ROOT OF THE DAY

fac / fect / fic *— Latin facere, factum — to make, to do · "make, do"*

effect — ex- (out) + fect (make) = a result made out of a cause
defect — de- (away) + fect (do) = a failure to do or make properly; a flaw
perfect — per- (thoroughly) + fect (make) = made through to the end; complete
facilitate — facil- (easy to do) + -ate = make a task easy
infect — in- (into) + fect (make) = put into; taint or contaminate
deficient — de- (down) + fic (make) = falling short in what is made; lacking
manufacture — manu- (hand) + fact (make) = make by hand
affect — ad- (to) + fect (do) = act upon; influence

POWER WORDS

facile *adj.*
"The counsel's facile claim that the contract could be rewritten at will ignored three binding clauses."
Meaning: too easy and superficial; achieved without proper effort or depth
Syn: glib, simplistic, superficial · **Ant:** thorough, profound, rigorous
HOOK: Latin facilis = easy to do; an answer that came too easily to be true

artifice *n.*
"The agent obtained the signature by artifice, concealing the clause that shifted every risk to the buyer."
Meaning: clever trickery or cunning used to deceive
Syn: ruse, subterfuge, stratagem · **Ant:** candour, honesty, openness
HOOK: art + fic (make) = a skill in making things up

effectuate *v.*
"The Court directed the State to effectuate its own policy by issuing the appointment letters within a month."
Meaning: to put into effect; to bring about in practice
Syn: implement, execute, accomplish · **Ant:** frustrate, thwart, neglect
HOOK: effect + -uate = turn a decision into an actual effect

officious *adj.*
"An officious clerk insisted on adding conditions that no rule required and delayed the entire file."
Meaning: too eager to give orders or interfere where not wanted
Syn: meddlesome, intrusive, overbearing · **Ant:** reserved, unobtrusive, detached
HOOK: office-proud: acts as if every desk is his to run

feasible *adj.*
"The Bench asked whether complying with the order within a week was feasible for a department with two officers."
Meaning: capable of being done or carried out in practice
Syn: practicable, viable, workable · **Ant:** impracticable, unworkable, impossible
HOOK: fais- (do) = doable; if you can do it, it is feasible

prolific *adj.*
"The judge was a prolific writer, delivering over a thousand reasoned judgments in a single decade."
Meaning: producing a great deal; very productive or fruitful
Syn: productive, fertile, abundant · **Ant:** barren, unproductive, sparse
HOOK: proles (offspring) + fic (make) = makes plenty of offspring or output

factitious *adj.*
"The petition rested on a factitious grievance, whipped up to win a headline rather than a remedy."
Meaning: artificially created or manufactured, not natural or genuine
Syn: contrived, sham, artificial · **Ant:** genuine, authentic, spontaneous
HOOK: fact- = made; made-up rather than real, like a factory-made 'emergency'

ineffable *adj.*
"The relief of the acquitted man was ineffable; no statement he gave afterwards could capture it."
Meaning: too great or deep to be put into words
Syn: inexpressible, indescribable, unutterable · **Ant:** utterable, expressible, ordinary
HOOK: in- (not) + effable (speakable); cannot be spoken

malefactor *n.*
"The statute treats the first-time malefactor differently from the habitual offender who repeats the crime."
Meaning: a person who commits a crime or does wrong
Syn: wrongdoer, culprit, offender · **Ant:** benefactor, law-abiding citizen, innocent
HOOK: male- (badly) + fac (do) = one who does evil; opposite of benefactor

edifice *n.*
"The whole edifice of the prosecution's case collapsed once the key witness retracted."
Meaning: a large, complex structure or system of ideas, often built up over time
Syn: structure, construct, framework · **Ant:** ruin, rubble, foundation
HOOK: aedes (building) + fic (make) = something built; a grand building or system

ineffectual *adj.*
"The notice proved ineffectual because it was never served on the person who held the property."
Meaning: not producing the desired result; lacking power or force
Syn: futile, unavailing, impotent · **Ant:** effective, potent, efficacious
HOOK: in- (not) + effect = produces no effect

CONFUSABLE PAIRS — DON'T MIX THESE UP

affect *vs* **effect**
affect: (verb) to influence or change something
effect: (noun) a result; (verb) to bring about
TIP: Affect is an Action; Effect is an End result. 'The ruling will affect many; its effect is wide.'

council *vs* **counsel**
council: an elected or appointed body of people
counsel: advice; or a lawyer giving advice
TIP: Counsel = Consult a lawyer; council = a Committee.

respectfully *vs* **respectively**
respectfully: in a way that shows regard and courtesy
respectively: each in the order just mentioned
TIP: Respectfully = with respect; respectively = one after the other in turn.

discreet *vs* **discrete**
discreet: careful and tactful, especially in keeping secrets
discrete: separate and distinct
TIP: In disCREET the two Es are close together, like friends keeping a secret; in discrete the Es are separated.

