ROOT OF THE DAY

ced / cess — *Latin cedere — to go, to yield · "go, yield"*

precede — pre- (before) + cede (go) = go before
concede — con- (together) + cede (yield) = yield a point to the other side
secede — se- (apart) + cede (go) = go apart; formally withdraw from a union
recede — re- (back) + cede (go) = go back; move away
accede — ac- (to) + cede (go) = go along with; agree to or take up an office
intercede — inter- (between) + cede (go) = go between two sides to plead for someone
antecedent — ante- (before) + ced (go) = what has gone before; a previous fact or history
cessation — cess (go, stop going) + -ation = the act of coming to a stop

POWER WORDS

peremptory *adj.*
"The Bench issued a peremptory direction that the affidavit be filed by noon, leaving no room for excuses."
Meaning: allowing no refusal or delay; final and commanding
Syn: imperative, absolute, categorical · **Ant:** tentative, optional, lenient
HOOK: PEREMPT sounds like 'pre-empt' — an order that cuts off every argument

acquiesce *v.*
"The company chose to acquiesce in the tribunal's order rather than file a hopeless appeal."
Meaning: to accept something reluctantly and without protest
Syn: comply, submit, yield · **Ant:** resist, object, protest
HOOK: AC + QUIES (rest) = rest quietly instead of fighting

censure *v.*
"The Bar Council moved to censure the advocate for his conduct in court, but stopped short of suspending him."
Meaning: to criticise severely and formally
Syn: rebuke, condemn, reprimand · **Ant:** praise, commend, applaud
HOOK: CENSURE is the sure rebuke you cannot ignore

eschew *v.*
"A judge must eschew any remark that could suggest a bias towards either party."
Meaning: to deliberately avoid or keep away from
Syn: shun, avoid, forgo · **Ant:** embrace, adopt, seek
HOOK: ESCHEW sounds like 'ease-chew' — keep it out of your mouth

corollary *n.*
"Equal pay for equal work is a natural corollary of the guarantee of equality."
Meaning: a proposition that follows directly from one already proved; a natural consequence
Syn: consequence, upshot, deduction · **Ant:** cause, premise, origin
HOOK: COROLLA (a small garland) — a small bonus handed over once the main thing is proved

lenient *adj.*
"Considering his age and clean record, the court took a lenient view of the sentence."
Meaning: merciful or tolerant in punishment or discipline
Syn: merciful, indulgent, clement · **Ant:** harsh, severe, strict
HOOK: LENI sounds like 'lean' — leaning towards mercy

recalcitrant *adj.*
"The recalcitrant witness ignored three summonses and had to be produced under a warrant."
Meaning: stubbornly defiant of authority or discipline
Syn: defiant, obstinate, unruly · **Ant:** compliant, docile, obedient
HOOK: RE + CALC (heel) — digs in his heels against authority

tacit *adj.*
"Years of silence by the landlord amounted to tacit consent to the sub-letting."
Meaning: understood or implied without being stated
Syn: implicit, unspoken, implied · **Ant:** explicit, express, stated
HOOK: TACIT and 'taciturn' both come from Latin tacere — to be silent

culpable *adj.*
"Having known of the forgery and still signed the deed, he was held culpable for the loss."
Meaning: deserving blame for a wrong
Syn: blameworthy, guilty, at fault · **Ant:** blameless, innocent, faultless
HOOK: CULP (fault) + ABLE = able to be blamed

stringent *adj.*
"Because the offence was grave, the prosecution sought stringent conditions for bail."
Meaning: strict, precise and demanding in rules or conditions
Syn: strict, rigorous, exacting · **Ant:** lax, lenient, flexible
HOOK: STRING pulled tight — a rule with no slack

sanguine *adj.*
"Counsel was sanguine about the appeal, though the earlier ruling had gone against his client."
Meaning: optimistic, especially in a difficult situation
Syn: hopeful, confident, buoyant · **Ant:** pessimistic, gloomy, despondent
HOOK: SANGUIS (blood) — a rosy, red-cheeked outlook

CONFUSABLE PAIRS — DON'T MIX THESE UP

eminent *vs* **imminent**
eminent: famous and respected in a field
imminent: about to happen very soon
TIP: imMINENT sounds like 'mini-event soon'; eMINENT = eminent person, high up.

elicit *vs* **illicit**
elicit: to draw out a response, fact or reaction
illicit: unlawful; forbidden
TIP: Illicit starts with ILL (bad, illegal); elicit has E for 'extract'.

council *vs* **counsel**
council: an assembly or body that governs or advises
counsel: advice; a lawyer; to advise
TIP: CounCIL = a CIrcle of members; CounSEL = SELf-help advice, or a lawyer.

principal *vs* **principle**
principal: chief or main; the head of a school; a sum of money lent
principle: a basic rule, truth or belief
TIP: A princiPAL is your pal; a principLE is a ruLE.

censure *vs* **censor**
censure: to criticise severely; a formal rebuke
censor: to cut or suppress parts of a book, film or news; one who does so
TIP: CensURE = a sure rebuke; CensOR = one who ORders cuts.

