

ROOT OF THE DAY

clud / clus / claud — Latin *claudere* (past participle *clausus*) and its compounds -*cludere* — to shut, to close · “shut”

conclusive — con- (completely) + clus (shut) = shutting a question completely; decisive, leaving no room for doubt

seclusion — se- (apart) + clus (shut) = shut away apart; the state of being private and away from others

recluse — re- (back, away) + clus (shut) = one shut away; a person who avoids the company of others

occlude — ob- (against) + clud (shut) = to shut against; to block or obstruct an opening or passage

cloister — claustrum (an enclosed place) = a covered walk in a monastery; to shut away from the world

claustrophobia — claustrum (enclosed place) + phobia (fear) = an extreme fear of being shut in confined spaces

POWER WORDS

prescient *adj.*

“Robert Hall’s 1978 insight that changes in consumption should be unpredictable proved prescient, shaping the New Keynesian models central banks use today.”

Meaning: having or showing knowledge of events before they take place

Syn: far-sighted · **Ant:** short-sighted

HOOK: prae- (before) + scire (to know) → knowing before it happens

deleterious *adj.*

“Untreated effluent from grossly polluting industries has a deleterious effect on the oxygen balance of the Ganga and the Yamuna.”

Meaning: causing harm or damage

Syn: harmful · **Ant:** beneficial

HOOK: deleterios (destructive) → linked to ‘delete’: it wipes out what is healthy

stymie *v.*

“Fake caste certificates can stymie welfare schemes by diverting benefits away from the genuine claimants they were meant for.”

Meaning: to prevent or hinder the progress of

Syn: thwart · **Ant:** facilitate

HOOK: a golf term: a ball blocking the line to the hole → an obstacle in your path

laudable *adj.*

“The rise in Ganga-basin compliance from 39% to 86% is laudable, though nearly a third of units across both basins still fall short.”

Meaning: deserving praise and commendation

Syn: commendable · **Ant:** deplorable

HOOK: laus, laudis (praise) → applaud-able

proclivity *n.*

“Hall and Mishkin found that about one in five households showed a proclivity to live hand-to-mouth, spending income as soon as it arrived.”

Meaning: a natural tendency to choose or do something

Syn: inclination · **Ant:** aversion

HOOK: pro- (forward) + clivus (slope) → leaning down a slope towards something

irrefutable *adj.*

“The appellant treated the exclusive-jurisdiction clause as irrefutable proof that the parties intended Goa, not Delhi, as the seat.”

Meaning: impossible to deny or disprove

Syn: indisputable · **Ant:** questionable

HOOK: ir- (not) + refutare (to repel) → an argument that cannot be pushed back

vagaries *n.*

“Onion inflation of 108% in September showed how exposed household budgets remain to the vagaries of kitchen-staple prices.”

Meaning: unpredictable or erratic changes in a situation or in someone’s behaviour

Syn: fluctuations · **Ant:** constancy

HOOK: vagari (to wander) → prices that wander where they please

amenable *adj.*

“Because the seat of arbitration was Goa, the dispute was amenable only to the supervisory jurisdiction of courts in Goa, not Delhi.”

Meaning: open and responsive to; legally answerable or subject to

Syn: subject · **Ant:** immune

HOOK: a- (to) + mener (to lead) → able to be led, answerable to authority

ubiquitous *adj.*

“Integrated across 2,353 government platforms, BHASHINI aims to make translation as ubiquitous as UPI has made digital payment.”

Meaning: present, appearing or found everywhere

Syn: omnipresent · **Ant:** scarce

HOOK: ubique (everywhere) → wherever you look, there it is

foment *v.*

“Economists warned that stimulus applied at the wrong time could foment inflation instead of curing a recession, as the 1970s showed.”

Meaning: to instigate or stir up something undesirable

Syn: provoke · **Ant:** quell

HOOK: fomentum (a warm poultice) → heating a situation until it boils over

ascendancy *n.*

“The ascendancy of joint ventures over outright purchases marks a shift in how India builds its defence partnerships.”

Meaning: a position of dominant power or influence

Syn: dominance · **Ant:** subordination

HOOK: ad- (to) + scandere (to climb) → having climbed to the top

lax *adj.*

“A lax verification protocol, the petition argued, would let errors creep into data on which welfare budgets later rest.”

Meaning: not sufficiently strict, severe or careful

Syn: slack · **Ant:** rigorous

HOOK: laxis (loose) → the root of ‘relax’: rules left loose

CONFUSABLE PAIRS — DON’T MIX THESE UP

precedent *vs* **precedence**

precedent: an earlier decision or event used as a guide for later cases

precedence: the condition of coming before others in order or importance

TIP: A precedent is a judgment you follow; precedence is about who goes first in place.

disburse *vs* **disperse**

disburse: to pay out money from a fund

disperse: to scatter or spread in different directions

TIP: DisBURSE comes from the purse (bursa) — money goes out; disPERSE scatters like sPRay.

alternate *vs* **alternative**

alternate: occurring by turns, one after the other

alternative: available as another possibility or choice

TIP: Alternate days come in turn; an alternatIVE is one of the optIVES (options) you can pick.

honorary *vs* **honourable**

honorary: given as an honour, without the usual duties or requirements

honourable: deserving honour; morally upright

TIP: An honoRARY title is a RARE gift without the job; an honourABLE person is ABLE to earn respect.

adapt *vs* **adopt**

adapt: to change something to suit new conditions

adopt: to take up or accept something as one’s own

TIP: ADAPt means ADjust; adOPt means take up an Option.

