ROOT OF THE DAY

solv / solu / solut — *Latin solvere, solutus — to loosen, untie, release · "loosen, release"*

solution — solut (loosened) + -ion = the untying of a problem; also a substance loosened into a liquid
dissolve — dis- (apart) + solve (loosen) = loosen apart; break up or bring to an end
resolve — re- (back, thoroughly) + solve (loosen) = untie a matter fully; settle it or decide firmly
soluble — solu (loosen) + -ble (able) = able to be dissolved, or able to be solved
solvent — solv (release) + -ent = able to release (pay) all one's debts
absolute — ab- (from) + solut (loosened) = loosened from all limits; unrestricted, complete
resolution — re- + solut + -ion = a firm decision; a formal decision of an assembly

POWER WORDS

absolve *v.*
"The acquittal did not absolve the company of its civil liability to compensate the victims."
Meaning: to declare someone free from guilt, blame or an obligation
Syn: exonerate, acquit, exculpate · **Ant:** condemn, convict, inculpate
HOOK: ab- (from) + solvere (loosen) = loosen someone from blame

dissolute *adj.*
"The prosecution dwelt on the accused's dissolute life of gambling and drink, but the court held that bad character proves no crime."
Meaning: lacking moral restraint; given to vice and indulgence
Syn: debauched, profligate, depraved · **Ant:** virtuous, upright, abstemious
HOOK: dis- + solutus = morals 'loosened apart'

irresolute *adj.*
"An irresolute government kept postponing the decision until the Court fixed a deadline for it."
Meaning: unable to make up one's mind; hesitant
Syn: indecisive, wavering, hesitant · **Ant:** resolute, determined, decisive
HOOK: ir- (not) + resolute (firmly settled) = never settles on anything

insoluble *adj.*
"Both States treated the river-water dispute as insoluble until a tribunal proposed a sharing formula."
Meaning: impossible to solve or settle; also, incapable of being dissolved
Syn: intractable, unsolvable, baffling · **Ant:** soluble, solvable, tractable
HOOK: in- (not) + soluble = a knot that cannot be untied

dissolution *n.*
"On the dissolution of the partnership firm, the accounts had to be settled before any partner could walk away."
Meaning: the formal ending or breaking up of an assembly, partnership, company or marriage
Syn: termination, disbanding, winding-up · **Ant:** formation, establishment, constitution
HOOK: dis- + solut = the bond is loosened apart and the body ceases to exist

rebut *v.*
"Once the statutory presumption arose, the accused had to rebut it by leading evidence of his own."
Meaning: to contradict or disprove a claim by argument or evidence
Syn: refute, counter, disprove · **Ant:** confirm, concede, corroborate
HOOK: re- + Old French boter (to push) = push an argument back

dereliction *n.*
"The inquiry found a clear dereliction of duty by the officer who left the lock-up unguarded all night."
Meaning: shameful failure to fulfil one's duty; also, abandonment
Syn: neglect, negligence, default · **Ant:** diligence, conscientiousness, fulfilment
HOOK: de- + relinquere (leave behind) = duty left behind entirely

perfidy *n.*
"The envoy called the attack launched during the ceasefire an act of perfidy that no treaty could excuse."
Meaning: deliberate breach of faith or trust; treachery
Syn: treachery, betrayal, faithlessness · **Ant:** loyalty, fidelity, good faith
HOOK: per (beyond) + fides (faith) = going beyond the bounds of faith

rectitude *n.*
"The judge's rectitude was never questioned, even by the lawyers who lost before him."
Meaning: moral uprightness; honesty and correctness of conduct
Syn: probity, integrity, righteousness · **Ant:** corruption, dishonesty, turpitude
HOOK: rectus = straight; a person who walks a straight line

sophistry *n.*
"The Bench rejected the argument as sophistry, clever on paper but built to defeat the plain purpose of the Act."
Meaning: clever but false or misleading reasoning, used to deceive
Syn: casuistry, specious reasoning, quibbling · **Ant:** sound reasoning, logic, candour
HOOK: the Sophists of ancient Athens taught persuasive argument for a fee, true or not

vacuous *adj.*
"The reply affidavit was vacuous, repeating the allegations without answering a single one of them."
Meaning: lacking thought, substance or meaning
Syn: empty, inane, hollow · **Ant:** substantive, thoughtful, meaningful
HOOK: vacuum = empty space; a vacuous reply has nothing inside

incontrovertible *adj.*
"The CCTV footage was incontrovertible proof that the accused was inside the shop at ten that night."
Meaning: impossible to deny or dispute
Syn: indisputable, undeniable, conclusive · **Ant:** questionable, doubtful, debatable
HOOK: in- (not) + contro (against) + vert (turn) = cannot be turned against

CONFUSABLE PAIRS — DON'T MIX THESE UP

dissolution *vs* **disillusion**
dissolution: the formal ending or breaking up of a body, partnership or marriage
disillusion: disappointment on discovering that something is not as good as believed
TIP: Dissolution dissolves a body; disillusion destroys an illusion.

flout *vs* **flaunt**
flout: to openly disregard a rule or law
flaunt: to show off something in order to impress
TIP: You flout the law (out of bounds); you flaunt your wealth (show it off).

imply *vs* **infer**
imply: to suggest something without saying it directly (done by the speaker)
infer: to draw a conclusion from evidence (done by the listener)
TIP: The speaker implies; the listener infers. Evidence never 'infers' anything.

credible *vs* **credulous**
credible: believable; deserving trust
credulous: too ready to believe things; gullible
TIP: A credible witness is believed; a credulous juror believes anything.

judicial *vs* **judicious**
judicial: relating to courts, judges or the administration of justice
judicious: showing good judgment; wise and sensible
TIP: Judicial belongs to the judiciary; judicious describes a wise choice by anyone.

