ROOT OF THE DAY

ject / jet — *Latin jacere, jectus — to throw · "throw, hurl"*

eject — e- (out) + ject (throw) = throw out
reject — re- (back) + ject (throw) = throw back; refuse to accept
inject — in- (into) + ject (throw) = drive or throw into
project — pro- (forward) + ject (throw) = throw forward; a plan thrown into the future
object — ob- (against) + ject (throw) = throw something against; to oppose
subject — sub- (under) + ject (throw) = thrown under; placed under another's authority
interject — inter- (between) + ject (throw) = throw in between; to cut into a conversation
conjecture — con- (together) + ject (throw) = throwing ideas together; a guess from incomplete evidence
trajectory — trans- (across) + ject (throw) = the path of a thrown object

POWER WORDS

expunge *v.*
"The Bench directed the Registry to expunge the defamatory remarks from the official record."
Meaning: to erase or remove completely, especially from a record
Syn: delete, erase, obliterate · **Ant:** retain, insert, preserve
HOOK: Latin expungere = to prick out; the old scribe pricked dots around a wrong word to mark it for deletion

ignominious *adj.*
"The minister's defeat in his own constituency was an ignominious end to a long career."
Meaning: causing public shame or disgrace
Syn: disgraceful, humiliating, shameful · **Ant:** honourable, glorious, dignified
HOOK: Latin in- (not) + nomen (name) = without a good name

acumen *n.*
"The auditor's financial acumen helped her trace the diverted funds within a week."
Meaning: keen judgment and quickness in understanding a matter
Syn: shrewdness, insight, sagacity · **Ant:** stupidity, naivety, obtuseness
HOOK: Latin acumen = a point, sharpness; acute and acupuncture share the same needle

supplant *v.*
"Digital filing may soon supplant paper pleadings in every district court."
Meaning: to take the place of, usually by force or by being better
Syn: replace, displace, oust · **Ant:** retain, support, preserve
HOOK: Latin supplantare = to trip up by the sole (planta) of the foot; push out of the position

dissipate *v.*
"The evidence began to dissipate once the key witness turned hostile."
Meaning: to disappear or scatter; to waste something away
Syn: disperse, dwindle, squander · **Ant:** gather, accumulate, conserve
HOOK: Latin dissipare = to scatter; fog and funds can both dissipate

truculent *adj.*
"A truculent crowd gathered outside the court, shouting abuse at every lawyer who passed."
Meaning: eager to argue or fight; aggressively defiant
Syn: belligerent, hostile, pugnacious · **Ant:** gentle, docile, conciliatory
HOOK: Latin trux = fierce; a truck driver in a road-rage mood is truculent

exhort *v.*
"The Election Commission continues to exhort citizens to turn out and vote."
Meaning: to urge someone strongly and earnestly to do something
Syn: urge, implore, enjoin · **Ant:** dissuade, discourage, deter
HOOK: Latin ex- + hortari = to urge; an exhortation is a strong push

invective *n.*
"The editorial was heavy with invective against the Opposition but offered no argument."
Meaning: harsh, abusive language used to attack someone
Syn: abuse, vituperation, diatribe · **Ant:** praise, flattery, compliment
HOOK: Latin invehi = to attack with words; an invective is an inveighing

recompense *n.*
"The tribunal awarded recompense to the farmers for the crops destroyed in the chemical spill."
Meaning: payment or compensation for a loss or service
Syn: compensation, redress, remuneration · **Ant:** penalty, deprivation, loss
HOOK: re- (back) + compensare = to weigh out again; the loss is balanced back

stalwart *adj.*
"A stalwart defender of free speech, the judge dissented even when the Bench was against him."
Meaning: loyal, hard-working and firm in support of a cause
Syn: steadfast, staunch, resolute · **Ant:** disloyal, wavering, fickle
HOOK: Old English stæl-wierthe = worthy of a place; one who holds his ground

CONFUSABLE PAIRS — DON'T MIX THESE UP

elude *vs* **allude**
elude: to escape or avoid, especially by cleverness
allude: to refer to something indirectly
TIP: ELUde = ESCAPE (both start with E); ALLude = ALSO mention in passing.

veracity *vs* **voracity**
veracity: truthfulness; accuracy
voracity: greedy appetite
TIP: VERacity has VERY true; VORacity has VORacious hunger.

assent *vs* **ascent**
assent: agreement or approval, especially formal
ascent: the act of climbing or rising
TIP: aSSent = Signing consent (the Governor's assent); aSCent = SCaling a hill.

discreet *vs* **discrete**
discreet: careful and tactful in speech or action
discrete: separate and distinct
TIP: disCREET: the two Es sit together, like a close secret; disCRETE: the Es are separated, like separate things.

emend *vs* **amend**
emend: to correct errors in a text
amend: to change or improve a law or document formally
TIP: EMEND removes Errors; AMEND is for Acts and laws.

