ROOT OF THE DAY

fer — *Latin ferre (supine latum) — to carry, bear · "carry"*

infer — in- (into) + fer (carry) = carry a conclusion in from the evidence
refer — re- (back) + fer (carry) = carry back to a source or authority
defer — de- (down) + fer (carry) = carry a matter down to a later time, or yield to another
confer — con- (together) + fer (carry) = bring together; to bestow or to consult
transfer — trans- (across) + fer (carry) = carry from one place or person to another
prefer — pre- (before) + fer (carry) = carry forward as the first choice

POWER WORDS

impunity *n.*

"Officials who act with impunity erode public faith in the rule of law, which is why accountability must be enforced even against the powerful."

Meaning: exemption from punishment or from the harmful consequences of an action
Syn: immunity, exemption, licence · **Ant:** accountability, liability
HOOK: IM (not) + PUN (punish) — not punished, so free to act

reprehensible *adj.*

"Suppressing material evidence to protect a colleague is reprehensible conduct for any public servant."

Meaning: deserving strong criticism or censure; morally wrong
Syn: blameworthy, deplorable, shameful · **Ant:** commendable, praiseworthy
HOOK: RE + PREHEND (seize) — conduct that deserves to be seized and rebuked

plausible *adj.*

"The petitioner offered a plausible explanation for the delay, and the court condoned it in the interest of justice."

Meaning: seeming reasonable or probable; worthy of being believed
Syn: credible, believable, reasonable · **Ant:** implausible, far-fetched
HOOK: PLAUS (applaud) — an argument good enough to earn applause

exacting *adj.*

"Bail under the special statute is granted only on exacting conditions that the accused must first satisfy."

Meaning: demanding great effort, care or precision; very strict
Syn: demanding, rigorous, strict · **Ant:** lenient, easy-going
HOOK: EX (out) + ACT — squeezes every last action out of you

cavalier *adj.*

"The authority's cavalier handling of the applicant's reply defeated the very idea of a fair hearing."

Meaning: showing a lack of proper concern; offhand and dismissive
Syn: offhand, dismissive, casual · **Ant:** scrupulous, attentive
HOOK: CAVALIER = a horseman — looks down on everyone from a height

deference *n.*

"Courts show deference to expert regulators on technical questions, but never on questions of legality."

Meaning: respectful submission to the judgement or wishes of another
Syn: submission, respect, regard · **Ant:** defiance, disregard
HOOK: DE (down) + FER (carry) — carry your own view down in favour of another's

substantiate *v.*

"The prosecution could not substantiate the charge with a single independent witness or document."

Meaning: to provide evidence that proves a claim or charge to be true
Syn: prove, verify, bear out · **Ant:** disprove, refute
HOOK: SUB (under) + STANCE (stand) — put solid evidence under the claim so it stands

equivocal *adj.*

"The minister's equivocal reply left the House unsure whether the scheme would be withdrawn."

Meaning: open to more than one interpretation; deliberately ambiguous
Syn: ambiguous, evasive, vague · **Ant:** explicit, categorical
HOOK: EQUI (equal) + VOC (voice) — two voices speaking equally loudly

nexus *n.*

"The court asked the State to show a rational nexus between the classification and the object of the law."

Meaning: a connection or series of connections linking two or more things
Syn: link, bond, connection · **Ant:** disconnection, separation
HOOK: NEXUS = a knot (Latin nectere, to bind) — the knot that ties two things

ascertain *v.*

"The tribunal must ascertain the true intention of the parties from the language of the contract."

Meaning: to find out for certain; to establish after enquiry
Syn: determine, establish, verify · **Ant:** assume, guess
HOOK: A + CERTAIN — make a matter certain

CONFUSABLE PAIRS — DON'T MIX THESE UP

access *vs* excess

access: the means or right to approach or enter; to obtain
excess: an amount beyond what is necessary or permitted
TIP: ACcess = to AC-quire entry; EXcess = EXtra, going EXceeding the limit.

cite *vs* site

cite: to quote or refer to as authority, e.g. a case or statute
site: a place where something is located or happened
TIP: You CITE a case in court (C for court); a SITE is a spot on the ground (S for spot).

lose *vs* loose

lose: to fail to keep; to be defeated
loose: not firmly fixed; free or vague
TIP: LOOSE has loose extra O; LOSE has lost one O.

moral *vs* morale

moral: concerned with right and wrong conduct
morale: the confidence and spirit of a group or person
TIP: MORAL is about right and wrong; MORALE (with the final E) is about the energy and spirit of a team.

