ROOT OF THE DAY

port — *Latin portare — to carry, bring · "carry"*

export — ex- (out) + port (carry) = carry goods out of a country
import — im- (in) + port (carry) = carry goods into a country; also, to convey a meaning
deport — de- (away) + port (carry) = carry a person away; expel from a country
portable — port (carry) + -able (can be) = able to be carried
support — sup- (under) + port (carry) = carry from underneath; bear the weight of
purport — pur- (forth) + port (carry) = carry forward a meaning; the apparent meaning of a document, or to claim to be
report — re- (back) + port (carry) = carry back information

POWER WORDS

prolix *adj.*
"The petition was so prolix that the Bench asked counsel to confine himself to the three grounds that mattered."
Meaning: using more words than necessary; tediously long
Syn: verbose, long-winded, wordy · **Ant:** concise, terse, succinct
HOOK: PRO + LIX sounds like 'long licks' — a speech that keeps going on and on

trite *adj.*
"The Minister's reply that 'the law will take its course' was a trite line that answered nothing."
Meaning: made dull by overuse; lacking freshness or originality
Syn: hackneyed, banal, stale · **Ant:** original, fresh, novel
HOOK: TRITE rhymes with 'trying' — a phrase worn out by constant use

countermand *v.*
"The Commissioner countermanded the transfer order within a day of issuing it."
Meaning: to revoke or cancel an order that has already been given
Syn: revoke, rescind, overrule · **Ant:** confirm, enforce, uphold
HOOK: COUNTER (against) + MAND (order) = an order against an earlier order

ancillary *adj.*
"The petition sought the main relief of quashing the order and an ancillary direction for costs."
Meaning: providing support to a main thing; subordinate or secondary
Syn: subsidiary, auxiliary, supplementary · **Ant:** principal, primary, central
HOOK: ANCILLA (Latin: maidservant) — serves the main matter

arraign *v.*
"The accused was arraigned before the Sessions Court, where the charges were read out to him."
Meaning: to call a person before a court to answer a criminal charge
Syn: indict, charge, accuse · **Ant:** acquit, absolve, exonerate
HOOK: AR + RAIGN sounds like 'a-range' — put in range of the charge

recapitulate *v.*
"Before delivering the verdict, the judge recapitulated the main points of both sides' arguments."
Meaning: to summarise the main points of something already said
Syn: summarise, review, reiterate · **Ant:** elaborate, expand, introduce
HOOK: RE + CAPIT (head) = go back over the main heads

magnanimous *adj.*
"The victim's family was magnanimous enough to accept an apology, though the law did not require them to."
Meaning: generous and forgiving, especially towards a rival or someone weaker
Syn: generous, big-hearted, charitable · **Ant:** petty, vindictive, mean-spirited
HOOK: MAGNA (great) + ANIMUS (spirit) = great-souled

ineluctable *adj.*
"Once the evidence was exhibited, the conclusion of guilt became ineluctable."
Meaning: impossible to avoid or escape; inevitable
Syn: unavoidable, inescapable, inevitable · **Ant:** avoidable, evitable, escapable
HOOK: IN (not) + ELUCT (struggle out) = no struggling out of it

attest *v.*
"Two independent witnesses must attest the will for it to be validly executed."
Meaning: to affirm that something is true or genuine, especially by signing as a witness
Syn: certify, vouch for, bear witness · **Ant:** deny, disavow, contradict
HOOK: AT + TEST = stand at the test and testify to it

temporise *v.*
"Rather than answer the Court directly, the State's counsel chose to temporise and sought another adjournment."
Meaning: to avoid making a decision or commitment so as to gain time
Syn: stall, procrastinate, hedge · **Ant:** decide, commit, act promptly
HOOK: TEMPUS (time) — playing for time

extenuate *v.*
"The defence urged that the accused's youth and lack of any record should extenuate the gravity of the offence."
Meaning: to lessen the seriousness of an offence by presenting mitigating circumstances
Syn: mitigate, lessen, palliate · **Ant:** aggravate, intensify, compound
HOOK: EX + TENU (thin) = make the guilt look thinner

CONFUSABLE PAIRS — DON'T MIX THESE UP

canon *vs* **cannon**
canon: a body of accepted rules or principles; a church law
cannon: a large mounted gun
TIP: CANON has one N and means a rule; CANNON has two Ns, like two barrels of a gun.

forward *vs* **foreword**
forward: towards the front; ahead
foreword: a short introductory note at the start of a book
TIP: A forEWORD is a WORD that comes before the book.

practice *vs* **practise**
practice: the noun: the habit, custom or work of a profession
practise: the verb: to do something repeatedly to improve; to work in a profession
TIP: Noun has C like 'ice' (a thing); verb has S like 'is' (an action).

farther *vs* **further**
farther: at a greater physical distance
further: to a greater degree; additional; to advance something
TIP: FARther = FAR (distance); FURTHER = more, in time, degree or amount.

licence *vs* **license**
licence: the noun: a permit or authorisation (British spelling)
license: the verb: to grant a permit or authorisation
TIP: C for the Complete noun, S for the verb Sanctioning, as in advice/advise.

