ROOT OF THE DAY

grad / gress — *Latin gradi, gressus — to step, to walk · "step, walk"*

progress — pro- (forward) + gress (step) = step forward
regress — re- (back) + gress (step) = step backward; return to an earlier, worse state
digress — di- (apart) + gress (step) = step aside from the main subject
ingress — in- (in) + gress (step) = the act or right of stepping in; entry
egress — e- (out) + gress (step) = a way or act of stepping out; exit
aggression — ag- (toward) + gress (step) = a hostile step toward someone; an attack
congress — con- (together) + gress (step) = a stepping together; a formal meeting or legislature
gradual — grad (step) + -ual = proceeding step by step, not suddenly

POWER WORDS

nefarious *adj.*
"The prosecution alleged a nefarious scheme to siphon pension funds meant for retired teachers."
Meaning: wicked, criminal or deeply immoral
Syn: wicked, villainous, iniquitous · **Ant:** honourable, virtuous, upright
HOOK: Latin nefas = 'against divine law' (ne- not + fas right) — an act no law, human or divine, allows

aver *v.*
"The petitioner will aver in his affidavit that no notice was ever served on him."
Meaning: to state or assert something firmly as a fact
Syn: assert, affirm, declare · **Ant:** deny, disclaim, retract
HOOK: Latin ad + verus (true) = to declare it true; pleadings are full of 'averments'

vilify *v.*
"The tabloid sought to vilify the judge by spreading unfounded rumours."
Meaning: to speak or write about someone in an abusive, damaging way
Syn: defame, malign, slander · **Ant:** praise, extol, exalt
HOOK: Latin vilis (cheap, base) + -fy = to make someone appear base

indict *v.*
"The magistrate declined to indict the accused, finding no prima facie evidence."
Meaning: to formally charge someone with a serious crime
Syn: charge, arraign, accuse · **Ant:** acquit, absolve, exonerate
HOOK: Pronounced in-DITE, not 'in-dict'; old French enditer = to declare in writing

wanton *adj.*
"The court condemned the wanton destruction of public property by the mob."
Meaning: deliberate and unprovoked; done recklessly without cause
Syn: gratuitous, malicious, reckless · **Ant:** justified, careful, provoked
HOOK: Old English wan- (lacking) + togen (trained) = undisciplined

apprise *v.*
"The Registrar was directed to apprise all parties of the revised hearing date."
Meaning: to inform or notify someone of something
Syn: inform, notify, brief · **Ant:** conceal, mislead, withhold
HOOK: Apprise = inform; do not confuse with 'appraise' = to value

castigate *v.*
"The Bench did not hesitate to castigate the officer for ignoring its order three times."
Meaning: to reprimand or criticise someone severely
Syn: rebuke, chastise, reprimand · **Ant:** praise, laud, commend
HOOK: Latin castigare = to correct; a castigation is meant to set a person straight

tenet *n.*
"Equality before law is a foundational tenet of the Constitution."
Meaning: a principle or belief held as true by a person or group
Syn: principle, doctrine, creed · **Ant:** heresy, falsehood, exception
HOOK: Latin tenet = 'he holds' — what a person holds on to

complicit *adj.*
"Knowing of the fraud and still helping to hide it, the accountant was complicit in the offence."
Meaning: involved with others in a wrongful act
Syn: implicated, party to, abetting · **Ant:** innocent, uninvolved, blameless
HOOK: Latin com- + plicare (to fold) = folded in together with the wrongdoers

reparation *n.*
"The tribunal ordered the company to pay reparation to the families harmed by the gas leak."
Meaning: compensation or amends for a wrong or injury
Syn: redress, compensation, restitution · **Ant:** injury, harm, damage
HOOK: Latin reparare = to repair; a debt that repairs the damage done

inveterate *adj.*
"He was an inveterate litigant, having filed over forty petitions on the same grievance."
Meaning: long-established and unlikely to change; habitual
Syn: habitual, chronic, ingrained · **Ant:** occasional, new, reformed
HOOK: Latin vetus = old; a habit grown old

CONFUSABLE PAIRS — DON'T MIX THESE UP

ingenious *vs* **ingenuous**
ingenious: clever, original and inventive
ingenuous: innocent, frank and trusting
TIP: ingeNIOUs has 'genius' in it; ingenUOUs = unsuspecting, honest.

complement *vs* **compliment**
complement: something that completes or goes well with another
compliment: an expression of praise
TIP: comPLEMent completes; comPLIMent = praise, with I for 'I like it'.

ensure *vs* **insure**
ensure: to make certain that something happens
insure: to cover against loss with an insurance policy
TIP: INsure = INsurance company; ENsure = make sure it ENds well.

disinterested *vs* **uninterested**
disinterested: impartial; having no personal stake
uninterested: not interested; bored
TIP: A judge must be disinterested (no stake), not uninterested (no care).

tortuous *vs* **torturous**
tortuous: full of twists and turns; long and complicated
torturous: causing great pain or suffering
TIP: TortUous = a route with twists; TorTURous = TORTURE.