IDIOMS & ONE-WORD SUBSTITUTION

Idioms in context

- **to turn a blind eye** — to deliberately ignore something wrong
  "The inspector turned a blind eye to the unsafe wiring in return for a small favour."

One-word substitution

- government by the wealthy → **plutocracy**
- a beginner or new convert to a skill or belief → **neophyte**
- the killing of a king or queen → **regicide**

NAME: _____ ROLL NO: _____ BATCH: _____

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- **a red herring** — a misleading clue that draws attention away from the real issue
  "The defence's talk about the accused's wealth was a red herring; the real question was who held the keys."
- **to be on thin ice** — to be in a risky situation where one may fail
  "With two adverse orders already against it, the department was on thin ice in the third hearing."
- **to burn the midnight oil** — to work or study late into the night
  "With the CLAT only weeks away, Meera burned the midnight oil to finish the full-length mocks."

- one who does not believe in God → **atheist**
- one who can use both hands equally well → **ambidextrous**

WORDS IN THE WILD — FROM TODAY'S NEWSPAPER

- **aggregate** — total, formed by adding all parts together
  "With OBC reservation unchanged at 32 per cent, the aggregate rose from 50 to 56 per cent." — CLAT Gurukul News at a Glance, 15 Oct 2026
- **restrained** — stopped by a court order from doing something
  "By an interim order dated 19 November 2025, the High Court had restrained the implementation of the increase;" — CLAT Gurukul News at a Glance, 15 Oct 2026
- **refrain** — to hold oneself back from doing something
  "Ukraine later welcomed the idea and said it was ready to refrain from striking Russian energy infrastructure if Russia did the same." — CLAT Gurukul News at a Glance, 15 Oct 2026
- **intercepted** — stopped or caught on the way before reaching its target
  "The coalition said its air defences intercepted a ballistic missile launched towards Dhahran and that debris fell in a residential area." — CLAT Gurukul News at a Glance, 15 Oct 2026

LEGAL & LATIN TERMS EVERY ASPIRANT MUST KNOW

- **sub judice** — under judicial consideration — a matter pending before a court, on which public comment is restricted
- **suo motu** — on its own motion — action taken by a court without any petition being filed
- **ultra vires** — beyond the powers — an act done outside the legal authority of the person or body
- **bona fide** — in good faith — honestly and without intent to deceive
- **mala fide** — in bad faith — with dishonest or improper intent
- **obiter dictum** — said in passing — a judge's remark not essential to the decision and not binding as precedent
- **ratio decidendi** — the reason for the decision — the legal principle on which a judgment rests and which binds later courts
- **de facto** — in fact — existing in reality though not formally recognised
- **de jure** — by law — existing as a matter of legal right
- **ipso facto** — by that very fact — as an automatic consequence
- **inter alia** — among other things
- **res ipsa loquitur** — the thing speaks for itself — in tort, negligence inferred from the very nature of the accident
- **ab initio** — from the beginning — a contract void ab initio is void from the start
- **pro bono** — for the public good — legal work done free of charge

RECALL CHECK — WORDS FROM EARLIER

adjudicate (learnt 7 days ago) — meaning: _____

usurp (learnt 21 days ago) — meaning: _____

PRACTICE DRILL

1. The Bench directed that the defamatory remarks be ___ from the official record.
A) dissipated · B) supplanted · C) expunged · D) exhorted

2. A ___ crowd confronted the police, shouting abuse and daring them to act.
A) truculent · B) stalwart · C) recompensed · D) expunged

3. The minister's defeat in his own constituency was an ___ end to a long career.
A) invective · B) acumen · C) truculent · D) ignominious

4. Her financial ___ allowed the auditor to see through the false accounts within hours.
A) recompense · B) acumen · C) invective · D) supplanting

5. The editorial was full of ___ against the Opposition, but it offered no reasoned argument.
A) acumen · B) invective · C) recompense · D) exhortation

6. The tribunal ordered ___ to the farmers for the crops destroyed in the chemical spill.
A) invective · B) dissipation · C) truculence · D) recompense

7. The Commission will continue to ___ citizens to turn out and vote on polling day.
A) exhort · B) expunge · C) supplant · D) dissipate

8. Digital filing may soon ___ paper pleadings in every district court.
A) exhort · B) expunge · C) supplant · D) recompense

9. Which word means 'to throw out', from e- (out) + ject (throw)?
A) eject · B) reject · C) inject · D) project

10. The witness tried to ___ the question by changing the subject.
A) allude to · B) assent to · C) amend · D) elude

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

ETYMOLOGY TRAIL

The Latin root jacere, to throw, gives eject, reject, interject and conjecture, and even the trajectory of a thrown stone. A judge may **expunge** *an* **ignomini** *from the record, while a* **truculent** *litigant who answers with* **invective** *only weakens his own case. A* **stalwart** *advocate with real* **acumen** *will* **exhort** *Bench to follow the evidence, since doubt can* **dissipate** *quickly and fair* **recompense** *must* **supplant** *guesswork.*

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