ROOT OF THE DAY

vert / vers *— Latin vertere — to turn; past participle versus · "turn"*

avert — a- (away) + vert (turn) = turn away; to prevent or
revert — re- (back) + vert (turn) = turn back to a former
subvert — sub- (under) + vert (turn) = turn from below; to
divert — di- (away) + vert (turn) = turn aside; to redirect
inadvertent — in- (not) + ad- (toward) + vert (turn) = not turning
adverse — ad- (toward) + vers (turn) = turned against;
versatile — vers (turn) + -atilis (capable of) = capable of
traverse — trans- (across) + vers (turn) = turn across; to cross,
adversary — ad- (toward) + vers (turn) + -ary (one who) = one
perverse — per- (thoroughly) + vers (turn) = turned thoroughly

POWER WORDS

averse *adj*

"The court noted that the petitioner had been consistently averse to any form of mediated settlement."

Meaning: strongly opposed or disinclined toward something
Syn: disinclined · **Ant:** inclined
HOOK: averse = your own attitude of opposition; adverse = an.

traverse *v / n*

"The defendant filed a traverse, formally denying each material fact alleged in the plaint."

Meaning: (general) to cross or pass over; (legal) to formally deny the.
Syn: (legal) · **Ant:** (legal)
HOOK: traverse in law = cross a claim by denying it — you 'cross.

inadvertent *adj*

"The court accepted that the accused's disclosure of his whereabouts was inadvertent and did not constitute a voluntary confession."

Meaning: accidental or unintentional; not the result of deliberate.
Syn: unintentional · **Ant:** deliberate
HOOK: in- (not) + ad-vert (turn attention toward) = not noticing.

avert *v*

"Timely judicial intervention averted what could have been a grave miscarriage of justice."

Meaning: to turn away or prevent (something undesirable) from happening
Syn: prevent · **Ant:** invite
HOOK: a- (away) + vert (turn) = turn the danger away before it.

versatile *adj*

"A versatile advocate must shift fluidly between complex constitutional arguments and granular factual cross-examination."

Meaning: capable of adapting or being used in many different ways; having.
Syn: adaptable · **Ant:** one-dimensional
HOOK: vers (turn) + capable = able to turn in any direction.

subvert *v*

"The defendant's counsel alleged that the investigating agency had sought to subvert due process by withholding material documents."

Meaning: to undermine or overthrow the authority, integrity, or.
Syn: undermine · **Ant:** uphold
HOOK: sub- = below; subversion is insidious — it works from.

adverse *adj*

"An adverse possession claim requires open, hostile, and continuous possession of another's land for the statutory period."

Meaning: unfavourable, contrary, or acting against one's interests; in.
Syn: unfavourable · **Ant:** favourable
HOOK: adverse ACTS against you externally (adverse weather, adverse.

perverse *adj*

"The appellate court set aside the perverse finding of the trial court, holding that no reasonable tribunal could have reached that conclusion on the evidence."

Meaning: contrary to reason, evidence, or accepted standards; in judicial.
Syn: unreasonable · **Ant:** sound
HOOK: per- = thoroughly; thoroughly turned away from right reason —.

revert *v*

"On the grantee's failure to use the land for the stated charitable purpose, title reverted to the State under the terms of the grant."

Meaning: to return to a former condition, practice, or owner; in property.
Syn: return · **Ant:** advance
HOOK: re- = back; revert in property = the land 'turns back' to its.

invidious *adj*

"The court held that the classification drew an invidious distinction between similarly situated persons, violating Article 14."

Meaning: likely to cause resentment or offence because of unfair or.
Syn: discriminatory · **Ant:** equitable
HOOK: Latin invidia = envy/ill-will; an invidious rule breeds.

CONFUSABLE PAIRS — DON'T MIX THESE UP

adverse *vs* **averse**
adverse: unfavourable; acting against one's interest
averse: personally opposed or disinclined
TIP: ADVERSe = external; aVERSe = personal attitude.

perverse *vs* **adverse**
perverse: turned against reason; contrary or obstinate
adverse: unfavourable; directed against one's interest
TIP: PERverse = wilfully contrary; ADverse = circumstantially against.

traverse *vs* **adverse possession**
traverse: to cross; or in law, to formally deny the facts alleged
adverse possession: a title claim by open, hostile occupation over time
TIP: TRAverse = cross/deny; ADverse possession = hostile claim.

revert *vs* **reversion**
revert: verb — to return to a former state or owner
reversion: noun — the legal right of return in property
TIP: reVERT is the act; reVERSION is the legal interest.

divert *vs* **subvert**
divert: to redirect attention or resources elsewhere
subvert: to undermine from within; to destabilise
TIP: DIvert = redirect; SUBvert = undermine from below.

