

ROOT OF THE DAY

sta / stat / stit / sist — Latin *stare* (past participle *status*) and its compounds -*stituere*, -*sistere* — to stand, to set up · “stand”

constitute — con- (together) + stit (set up, make stand) = to set up together; to form, establish or make up a whole

restitution — re- (back) + stit (set up) = setting back in place; restoring something lost or stolen to its rightful owner

destitute — de- (away) + stit (placed) = set apart and abandoned; without the basic necessities of life

desist — de- (from) + sist (stand) = to stand away from; to stop doing something, especially on demand

obstinate — ob- (against) + stin (stand) = standing firmly against; stubbornly refusing to change one's view

stasis — stasis (a standing still) = a state of inactivity or equilibrium in which no change occurs

POWER WORDS

usurp *v.*

“Critics in Peshawar asked whether a federal takeover of the province's functions was a constitutional remedy or an attempt to usurp the mandate of an elected government.”

Meaning: to take a position of power or a right illegally or by force

Syn: seize · **Ant:** surrender

HOOK: usurpare (to seize for use) → grabbing for your own use what belongs to another

imperil *v.*

“Repeated strikes on Riyadh's airport imperil the safety of the 2.74 million Indians who live and work in Saudi Arabia.”

Meaning: to put at risk of being harmed, injured or destroyed

Syn: endanger · **Ant:** safeguard

HOOK: im- (into) + peril (danger) → pushing someone into danger

anachronistic *adj.*

“By 1956 Parliament regarded the widow's limited estate as anachronistic, and Section 14 of the Hindu Succession Act converted it into absolute ownership.”

Meaning: belonging to an earlier period and out of place in the present

Syn: outdated · **Ant:** contemporary

HOOK: ana- (backwards) + chronos (time) → something stuck in the wrong time

accrue *v.*

“Once her estate became absolute, the right to inherit the land would accrue to her own heirs, not to the reversioners of her first husband.”

Meaning: to come to or fall to someone as a right, benefit or obligation, gradually or in due course

Syn: accumulate · **Ant:** dwindle

HOOK: ad- (to) + crescere (to grow) → something that grows towards you over time

prudential *adj.*

“The RBI justified its new curbs on rupee derivatives as a prudential step to keep the foreign exchange market orderly.”

Meaning: involving or showing care and forethought, especially in financial regulation

Syn: precautionary · **Ant:** reckless

HOOK: prudentia (foresight) → regulation that looks ahead before trouble arrives

cataclysmic *adj.*

“Himalayan valleys are so narrow that a single slope failure can trigger a cataclysmic flood with almost no warning.”

Meaning: relating to a sudden, violent upheaval or disaster

Syn: catastrophic · **Ant:** benign

HOOK: kata- (down) + klyzein (to wash) → a deluge that washes everything away

entrench *v.*

“India's Constitution does not entrench a fixed term for President's Rule; Article 356 permits continuance six months at a time, up to three years.”

Meaning: to establish an idea, right or position so firmly that change is very difficult

Syn: embed · **Ant:** dislodge

HOOK: en- (in) + trench (a ditch) → dug into a trench where no one can shift you

inundate *v.*

“When the landslide dam on the Budhi Gandaki gave way, floodwaters began to inundate settlements in Gorkha before residents could be warned.”

Meaning: to flood; to overwhelm with a great quantity of something

Syn: deluge · **Ant:** drain

HOOK: in- (onto) + unda (a wave) → wave upon wave washing over the land

emancipate *v.*

“Section 14(1) of the Hindu Succession Act was meant to emancipate Hindu women from a property regime that left them mere life-holders.”

Meaning: to set free, especially from legal, social or political restrictions

Syn: liberate · **Ant:** subjugate

HOOK: e- (out) + manus (hand) + capere (take) → taken out of another's hand

burgeoning *adj.*

“Canada's largest trade mission in three decades is aimed squarely at India's burgeoning demand for clean technology and aerospace.”

