ROOT OF THE DAY

mit / miss — *Latin mittere, missum — to send, to let go · "send, let go"*

admit — ad- (to) + mit (send) = send in; let in or concede
commit — com- (together) + mit (send) = send over entirely; entrust or perpetrate
submit — sub- (under) + mit (send) = send under another's authority; yield or file
permit — per- (through) + mit (send) = let pass through; allow
dismiss — dis- (away) + miss (send) = send away; reject or discharge
omit — ob- (away) + mit (let go) = let go; leave out
transmit — trans- (across) + mit (send) = send across; convey
compromise — com- (together) + promissum (promised) = a mutual promise to settle
premise — pre- (before) + miss (sent) = sent before; a proposition laid down first
mission — Latin missio = a sending; a task on which one is sent

POWER WORDS

specious *adj.*
"The State's plea that the notice was merely informal was specious, since it had already been used to attach the property."
Meaning: seemingly sound or plausible but actually false or misleading
Syn: plausible-sounding, fallacious, deceptive · **Ant:** genuine, sound, valid
HOOK: Latin species = appearance; it has the look of truth but not the substance

cavil *v.*
"The respondent did not cavil at the amount of compensation; he only disputed the date from which interest ran."
Meaning: to raise petty or unnecessary objections
Syn: quibble, carp, nitpick · **Ant:** concur, accept, acquiesce
HOOK: Latin cavilla = a jest or taunt; picking at tiny faults as if teasing

salient *adj.*
"The judgment first lists the salient facts and then applies the statute to them."
Meaning: most noticeable or important; standing out
Syn: prominent, striking, key · **Ant:** minor, negligible, peripheral
HOOK: Latin salire = to leap; the point that leaps out at the reader

remit *v.*
"The Supreme Court chose to remit the matter to the High Court for a fresh decision on the evidence."
Meaning: to send a case back to a lower court; also to cancel a debt or penalty
Syn: refer back, transfer, pardon · **Ant:** retain, exact, impose
HOOK: re- (back) + mit (send); send it back to where it came from

surmise *v.*
"From the torn seal and the missing file, the inquiry officer could only surmise that the record had been tampered with."
Meaning: to suppose something is true without firm evidence
Syn: conjecture, infer, guess · **Ant:** verify, confirm, know
HOOK: sur- (upon) + mise (sent); a thought sent forward ahead of proof

expiate *v.*
"The accused offered to expiate his wrong by repaying every victim in full before sentencing."
Meaning: to make amends for a wrong or sin by suffering or paying a penalty
Syn: atone for, make amends, redeem · **Ant:** aggravate, commit, perpetrate
HOOK: Latin ex- (out) + piare (appease); pay the price so the guilt is washed out

munificent *adj.*
"A munificent donor, she endowed the law school library with a gift larger than its annual budget."
Meaning: extremely generous in giving
Syn: lavish, bounteous, liberal · **Ant:** stingy, miserly, niggardly
HOOK: Latin munus (gift) + facere (make); one who makes gifts

fastidious *adj.*
"The Registrar was fastidious about the format of every petition and returned any with a missing annexure."
Meaning: very attentive to accuracy and detail; hard to please
Syn: meticulous, exacting, particular · **Ant:** careless, slovenly, lax
HOOK: Latin fastidium = loathing; one who finds the slightest flaw distasteful

emissary *n.*
"The Prime Minister dispatched a special emissary to carry the treaty proposals to the neighbouring capital."
Meaning: a person sent on a mission as an official representative
Syn: envoy, delegate, messenger · **Ant:** recipient, sender, principal
HOOK: e- (out) + miss (send) + -ary; the person sent out

intermittent *adj.*
"The witness gave only intermittent answers, falling silent whenever the questions turned to the contract."
Meaning: stopping and starting at intervals; not continuous
Syn: sporadic, periodic, fitful · **Ant:** continuous, constant, steady
HOOK: inter- (between) + mittere (let go); let go between times, so it pauses and returns

CONFUSABLE PAIRS — DON'T MIX THESE UP

eminent *vs* **imminent**
eminent: distinguished and respected in a field
imminent: about to happen very soon
TIP: eMinent has M for Mighty reputation; iMMinent has two Ms, like 'Moment's away'.

ingenious *vs* **ingenuous**
ingenious: clever, original and inventive
ingenuous: innocent, frank and without guile
TIP: ingeNIOUS has genius in it; ingenuOUS sounds like 'ingenue', an innocent young person.

council *vs* **counsel**
council: an elected or advisory body
counsel: advice; or a lawyer giving it
TIP: counCIL = a group like a Committee; counSEL = advice, as in counsel for the defence.

emigrate *vs* **immigrate**
emigrate: to leave one's own country to settle elsewhere
immigrate: to come into a country to settle there
TIP: Emigrate = Exit; Immigrate = Into.

precede *vs* **proceed**
precede: to come or go before something else
proceed: to go forward or continue
TIP: PREcede = PRE (before); PROceed = PROgress.