IDIOMS & ONE-WORD SUBSTITUTION

Idioms in context

- **read the riot act** — to give a stern warning to someone about unacceptable behaviour

One-word substitution

- a remedy believed to cure all diseases or solve all problems → **pa**
- spoken or done without any preparation → **extempore**

NAME: _____ ROLL NO: _____ BATCH: _____

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"The Chief Justice read the riot act to officials who had ignored three court orders."

- **turn a blind eye** — to pretend not to notice something wrong
  "The regulator was accused of turning a blind eye to repeated violations by the mill."
- **a level playing field** — a situation in which everyone has a fair and equal chance
  "The new rule aims at a level playing field between small traders and large retail chains."
- **to take with a pinch of salt** — to treat a claim with scepticism
  "The minister's claim of zero delays should be taken with a pinch of salt until the audit report arrives."

- one who eats and drinks too much → **glutton**
- one who has no belief in God → **atheist**
- one who walks in his sleep → **somnambulist**

WORDS IN THE WILD — FROM TODAY'S NEWSPAPER

- **precursor** — a thing that comes before another and leads to it; also, a chemical from which another is made
  "Drug control — a BIMSTEC plan against illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals." — *CLAT Gurukul News at a Glance, 14 Oct 2026*
- **illicit** — forbidden by law, rules or custom; unlawful
  "Illicit financial flows — identifying the sources, risks and channels of illicit money that funds organised crime and terror networks." — *CLAT Gurukul News at a Glance, 14 Oct 2026*
- **corpus** — a fund or body of money set aside for a purpose; also, a body of writings
  "The FAQ adds that the IBCA's corpus will be built up with support from the public and private sectors, bilateral and multilateral organisations and non-profits, on top of India's ₹150 crore." — *CLAT Gurukul News at a Glance, 14 Oct 2026*
- **profiteering** — making an unfairly large profit, especially by exploiting a shortage or public need
  "The minutes explicitly cite the NPPA's mandate to prevent "unjustified profiteering" in view of this asymmetry." — *CLAT Gurukul News at a Glance, 14 Oct 2026*

LEGAL & LATIN TERMS EVERY ASPIRANT MUST KNOW

- **sub judice** — under a judge — a matter currently before a court and so not open to public comment that may prejudice it
- **bona fide** — in good faith — honest and without intent to deceive
- **mala fide** — in bad faith — done with dishonest or improper motive
- **sine die** — without a day — adjourned without fixing a date to meet again
- **suo motu** — on its own motion — an action a court takes by itself without a petition
- **ultra vires** — beyond powers — an act done outside the legal authority of the person or body
- **de facto** — in fact — existing in reality, whether or not legally recognised
- **de jure** — by law — existing as a matter of legal right or recognition
- **pro bono** — for the public good — legal work done free of charge
- **obiter dicta** — things said in passing — remarks by a judge that are not essential to the decision and not binding
- **ratio decidendi** — the reason for the decision — the legal principle on which a judgment rests and which binds later courts
- **inter alia** — among other things — used when listing one or a few items out of many

RECALL CHECK — WORDS FROM EARLIER

adjudicate (learnt 7 days ago) — meaning: _____

rapprochement (learnt 21 days ago) — meaning: _____

PRACTICE DRILL

1. The Bench issued a ___ direction that the affidavit be filed by noon, leaving no room for excuses.
   A) tacit · B) lenient · C) peremptory · D) sanguine
2. Years of silence by the landlord amounted to ___ consent to the sub-letting.
   A) tacit · B) stringent · C) culpable · D) recalcitrant
3. The ___ witness ignored three summonses and had to be produced under a warrant.
   A) sanguine · B) tacit · C) lenient · D) recalcitrant
4. The Bar Council moved to ___ the advocate for his conduct but stopped short of suspending him.
   A) acquiesce · B) censure · C) eschew · D) precede
5. Having known of the forgery and still signed the deed, he was held ___ for the loss.
   A) lenient · B) tacit · C) culpable · D) sanguine
6. Equal pay for equal work is a natural ___ of the guarantee of equality.
   A) corollary · B) censure · C) precursor · D) corpus
7. A judge must ___ any remark that could suggest a bias towards either party.
   A) acquiesce · B) censure · C) precede · D) eschew
8. Because the offence was grave, the prosecution sought ___ conditions for bail.
   A) lenient · B) stringent · C) tacit · D) sanguine
9. Seeing no merit in an appeal, the company chose to ___ in the tribunal's order.
   A) eschew · B) censure · C) acquiesce · D) recede

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

ETYMOLOGY TRAIL

The Latin root cedere, to go or yield, gives precede, concede, secede, recede, accede and intercede. A **recalcitrant** *litigant who will not concede a point may earn the Bench's* **censure**, *and a* **peremptory** *order leaves him no choice but to* **acquiesce**. *A judge who must stay free of any antecedent bias will* **eschew** *remarks that could prejudice the case, while a* **lenient** *sentence is no reward for someone found* **culpable**. *Even the most* **sanguine** *advocate knows that* **stringent** *rules, a clear* **corollary** *of fair play, apply to every* **tacit** *shortcut and every illicit gain.*

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