IDIOMS & ONE-WORD SUBSTITUTION

NAME: _____ ROLL NO: _____ BATCH: _____

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Idioms in context

- **put the cart before the horse** — to reverse the logical order of steps; to do things in the wrong sequence
  "Prescribing the punishment before defining the offence in clear terms is to put the cart before the horse — a fundamental error in legislative drafting."
- **turn the tables** — to reverse a situation so that one gains the advantage one's opponent previously held
  "The defence counsel turned the tables when she demonstrated that the prosecution's star witness had given contradictory testimony in a prior proceeding."
- **volte-face** — a complete and abrupt reversal of position, policy, or opinion (from French, originally a cavalry manoeuvre of turning to face the opposite direction)
  "The government's volte-face on the digital privacy bill — reversing its earlier position within the same parliamentary session — drew sharp criticism from the Opposition."
- **turn over a new leaf** — to make a fresh start; to change one's habits or behaviour for the better
  "After the Supreme Court's censure, the regulatory body pledged to turn over a new leaf by publishing all decisions with full written reasoning."

One-word substitution

- one who formally opposes or argues against another in a legal or formal proceeding → **adversary**
- the return of property or an estate to the original grantor or sovereign upon the fulfilment of a condition → **reversion**
- one who abandons their allegiance or principles and goes over to the opposing side → **turncoat / renegade**
- the act of changing something from one use, function, or belief to another → **conversion**
- something that draws attention away from the main issue; a distraction or detour → **diversion**

WORDS IN THE WILD — FROM TODAY'S NEWSPAPER

- **interdiction** — an authoritative prohibition; or the military/naval act of
  "The Saudi-led coalition carried out a sustained interdiction of Houthi fuel-loading piers at Hodeidah, aiming to sever the militia's." — *CLAT Gurukul Saudi-Houthi escalation, 15 Oct 2026*
- **transit passage** — under UNCLOS, the non-suspendable right of all ships and
  "UNCLOS Article 38 recognises transit passage as the governing right for vessels traversing the Strait of Hormuz, a right Iran cannot." — *CLAT Gurukul Iran-Hormuz talks, 15 Oct 2026*
- **proportionality** — the legal principle, especially in international
  "Under Additional Protocol I Article 52, targeting a civilian power grid violates proportionality if the incidental harm to civilian life." — *CLAT Gurukul Ukraine energy ceasefire, 15 Oct 2026*
- **sub-classification** — in Indian constitutional law, the further division of a
  "The Karnataka High Court struck down the state's sub-classification of the SC/ST quota, holding that the exercise violated the Indra." — *CLAT Gurukul Karnataka HC SC/ST quota, 15 Oct 2026*

LEGAL & LATIN TERMS EVERY ASPIRANT MUST KNOW

- **nemo moriturus praesumitur mentire** — no one is presumed to lie at the point of death — the basis for admissibility of dying.
- **actus reus** — the guilty act; the physical or external element of a crime that must be proved alongside.
- **mens rea** — the guilty mind; the mental element or criminal intent required for most offences
- **res gestae** — things done; facts so closely connected with a transaction as to form part of it and be.
- **in flagrante delicto** — in the very act of committing the offence; caught red-handed
- **corpus delicti** — the body or substance of the crime; the facts that establish that an offence has in fact.
- **dolus specialis** — specific or special intent; an aggravated form of mens rea requiring a particular purpose.
- **falsus in uno, falsus in omnibus** — false in one thing, false in everything; a rule of evidence allowing a court to disregard.
- **uberrima fides** — utmost good faith; the standard of disclosure required in contracts of insurance and in.
- **nemo dat quod non habet** — one cannot give what one does not have; a foundational principle of property and evidence.

PRACTICE DRILL

1. 'Traverse' in legal pleading means:
A) A) appeal the judgment · B) B) formally deny the facts alleged · C) C) ask for an adjournment · D) D) file a counterclaim

2. 'Adverse' or 'averse' — which fits: '__ to risk'?
A) A) adverse · B) B) averse · C) C) perverse · D) D) subversive

3. An 'inadvertent' act is one that is:
A) A) deliberate · B) B) malicious · C) C) unintentional · D) D) premeditated

4. 'Versatile' most nearly means:
A) A) antagonistic · B) B) adaptable to many roles · C) C) unwilling to turn · D) D) reversed in order

5. The root VERT/VERS means:
A) A) to walk · B) B) to speak · C) C) to turn · D) D) to write

6. A 'perverse' finding by a court is one that:
A) A) is final and binding · B) B) awards heavy costs · C) C) is contrary to reason or evidence · D) D) requires no jury

7. 'Subvert' most nearly means:
A) A) support firmly · B) B) undermine from within · C) C) divert attention · D) D) submit for review

8. 'Avert' most nearly means:
A) A) advertise widely · B) B) turn back time · C) C) prevent or ward off · D) D) convert to a different use

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

ETYMOLOGY TRAIL

> *The court had to* **traverse** *a thicket of contested facts before any verdict was possible — and it was during this exercise that the accused made an* **inadvertent** *admission, blurting out his location on the night in question without realising the implications.*

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