IDIOMS & ONE-WORD SUBSTITUTION

One-word substitution

- a person who makes a will → **testator**
- government by a small group of powerful people → **oligarchy**

NAME: _____ ROLL NO: _____ BATCH: _____

SCAN AT DESK TO COLLECT
CG-VOCAB-20261101

- **a bone of contention** — a subject on which people persistently disagree
  "The boundary of the plot remained a bone of contention between the two brothers for decades."
- **to cross the Rubicon** — to take an irreversible step from which there is no turning back
  "Once the Assembly passed the resolution, the government had crossed the Rubicon on the reform."
- **to fall on deaf ears** — to be ignored; to receive no attention
  "The residents' repeated appeals to the municipality fell on deaf ears."
- **to burn the midnight oil** — to work or study late into the night
  "With the mock only a week away, she burned the midnight oil over her legal-reasoning passages."

- one who loves mankind and helps others with money or effort → **philanthropist**
- one who is present everywhere at the same time → **omnipresent**
- one who can be easily deceived → **gullible**

WORDS IN THE WILD — FROM TODAY'S NEWSPAPER

- **ambiguous** — open to more than one meaning; unclear
  "In Iran's account, the reply accepted some conditions but left others open, and Washington still had to clarify issues that remained ambiguous." — *CLAT Gurukul News at a Glance, 15 Oct 2026*
- **blockade** — the shutting off of a place, usually a port or coast, by force to stop goods or people moving in or out
  "The National reported that Tehran "effectively blocked the strait by attacking ships and laying mines" after being attacked by Israel and the United States in February 2026, and that the United States responded by imposing a blockade of Iranian ports." — *CLAT Gurukul News at a Glance, 15 Oct 2026*
- **reprisals** — acts of retaliation against an enemy for harm suffered; in IHL, unlawful counter-attacks
  "AP I Article 52: civilian objects shall not be the object of attack or of reprisals." — *CLAT Gurukul News at a Glance, 15 Oct 2026*
- **armistice** — a formal agreement by warring sides to stop fighting for a time
  "It is narrower than a general ceasefire or an armistice." — *CLAT Gurukul News at a Glance, 15 Oct 2026*

LEGAL & LATIN TERMS EVERY ASPIRANT MUST KNOW

- **habeas corpus** — you shall have the body — a writ directing that a detained person be produced before the court to test the legality of detention
- **certiorari** — to be informed — a writ by which a higher court quashes the order of a lower court or tribunal
- **quo warranto** — by what authority — a writ asking a person holding a public office to show the legal right to hold it
- **res judicata** — a matter already judged — a dispute finally decided cannot be litigated again between the same parties
- **locus standi** — place of standing — the right of a person to bring a case before a court
- **amicus curiae** — friend of the court — a person who is not a party but assists the court with information or argument
- **mens rea** — guilty mind — the intention or knowledge of wrongdoing that forms the mental element of a crime
- **actus reus** — guilty act — the physical act or unlawful omission that forms the conduct element of a crime
- **stare decisis** — to stand by what is decided — the doctrine that courts follow earlier precedents
- **ex parte** — from one party — a hearing or order made on the application of one side without the other being present
- **in camera** — in the chamber — a hearing held in private, not open to the public
- **caveat emptor** — let the buyer beware — the buyer must check the quality of goods before buying

RECALL CHECK — WORDS FROM EARLIER

adjudicate (learnt 7 days ago) — meaning: _____

affront (learnt 21 days ago) — meaning: _____

PRACTICE DRILL

1. The prosecution alleged a ___ scheme to siphon pension funds meant for retired teachers.
   A) benign · B) nefarious · C) tenet · D) apprise
2. The Bench did not hesitate to ___ the officer for ignoring its order three times.
   A) aver · B) apprise · C) vilify · D) castigate
3. The petitioner will ___ in his affidavit that no notice was ever served on him.
   A) aver · B) castigate · C) vilify · D) indict
4. Equality before law is a foundational ___ of the Constitution.
   A) wanton · B) nefarious · C) tenet · D) reparation
5. The tabloid sought to ___ the judge by spreading unfounded rumours.
   A) apprise · B) vilify · C) aver · D) indict
6. Knowing of the fraud and still helping to hide it, the accountant was ___ in the offence.
   A) complicit · B) wanton · C) inveterate · D) nefarious
7. The tribunal ordered the company to pay ___ to the families harmed by the gas leak.
   A) tenet · B) castigate · C) aver · D) reparation
8. The court condemned the ___ destruction of public property by the mob, done without any cause.
   A) apprise · B) tenet · C) wanton · D) aver
9. The magistrate declined to ___ the accused as there was no prima facie evidence.
   A) indict · B) castigate · C) apprise · D) aver
10. He was an ___ litigant, having filed over forty petitions on the same grievance.
    A) nefarious · B) inveterate · C) complicit · D) wanton

Answer key: 1-B · 2-D · 3-A · 4-C · 5-B · 6-A · 7-D · 8-C · 9-A · 10-B

ETYMOLOGY TRAIL

The Latin root gradi, to step, gives progress, regress, digress, ingress, egress and aggression. A **nefarious** *plot may stay hidden until a whistle-blower will* **aver** *the facts, after which the magistrate can* **indict** *those found* **complicit**. *The Bench may* **castigate** *a* **wanton** *offender, while a hostile press might* **vilify** *the inno the tribunal will order* **reparation** *to the injured. The settled* **tenet** *is that no wrong goes unremedied, so even the* **inveterate** *litigant must be apprised of th and heard.*

SCAN AT DESK TO COLLECT
CG-VOCAB-20261101