IDIOMS & ONE-WORD SUBSTITUTION

Idioms in context

- a **double whammy** — two unpleasant things happening at the same time
“Rural families faced a double whammy in September: food inflation above 8% and costlier silver at festival time.”

One-word substitution

- a condition of high inflation combined with stagnant growth and h unemployment → **stagflation**



- **to put one's house in order** — to organise one's own affairs properly before criticising or advising others
"Industries along the Ganga were told to put their house in order or face Show Cause Notices and closure."
- **to read the tea leaves** — to try to predict the future from small or uncertain signs
"Central banks no longer simply read the tea leaves; they model how households and firms form expectations."
- **to have the last word** — to make the final, decisive statement or decision on a matter
"With the two arbitration sub-clauses in conflict, it was the governing-law clause that had the last word on the seat."

- a person appointed to settle a dispute between two parties outside a court → **arbitrator**
- a person employed to count and record the population in a census → **enumerator**
- a person who knows and is able to use several languages → **polyglot**
- liquid waste or sewage discharged into a river or the sea → **effluent**

WORDS IN THE WILD — FROM TODAY'S NEWSPAPER

- **juridical** — relating to judicial proceedings and the law; in arbitration, the legal home that fixes which courts supervise
"The appellant argued that Clause 32.4 only fixed a venue, while Clauses 32.5 and 38 fixed the juridical seat in Goa, so the High Court had mistaken venue for seat." — CLAT Gurukul daily brief (arbitration seat vs venue), 13 Oct 2026
- **emolument** — a salary, fee or other payment received for work or office
"Articles 18(3) and 18(4) require the President's consent before a person holding an office of profit or trust under the State accepts a title, present, emolument or office from a foreign State." — CLAT Gurukul daily brief (Mittal's Légion d'honneur), 13 Oct 2026
- **aegis** — the protection, backing or sponsorship of a particular body
"The release places future expansion of cooperation explicitly "under the aegis" of this committee, signalling that both sides want the momentum to be sustained through official machinery." — CLAT Gurukul daily brief (India-Czech defence talks), 13 Oct 2026
- **subdued** — restrained or held at a low level; quieter than usual
"Health (1.40%), housing, water, electricity and fuels (2.74%) and information and communication (2.44%) remain subdued, and vehicle prices are falling." — CLAT Gurukul daily brief (September CPI inflation), 13 Oct 2026

LEGAL & LATIN TERMS EVERY ASPIRANT MUST KNOW

- **lex loci arbitri** — the law of the seat of arbitration, which governs the arbitral procedure and court supervision
- **lex loci contractus** — the law of the place where a contract is made
- **lex loci solutionis** — the law of the place where a contract is to be performed
- **lex loci delicti** — the law of the place where a wrong (tort) was committed
- **lex domicilii** — the law of the place where a person is domiciled
- **fraus omnia corrumpit** — fraud vitiates everything; an act obtained by fraud cannot stand
- **lex non cogit ad impossibilia** — the law does not compel a person to do what is impossible
- **vigilantibus non dormientibus jura subveniunt** — the law assists the vigilant, not those who sleep over their rights
- **ex abundanti cautela** — out of abundant caution; something done as an extra safeguard
- **dura lex sed lex** — the law is harsh, but it is the law
- **non est factum** — 'it is not my deed'; a plea that a signed document is void because the signer did not understand its nature
- **ex visceribus actus** — from within the Act; a statute or instrument must be read as a whole

RECALL CHECK — WORDS FROM EARLIER

pernicious (learnt 7 days ago) — meaning: _____

arrogate (learnt 21 days ago) — meaning: _____

PRACTICE DRILL

- 'Recluse' most nearly means:
A) a person who avoids the company of others · B) an extreme fear of confined spaces · C) something that blocks a passage · D) a decision that settles a matter
- Choose the best fit: The Court held that Goa was the _____ seat of arbitration and that Delhi was only a venue.
A) honorary · B) ubiquitous · C) juridical · D) subdued
- 'Stymie' most nearly means:
A) to stir up trouble · B) to hinder progress · C) to pay out money · D) to predict the future
- The appellant cited the _____ set in BGS SGS Soma, since a Supreme Court ruling takes _____ over a High Court's contrary view.
A) precedence ... precedent · B) precedent ... precedent · C) precedence ... precedence · D) precedent ... precedence
- The law of the seat of arbitration, governing arbitral procedure and court supervision, is called:
A) lex loci arbitri · B) lex loci contractus · C) lex loci delicti · D) lex domicilii
- A condition of high inflation together with stagnant growth and high unemployment is called:
A) deflation · B) recession · C) stagflation · D) disinflation
- 'Prescient' most nearly means:
A) deserving praise · B) found everywhere · C) impossible to disprove · D) knowing events before they happen
- Choose the best fit: India and the Czech Republic agreed to expand cooperation under the _____ of the Joint Defence Committee.
A) emolument · B) aegis · C) vagaries · D) proclivity

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

ETYMOLOGY TRAIL

The Latin **claudere**, 'to shut', ran through the day's news: the Supreme Court found the exclusive-jurisdiction clause **conclusive**, holding that Goa was the **juridical** seat and that the dispute was **amenable** only to Goa's courts. Article 18 asks whether a citizen may accept a foreign title or **emolument**, as Sunil Bharti Mittal's Légion d'honneur showed, while defence ties with the Czech Republic will grow under the **aegis** of a Joint Defence Committee. At home, retail inflation of 5.54% was a **double whammy** for rural kitchens exposed to the **vagaries** of onion prices, even as health and housing costs stayed **subdued** — a test of **prescient** models that won Hall and Woodford the Economics Nobel.