IDIOMS & ONE-WORD SUBSTITUTION

One-word substitution

- one who repeatedly relapses into crime after being punished → **re**

NAME: _____ ROLL NO: _____ BATCH: _____

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Idioms in context

- **to let someone off the hook** — to free someone from blame, punishment or a duty
  "The audit report let the contractor off the hook, blaming the delay on the monsoon instead."
- **to wash one's hands of** — to refuse to accept any further responsibility for something
  "The department cannot simply wash its hands of the scheme after the funds have been released."
- **a smoking gun** — a piece of evidence that clearly proves guilt or wrongdoing
  "The deleted e-mail turned out to be the smoking gun that linked the director to the fraud."
- **to throw the book at** — to punish someone as severely as the law or rules allow
  "The magistrate threw the book at the repeat offender, imposing the maximum sentence on every count."

- one who hates women → **misogynist**
- one who can speak many languages → **polyglot**
- one who works or fights only for money → **mercenary**
- one who opposes war and violence as a means of settling disputes → **pacifist**

WORDS IN THE WILD — FROM TODAY'S NEWSPAPER

- **enumerate** — to count or list one by one; in a census, to record each person
  "The 2027 Census will be India's 16th Census (the eighth since Independence), its first fully digital Census, and the first since 1931 to enumerate caste comprehensively." — CLAT Gurukul News at a Glance, 13 Oct 2026
- **prevail** — to prove more powerful or be given effect over something else
  "It also argued that Clause 32.4, coming first, should prevail over Clause 32.5." — CLAT Gurukul News at a Glance, 13 Oct 2026
- **defunct** — no longer existing, working or in use
  "Bypasses or defunct ETPs are reported with geo-tagged photo or video evidence." — CLAT Gurukul News at a Glance, 13 Oct 2026
- **provisional** — arranged or existing for the time being, subject to later confirmation
  "In August 2026, MoSPI's provisional estimate had put retail inflation at 4.82%; the final figure for August, published with the September release, is 4.83%." — CLAT Gurukul News at a Glance, 13 Oct 2026

LEGAL & LATIN TERMS EVERY ASPIRANT MUST KNOW

- **volenti non fit injuria** — no wrong is done to one who consents; a person who willingly accepts a risk cannot sue for the harm
- **damnum sine injuria** — actual loss without the violation of a legal right; not actionable
- **injuria sine damno** — violation of a legal right without actual loss; actionable even without proof of damage
- **ubi jus ibi remedium** — where there is a right, there is a remedy
- **ignorantia juris non excusat** — ignorance of the law is no excuse
- **novus actus interveniens** — a new intervening act that breaks the chain of causation between the defendant's act and the harm
- **ex turpi causa non oritur actio** — no action arises from a wrongful or immoral cause; a court will not help a party whose claim rests on illegality
- **doli incapax** — incapable of committing a crime; in India, a child below seven years
- **nemo debet bis vexari** — no one should be tried twice for the same cause; the basis of the rule against double jeopardy
- **nullum crimen sine lege** — no crime without a law; conduct cannot be punished unless a law made it an offence when it was done
- **lis pendens** — a pending suit; property under litigation cannot be transferred so as to affect the rights of the parties
- **delegatus non potest delegare** — a person to whom a power is delegated cannot delegate it further
- **actio personalis moritur cum persona** — a personal right of action dies with the person

RECALL CHECK — WORDS FROM EARLIER

prolix (learnt 7 days ago) — meaning: _____

averse (learnt 21 days ago) — meaning: _____

arrogate (learnt 45 days ago) — meaning: _____

PRACTICE DRILL

1. The acquittal did not ___ the company of its civil liability to pay compensation.
   A) condemn · B) absolve · C) implicate · D) rebut
2. Leaving the prisoner unguarded for six hours was a clear ___ of duty.
   A) discharge · B) fulfilment · C) dissolution · D) dereliction
3. The ___ committee kept postponing its decision until the Court fixed a deadline.
   A) irresolute · B) incontrovertible · C) decisive · D) dissolute
4. The CCTV footage was ___ proof that the accused was inside the shop at 10 p.m.
   A) vacuous · B) doubtful · C) incontrovertible · D) insoluble
5. The Bench rejected the argument as mere ___: clever on paper, but built to defeat the plain purpose of the Act.
   A) candour · B) rectitude · C) sophistry · D) perfidy
6. Once the presumption arises, the burden shifts to the accused to ___ it by leading evidence.
   A) rebut · B) endorse · C) absolve · D) concede
7. The ___ of the Lok Sabha before the end of its five-year term triggers a fresh general election.
   A) formation · B) prorogation · C) adjournment · D) dissolution
8. Attacking the convoy under a white flag of truce was condemned as an act of ___.
   A) rectitude · B) perfidy · C) fidelity · D) sophistry

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

ETYMOLOGY TRAIL

From the Latin solvere, to loosen, the law draws **dissolution**, *the loosening of a partnership or a House, and* **absolve**, *the loosening of a person from blame. A* **irresolute** *official may call a dispute* **insoluble**, *but a* **vacuous** *reply or a piece of* **sophistry** *cannot* **rebut** *evidence that is* **incontrovertible**. *Courts rarely the* **dissolute** *or excuse a* **dereliction** *of duty, and they reserve their sternest words for* **perfidy**, *the breach of faith that* **rectitude** *forbids.*

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