IDIOMS & ONE-WORD SUBSTITUTION

NAME: _____ ROLL NO: _____ BATCH: _____

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Idioms in context

- **to turn a blind eye** — to deliberately ignore something one knows is wrong
  "The inspector turned a blind eye to the unlicensed construction, and the court later pulled him up for it."
- **a double-edged sword** — something that has both good and harmful effects
  "Wide police powers of arrest are a double-edged sword: they stop crime but can also be misused."
- **to bury the hatchet** — to end a quarrel and make peace
  "After years of litigation the two brothers buried the hatchet and settled the family property by consent."
- **cut both ways** — to have both good and bad effects, or to help and harm the same people
  "The new disclosure rule cuts both ways: it protects investors but also exposes small firms to costly litigation."

One-word substitution

- the killing of a king or queen → **regicide**
- spoken or done without preparation → **extempore**
- one who loves mankind and helps others through charity → **philanthropist**
- one who attacks cherished beliefs or established institutions → **iconoclast**
- one who seizes power or position wrongfully → **usurper**

WORDS IN THE WILD — FROM TODAY'S NEWSPAPER

- **touchstone** — a standard or test by which the quality of something is judged
  "Coelho v State of Tamil Nadu (2007) 2 SCC 1 , a nine-judge Bench held that laws placed in the Ninth Schedule remain open to judicial review on the touchstone of the basic structure , including the equality code." — *CLAT Gurukul News at a Glance, 15 Oct 2026*
- **notwithstanding** — in spite of; without being affected by
  "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*
- **indispensable** — absolutely necessary; that cannot be done without
  "Article 54: protects objects "indispensable to the survival of the civilian population", such as foodstuffs, crops, livestock, drinking water installations and irrigation works." — *CLAT Gurukul News at a Glance, 15 Oct 2026*
- **consonance** — agreement or harmony; being in accord with something
  "The policy frame: the Ministry said INS Sahyadri's participation is in consonance with the Government of India's vision of MAHASAGAR — Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions — and carries forward the momentum of the 23rd India-Russia Annual Summit held on 4–5 December 2025 ." — *CLAT Gurukul News at a Glance, 15 Oct 2026*

LEGAL & LATIN TERMS EVERY ASPIRANT MUST KNOW

- **ultra vires** — beyond one's legal powers; an act done outside the authority given by law
- **inter alia** — among other things
- **in camera** — in private; a hearing held in the judge's chambers and not in open court
- **suo motu** — on its own motion; when a court acts without anyone filing a petition
- **per incuriam** — through lack of care; a decision given in ignorance of a binding statute or precedent, so not binding
- **sine qua non** — an essential condition without which something cannot happen
- **ex parte** — in the absence of the other side; a decision or hearing with only one party present
- **in limine** — at the very threshold; a plea or objection raised at the start of proceedings
- **pari passu** — on equal footing; ranking equally and proportionately without preference
- **functus officio** — having discharged one's duty; an authority whose power ends once its task is complete
- **ad hoc** — for this particular purpose only; arranged for a specific occasion
- **mutatis mutandis** — with necessary changes made; applying an earlier rule to a new case after adjusting details

PRACTICE DRILL

1. The minister's defence sounded convincing, but it proved ___ once the audited figures were produced.
   A) munificent · B) specious · C) intermittent · D) salient
2. To ___ his wrong, the convict offered to repay every victim in full before sentencing.
   A) surmise · B) remit · C) cavil · D) expiate
3. The respondent did not ___ at the compensation; he disputed only the date from which interest ran.
   A) cavil · B) expiate · C) remit · D) surmise
4. A ___ donor, she endowed the law school library with a gift larger than its annual budget.
   A) fastidious · B) specious · C) munificent · D) intermittent
5. The Bench listed the ___ facts first and then applied the statute to them.
   A) salient · B) munificent · C) intermittent · D) specious
6. The Registrar was ___ about format, returning any petition with a missing annexure.
   A) munificent · B) salient · C) intermittent · D) fastidious
7. The Supreme Court chose to ___ the matter to the High Court for a fresh decision.
   A) cavil · B) remit · C) expiate · D) surmise
8. A special ___ was sent to carry the treaty proposals to the neighbouring capital.
   A) surmise · B) cavil · C) emissary · D) remit
9. From the torn seal and missing file, the officer could only ___ that the record was tampered with.
   A) surmise · B) remit · C) emissary · D) expiate

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

ETYMOLOGY TRAIL

The Latin mittere, to send, gives the **emissary** *sent out on a mission, the matter a court may* **remit** *back, and the premise sent before an argument. A* **munificent** *patron may offer to* **expiate** *a wrong, but a* **fastidious** *judge will not let a* **specious** *plea pass, nor let counsel* **cavil** *at every* **salient** *fact. the file is torn and the answers merely* **intermittent**, *an inquiry can only* **surmise** *what truly happened.*

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