IDIOMS & ONE-WORD SUBSTITUTION

NAME: _____ ROLL NO: _____ BATCH: _____

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Idioms in context

- **bone of contention** — a subject that causes continuing disagreement
  "The ownership of the boundary wall remained the bone of contention between the two families for decades."
- **on the back foot** — in a defensive position; forced to react rather than lead
  "After the audit findings leaked, the department spent the week on the back foot."
- **cuts both ways** — has both advantages and disadvantages, or affects both sides
  "The argument that precedent must be followed cuts both ways, since it also protects the bad rule."
- **the thin end of the wedge** — a small first step that is likely to lead to bigger, undesirable changes
  "Critics called the exemption the thin end of the wedge for dismantling the whole safeguard."

One-word substitution

- one who is unable to pay his debts → **insolvent**
- one who abandons his faith or principles → **apostate**
- the killing of one's own father → **patricide**
- one who can use both hands equally well → **ambidextrous**
- government by a small group of people → **oligarchy**

WORDS IN THE WILD — FROM TODAY'S NEWSPAPER

- **circumscribe** — to restrict something within limits; to mark a boundary around it
  "The Court held that the 50 per cent limit circumscribes the State's power "notwithstanding the numerical strength of the backward classes"." — *CLAT Gurukul News at a Glance, 15 Oct 2026*
- **unimpeded** — not obstructed or hindered; free to move or proceed
  "The MEA stated that "freedom of navigation and the safe, unimpeded flow of maritime commerce through international waterways, in accordance with international law, must be upheld"." — *CLAT Gurukul News at a Glance, 15 Oct 2026*
- **camaraderie** — mutual trust and friendship among people who spend time together
  "Alongside the operational programme, social and cultural interactions are planned so that personnel of both navies can build camaraderie and people-to-people connections." — *CLAT Gurukul News at a Glance, 15 Oct 2026*
- **cornerstone** — an important quality or feature on which everything else is based
  "The INDRA series of exercises has been "a cornerstone of India-Russia Defence relations since its inception in 2003"." — *CLAT Gurukul News at a Glance, 15 Oct 2026*

LEGAL & LATIN TERMS EVERY ASPIRANT MUST KNOW

- **res judicata** — a matter already judged — a final decision that bars the same parties from litigating the issue again
- **locus standi** — place of standing — the right of a person to approach and be heard by a court
- **habeas corpus** — you shall have the body — a writ requiring a detained person to be produced before the court to test the legality of detention
- **quo warranto** — by what authority — a writ asking a person holding a public office under what right he holds it
- **mens rea** — guilty mind — the mental element of intention or knowledge needed for a crime
- **actus reus** — guilty act — the physical act or omission that forms the external element of a crime
- **in camera** — in a chamber — a hearing held in private, not in open court
- **ex parte** — from one party — a proceeding or order made in the absence of, or without notice to, the other side
- **stare decisis** — to stand by decisions — the principle that courts follow earlier rulings on the same point
- **amicus curiae** — friend of the court — a person who assists the court with advice or information though not a party
- **audi alteram partem** — hear the other side — the natural-justice rule that no one should be condemned unheard
- **ipso facto** — by the fact itself — as a direct and automatic result of the fact

PRACTICE DRILL

1. The judge refused to ___ the earlier order, since no new fact had been placed before him.
   A) arraign · B) countermand · C) temporise · D) recapitulate
2. The advocate's ___ submissions, running to ninety pages, tested the patience of the Bench.
   A) ineluctable · B) ancillary · C) trite · D) prolix
3. Faced with a hostile Bench, the counsel chose to ___ rather than answer the direct question.
   A) temporise · B) attest · C) extenuate · D) countermand
4. The accused was ___ before the Magistrate and the charges were read out to him.
   A) recapitulated · B) attested · C) arraigned · D) temporised
5. The defence pleaded youth and remorse as ___ circumstances warranting a lighter sentence.
   A) prolix · B) ineluctable · C) magnanimous · D) extenuating
6. The Court held that the 50 per cent ceiling ___ the State's power to reserve seats.
   A) temporises · B) circumscribes · C) arraigns · D) recapitulates
7. The ministry called for the safe and ___ flow of shipping through the strait.
   A) trite · B) ancillary · C) unimpeded · D) prolix
8. Long drills and shared sports fixtures helped the two crews build real ___.
   A) cornerstone · B) adjunct · C) acrimony · D) camaraderie
9. Regular joint exercises have been called the ___ of defence ties between the two countries.
   A) cornerstone · B) camaraderie · C) prolixity · D) temperament

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

ETYMOLOGY TRAIL

The Latin root port, to carry, gives export, import, deport, support and purport. A counsel who must **recapitulate** *a* **prolix** *record should not* **temporise***; he should* **attest** *the facts that support his case, show that the conclusion is* **ineluctable***, and ask the Court to* **countermand** *a wrong order. Once the accused is arraigned, the defence may urge extenuating circumstances, and a* **magnanimous** *Bench will still remember that the law circumscribes every power. Unin access to justice is the cornerstone of the system, and the camaraderie of a good Bar helps keep it that way.*

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