspension), 9 Oct 2026
- **oeuvre** — the whole body of work produced by a writer, artist or composer
"According to the official press release of the Academy's Permanent Secretary, published on nobelprize.org, the prize goes to Carson "for her bold and inventive oeuvre that, in playful dialogue with the classical tradition, has created new forms for contemporary literature"." — CLAT Gurukul daily brief (Nobel Literature 2026), 9 Oct 2026
- **convergence** — the process of coming together towards a common point or agreement
"He said the intensifying impacts of climate change demand "moving beyond rhetoric towards implementation and convergence"." — CLAT Gurukul daily brief (India at Pre-COP31), 9 Oct 2026
- **underpin** — to support or form the basis of an idea, system or argument
"That basic idea still underpins international mail today." — CLAT Gurukul daily brief (World Post Day and the UPU), 9 Oct 2026

LEGAL & LATIN TERMS EVERY ASPIRANT MUST KNOW

- **persona non grata** — an unwelcome person; a diplomat whom the receiving State declares unacceptable
- **sine die** — without a day being fixed; an adjournment with no date set for resumption
- **ad interim** — for the meantime; temporary, until a final arrangement is made
- **ex gratia** — done as a favour, without any legal obligation to do so
- **pro bono publico** — for the public good; legal work done free of charge
- **in absentia** — in the absence of the person concerned, as in a trial held without the accused
- **nolle prosequi** — 'unwilling to pursue'; a formal decision by the prosecution to discontinue a case
- **suppressio veri, suggestio falsi** — suppression of the truth is suggestion of the false; concealment amounting to misrepresentation
- **lex fori** — the law of the forum; the law of the court in which a case is heard
- **ad hoc** — for this particular purpose only; not general or permanent
- **audi alteram partem** — hear the other side; no one should be condemned unheard
- **ultra vires** — beyond the legal power or authority of the body acting
- **actus reus** — the guilty act; the physical element of a crime

RECALL CHECK — WORDS FROM EARLIER

assiduous (learnt 7 days ago) — meaning: _____

PRACTICE DRILL

- 'Disrupt' most nearly means:
 A) to burst out suddenly · B) to throw into disorder by breaking the normal flow · C) to stop someone speaking for a moment · D) to become legally unable to pay debts
- Choose the best fit: Free speech may be _____ only by reasonable restrictions under Article 19(2).
 A) assuaged · B) evinced · C) jettisoned · D) curtailed
- 'Bellicose' most nearly means:
 A) eager to fight · B) quarrelsome within a group · C) lasting a very short time · D) narrow in outlook
- Lava _____ from a volcano, while an invading army _____ into enemy territory.
 A) irrupts ... erupts · B) interrupts ... disrupts · C) erupts ... irrupts · D) disrupts ... ruptures
- The term 'persona non grata' refers to:
 A) a matter adjourned without a date · B) a payment made without legal obligation · C) a diplomat declared unacceptable by the receiving State · D) a trial held without the accused present
- Choose the best fit: The single-postal-territory idea of the 1874 Berne treaty still _____ international mail today.
 A) underpins · B) abets · C) pre-empts · D) assuages
- A person who collects and studies postage stamps is a/an:
 A) envoy · B) laureate · C) insurgent · D) philatelist
- 'Draconian' most nearly means:
 A) difficult to understand · B) excessively harsh and severe · C) relieving symptoms without curing · D) showing a quality clearly

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

ETYMOLOGY TRAIL

The Latin **rumpere**, 'to break', runs through the day's news: missiles that **disrupt** flights to Riyadh, an internet order that **interrupts** a city's connection, and a **bellicose** warning that made airlines **jettison** their schedules. In Delhi, the 24-hour suspension may be **ephemeral**, but Article 19 let State **curtail** speech only by reasonable restrictions, never by **draconian** ones. The GST Council's plan to drop arrest powers will **assuage** trauma once the law is actually amended; until then, it is a **palliative** promise.