IDIOMS & ONE-WORD SUBSTITUTION

Idioms in context

- **cut both ways** — to have both good and bad effects, or to apply to both sides of an argument
  "A strict disclosure rule cuts both ways: it deters corruption but also exposes honest candidates to harassment."
- **a bone of contention** — a subject over which people persistently disagree

One-word substitution

- one who reports wrongdoing from inside his own organisation → **whistleblower**
- a person who dies without leaving a valid will → **intestate**
- one who tries to reconcile two disputing parties → **conciliat**
- one who is skilled in speaking persuasively in public → **orat**

NAME: _____ ROLL NO: _____ BATCH: _____

SCAN AT DESK TO COLLECT
CG-VOCAB-20261027

"The allocation of river waters has remained a bone of contention between the two States for decades."

- **a foregone conclusion** — an outcome so obvious that it was decided before the event
  "Once the committee was packed with the minister's allies, the verdict became a foregone conclusion."
- **to raise the bar** — to set a higher standard that others must meet
  "The new bench's reasoned, line-by-line judgments raised the bar for how trial courts explain their findings."
- a government by a small group of people, often the wealthy or powerful → **oligarchy**
- one who abstains completely from alcoholic drink → **teetotaller**

WORDS IN THE WILD — FROM TODAY'S NEWSPAPER

- **unjustifiable** — impossible to defend as right or reasonable
  "Detaining a citizen for months without even recording reasons is wholly unjustifiable in a constitutional democracy." — *Illustrative editorial usage*
- **discretionary** — left to individual judgement rather than fixed by rule
  "Bail is a discretionary relief, but the discretion must follow settled principles and not personal whim." — *Illustrative editorial usage*
- **stipulated** — specified as a condition or requirement
  "The contractor failed to finish the work within the stipulated period and became liable to pay damages." — *Illustrative editorial usage*
- **implicit** — implied though not plainly stated
  "Years of official silence cannot be read as implicit approval of an illegal construction." — *Illustrative editorial usage*

LEGAL & LATIN TERMS EVERY ASPIRANT MUST KNOW

- **alibi** — elsewhere — a plea that the accused was at another place when the offence occurred
- **cui bono** — for whose benefit — asking who gains from an act, to trace its motive
- **in camera** — in private — proceedings held in chambers, away from the public and press
- **in terrorem** — as a warning — a clause or threat intended to frighten a person into compliance
- **per curiam** — by the court — an opinion issued by the court as a whole, not by one named judge
- **pro forma** — as a matter of form — done for the sake of formality, without real substance
- **ad idem** — of the same mind — parties having the same understanding of the terms of a contract
- **lex talionis** — law of retaliation — the principle of an eye for an eye, punishment matching the harm
- **jus tertii** — the right of a third party — a defence resting on another person's better title
- **de bene esse** — provisionally, for what it is worth — evidence taken in advance and allowed to stand until tested
- **ratio legis** — the reason of the law — the underlying purpose which a statute is meant to achieve

RECALL CHECK — WORDS FROM EARLIER

pernicious (learnt 21 days ago) — meaning: _____

PRACTICE DRILL

1. The inquiry found that the contractor knowingly used substandard cement, so his conduct was held ____ by the court after the collapse of the bridge.
A) A. plausible · B) B. reprehensible · C) C. exacting · D) D. equivocal

2. The sole eyewitness account was proved when the medical report and the recovered weapon both ____ it.
A) A. ascertained · B) B. deferred · C) C. equivocated · D) D. substantiated

3. Officials who act with ____ lose all fear of consequences, which is why accountability must reach even the powerful.
A) A. impunity · B) B. nexus · C) C. deference · D) D. stipulation

4. Choose the word closest in meaning to 'equivocal'.
A) A. explicit · B) B. exacting · C) C. ambiguous · D) D. cavalier

5. The court insisted on a rational ____ between the classification adopted and the object sought to be achieved.
A) A. deference · B) B. nexus · C) C. impunity · D) D. plausible

6. Courts show ____ to the findings of expert regulators on technical matters, yet will strike down illegality.
A) A. deference · B) B. defiance · C) C. dissent · D) D. delay

7. Choose the word opposite in meaning to 'exacting'.
A) A. rigorous · B) B. demanding · C) C. strict · D) D. lenient

8. The officer's ____ dismissal of the complaint, without even reading the enclosed documents, showed disregard for due process.
A) A. ascertained · B) B. plausible · C) C. cavalier · D) D. substantiated

9. Although the junior judge disagreed with the reasoning, he chose to ____ to the earlier decision of the larger bench.
A) A. differ · B) B. defer · C) C. infer · D) D. refer

Answer key: 1-B · 2-D · 3-A · 4-C · 5-B · 6-A · 7-D · 8-C · 9-B

ETYMOLOGY TRAIL

The Latin root fer, to carry, gives us infer, refer, defer and transfer. A court that shows **deference** *to an expert body still insists on a rational* **nexus** *between the rule and its object, and will not accept an* **equivocal** *defence. Where an officer's* **cavalier** *conduct is* **reprehensible** *and he acts wit* **impunity**, *the tribunal must* **ascertain** *the facts with care, and a* **plausible** *story means little until the charge is substantiated by other proof.*

SCAN AT DESK TO COLLECT
CG-VOCAB-20261027