Meaning: growing or expanding rapidly

Syn: flourishing · **Ant:** declining

HOOK: burgeon (a bud) → a bud bursting into rapid growth

formidable *adj.*

“Raising nuclear capacity from 9 GW to 100 GW by 2047 is a formidable task, even with private investment of ₹7.5 lakh crore.”

Meaning: inspiring respect or fear because of size, strength or difficulty

Syn: daunting · **Ant:** trivial

HOOK: formido (terror, dread) → so large it fills you with awe

beholden *adj.*

“A province whose powers pass to the national Parliament becomes, for the duration of the emergency, beholden to the federal government.”

Meaning: owing something to another; under an obligation

Syn: indebted · **Ant:** independent

HOOK: be- + held → held by another, so bound to them

CONFUSABLE PAIRS — DON'T MIX THESE UP

complacent *vs* **complaisant**

complacent: smugly satisfied and unaware of possible danger

complaisant: willing to please others; obliging

TIP: complaCENT is too CENTred on itself to see danger; complaiSANT is pleaSANT to others.

perpetrate *vs* **perpetuate**

perpetrate: to carry out a harmful or criminal act

perpetuate: to make something continue indefinitely

TIP: You perpeTRATE a crime (the TRAITor acts); you perpetUate something to keep it going for yoU forever.

regretful *vs* **regrettable**

regretful: feeling regret (describes a person)

regrettable: deserving regret; unfortunate (describes an event)

TIP: People are regretFUL — FULL of feeling; events are regretTABLE — fit to be put on the table of things to regret.

hoard *vs* **horde**

hoard: a secret store of money or valuables; to amass and hide

horde: a large, disorderly crowd of people

TIP: A hOARD is stored like OARs in a shed; a hORDE is a cRowD.

economic *vs* **economical**

economic: relating to the economy or to trade and finance

economical: giving good value; thrifty, not wasteful

TIP: An economiC agreement is about the economy; an economicAL car saves you money — the extra AL is for 'all savings'.

IDIOMS & ONE-WORD SUBSTITUTION

One-word substitution

- a person entitled to property when a limited interest, such as a life estate, comes to an end → **reversioner**



- **to call the shots** — to be in control and make the important decisions
“Once the emergency was proclaimed, it was the federal government, not the provincial cabinet, that would call the shots in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.”
- **to weather the storm** — to come safely through a period of difficulty or danger
“With crude prices rising, the rupee needed both a dollar window and tighter derivative rules to weather the storm.”
- **to hedge one's bets** — to reduce the risk of loss by supporting more than one possible outcome
“Importers who hedge their bets with several banks must now declare the amounts already booked elsewhere.”
- **a drop in the ocean** — an amount far too small to make a real difference
“Today's 9 GW of nuclear capacity is a drop in the ocean against the 100 GW India hopes to reach by 2047.”

- a scientist who studies the movement and distribution of water on and beneath the Earth → **hydrologist**
- a system of government in which one person holds unlimited power → **autocracy**
- a mass departure of people, especially from a place of danger → **exodus**
- a diplomat given full power to act on behalf of a government → **plenipotentiary**

WORDS IN THE WILD — FROM TODAY'S NEWSPAPER

- **dastardly** — wicked and cruel in a cowardly way
“We strongly condemn the repeated attacks on Riyadh's King Khalid International Airport over the past few days, including the dastardly attack on October 10, which have led to loss of lives, injuries and damage to property.” — CLAT Gurukul daily brief (Riyadh airport attack), 12 Oct 2026
- **proviso** — a condition or qualification attached to a legal provision, usually introduced by 'provided that'
“Since the 18th Amendment (2010), a proviso requires a resolution of the Provincial Assembly for an internal-disturbance emergency; if the President acts on his own, the Proclamation must go to both Houses of Parliament for approval within ten days.” — CLAT Gurukul daily brief (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa emergency), 12 Oct 2026
- **devolve** — of property or a duty: to pass on to another person, especially by inheritance or law
“Under clause (ii), if she was entitled to the holding absolutely, it devolves on her own heirs under the table in Section 53.” — CLAT Gurukul daily brief (Hindu widow's limited estate), 12 Oct 2026
- **concurrently** — at the same time; running side by side
“DD News adds that the NGOPVs are being constructed concurrently at Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL), Goa, and at GRSE, Kolkata.” — CLAT Gurukul daily brief (NGOPV Shreyas launch), 12 Oct 2026