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

IDIOMS & ONE-WORD SUBSTITUTION

One-word substitution

- an official who inquires into sudden or unnatural deaths → **coron**

NAME: _____ ROLL NO: _____ BATCH: _____

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Idioms in context

- **to read the riot act** — to give someone a stern warning or severe scolding
  "The High Court read the riot act to the officials who had ignored its order for six months."
- **a Pyrrhic victory** — a win that costs so much that it is almost as bad as a defeat
  "Winning the suit but losing the family business was a Pyrrhic victory for the plaintiff."
- **the writing on the wall** — a clear sign that something bad or unavoidable is going to happen
  "When three Benches struck down similar laws, the State should have seen the writing on the wall."
- **burn the midnight oil** — to work or study late into the night
  "Before the CLAT mock, she burned the midnight oil revising the Transfer of Property Act."

- one who hoards money and spends as little as possible → **miser**
- one who bears pain and misfortune without complaint → **stoic**
- one who speaks or writes in a roundabout, wordy way → **prolix**
- one who is present everywhere at the same time → **omnipresent**

WORDS IN THE WILD — FROM TODAY'S NEWSPAPER

- **unresolved** — not yet settled or solved; still open
  "The secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council said Washington had accepted some of Iran's conditions, while others remained unresolved." — *CLAT Gurukul News at a Glance, 15 Oct 2026*
- **deemed** — treated by law as being so, whether or not it is actually so
  "The Act received the Governor's assent on 11 January 2023, was published in the Karnataka Gazette on 12 January 2023, and was deemed to be in force from 1 November 2022." — *CLAT Gurukul News at a Glance, 15 Oct 2026*
- **equities** — fairness-based claims or rights that a party may assert in a dispute
  "Fresh recruitment on the enhanced basis was barred, and candidates could not claim equities if the increase was struck down." — *CLAT Gurukul News at a Glance, 15 Oct 2026*
- **hostilities** — acts of war or open fighting between parties
  "An energy ceasefire is a partial ceasefire: the parties agree to stop attacking one category of targets while hostilities may continue elsewhere." — *CLAT Gurukul News at a Glance, 15 Oct 2026*

LEGAL & LATIN TERMS EVERY ASPIRANT MUST KNOW

- **mens rea** — a guilty mind; the mental element of intent or knowledge needed for a crime
- **actus reus** — the guilty act; the physical element of a crime
- **bona fide** — in good faith; genuine and without intent to deceive
- **mala fide** — in bad faith; with dishonest intent
- **locus standi** — the right of a person to bring a case before a court
- **res judicata** — a matter already decided by a competent court, which cannot be reopened between the same parties
- **sub judice** — under judicial consideration; pending before a court and not to be publicly commented on
- **obiter dicta** — remarks made in passing by a judge that are not binding
- **ratio decidendi** — the legal reasoning that is the binding core of a judgment
- **habeas corpus** — a writ requiring a detained person to be produced before the court to test legality of detention
- **de facto** — in fact; in reality, whether or not legally recognised
- **quid pro quo** — something given in return for something else

RECALL CHECK — WORDS FROM EARLIER

tenable (learnt 7 days ago) — meaning: _____

annul (learnt 21 days ago) — meaning: _____

obviate (learnt 45 days ago) — meaning: _____

PRACTICE DRILL

1. The minister's ___ assurance that the dispute would end by itself ignored every complication in the file.
   A) judicious · B) facile · C) pertinent · D) onerous
2. The Bench refused to be moved by a ___ grievance that had been invented only to attract publicity.
   A) genuine · B) salutary · C) tenable · D) factitious
3. He won the agent's trust by ___, hiding the clause that shifted every risk onto the buyer.
   A) artifice · B) candour · C) redress · D) edifice
4. The joy of the acquitted man was ___; no statement could do justice to it.
   A) ineffectual · B) officious · C) ineffable · D) feasible
5. The Court ordered the State to ___ its own policy by issuing the appointment letters within a month.
   A) frustrate · B) prolong · C) facilitate · D) effectuate
6. The statute treats a first-time ___ more leniently than a habitual offender.
   A) malefactor · B) benefactor · C) coroner · D) stoic
7. An ___ clerk added conditions no rule required and delayed the whole file.
   A) reserved · B) officious · C) prolific · D) feasible
8. Once the key witness retracted, the whole ___ of the prosecution case collapsed.
   A) artifice · B) malefactor · C) edifice · D) defect
9. The notice proved ___ because it was never served on the person who held the property.
   A) ineffectual · B) prolific · C) factitious · D) ineffable
10. The judge was a ___ author, writing over a thousand reasoned judgments in ten years.
    A) facile · B) officious · C) feasible · D) prolific

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

ETYMOLOGY TRAIL

The Latin facere, to make, gave us the **edifice** *built by hand and the* **prolific** *author who makes much. A* **malefactor** *may use* **artifice** *to craft a* **factitious** *cl*
a **facile** *reply is the easy kind made without thought. An* **officious** *clerk will not* **effectuate** *an order, leaving a notice* **ineffectual** *and a joy* **ineffable** *only in*
telling, while a court asks only whether the remedy is **feasible**.

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