LEGAL & LATIN TERMS EVERY ASPIRANT MUST KNOW

- **lex situs** — the law of the place where property is situated; it generally governs succession to immovable property
- **per stirpes** — by branches; heirs of a deceased beneficiary take that person's share together, by representation
- **per capita** — by heads; each heir takes an equal share in their own right
- **donatio mortis causa** — a gift made in contemplation of imminent death, completed only if the donor dies
- **jus sanguinis** — right of blood; citizenship acquired through the nationality of one's parents
- **jus gentium** — the law of nations; principles common to all peoples, a forerunner of international law
- **lex posterior derogat priori** — a later law overrides an earlier inconsistent law on the same subject
- **lex specialis derogat legi generali** — a specific law prevails over a general law on the same matter
- **ex nunc** — from now on; an order or ruling that operates only prospectively
- **ex tunc** — from then; an order or ruling that operates retrospectively from the outset
- **res nullius** — a thing belonging to no one, which may be acquired by the first taker
- **casus foederis** — the case of the treaty; the event that triggers a State's obligation under an alliance

RECALL CHECK — WORDS FROM EARLIER

sovereignty (learnt 7 days ago) — meaning: _____

obviate (learnt 21 days ago) — meaning: _____

PRACTICE DRILL

- 'Restitution' most nearly means:
A) stubborn refusal to change a view · B) restoring something to its rightful owner · C) a state in which no change occurs · D) stopping an act on demand
- Choose the best fit: Since the 18th Amendment, a _____ requires a resolution of the Provincial Assembly for an internal-disturbance emergency.
A) plenipotentiary · B) hoard · C) reversioner · D) proviso
- 'Usurp' most nearly means:
A) to seize power or a right without authority · B) to flood or overwhelm completely · C) to fix firmly so change is difficult · D) to set free from restriction
- Those who _____ crimes against civilians often hope to _____ a cycle of fear.
A) perpetuate ... perpetrate · B) perpetrate ... perpetrate · C) perpetrate ... perpetuate · D) perpetuate ... perpetuate
- A rule that 'a later statute overrides an earlier inconsistent one' is expressed as:
A) lex specialis derogat legi generali · B) lex situs · C) lex posterior derogat priori · D) casus foederis
- A person entitled to property when a life estate ends is a/an:
A) reversioner · B) plenipotentiary · C) hydrologist · D) legatee
- 'Anachronistic' most nearly means:
A) growing rapidly · B) under an obligation · C) sudden and violent · D) out of place in the present
- Choose the best fit: If the widow held the holding absolutely, it _____ on her own heirs under Section 53.
A) inundates · B) devolves · C) usurps · D) entrenches

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

ETYMOLOGY TRAIL

The Latin **stare**, 'to stand', runs through the day's news: in Pakistan, critics asked whether the emergency would let Islamabad **usurp** the powers of a duly **constitute** provincial government, though a **proviso** means that, without the Assembly's own resolution, Parliament must approve it within ten days. India condemned the **dastardly** strike on Riyadh's airport as one that could **imperil** millions of its citizens, while in Nepal a burst landslide dam threatened to **inundate** the Budhi Gandaki valley. At home, the Supreme Court held that the **anachronistic** widow's estate ended in 1956, so her land **devolves** on her heirs, and the RBI tightened its **prudential** rules so the rupee could **weather** the storm.

