ROOT OF THE DAY

sed / sid / sess — *Latin sedere, sessus — to sit, to settle · "sit, settle"*

preside — pre- (before, in front) + sid (sit) = sit in front; be in charge of a court or meeting
reside — re- (back) + sid (sit) = sit back and stay; live permanently in a place
subside — sub- (down) + sid (settle) = settle down; become less intense
subsidy — sub- + sid = troops 'sitting in reserve' to help; hence money given to support
dissident — dis- (apart) + sid (sit) = one who sits apart; a person who opposes official policy
session — sess (sat) + -ion = a sitting; a period during which a court or legislature meets
sediment — sed (settle) + -ment = matter that settles at the bottom of a liquid

POWER WORDS

residuary *adj.*
"Under Article 248, the residuary power to legislate on matters in none of the three Lists belongs to Parliament."
Meaning: relating to what remains after the rest has been dealt with or allotted
Syn: residual, remaining, leftover · **Ant:** primary, enumerated, principal
HOOK: re- + sid (sit) = what is left sitting behind after everything else is shared out

subsidiary *adj./n.*
"Rules framed by the department are subsidiary legislation and cannot override the parent Act."
Meaning: secondary or supplementary; (n.) a company controlled by another company
Syn: secondary, ancillary, subordinate · **Ant:** principal, primary, parent
HOOK: sub- + sid = sitting below, in support of the main body

reprieve *n./v.*
"A last-minute reprieve from the Governor stayed the execution until the mercy petition was decided."
Meaning: a cancellation or postponement of a punishment, especially a death sentence; any temporary relief
Syn: stay, respite, remission · **Ant:** execution, enforcement, punishment
HOOK: a reprieve 'retrieves' the convict from the gallows for a while

remand *v./n.*
"The magistrate remanded the accused to judicial custody for fourteen days while the investigation continued."
Meaning: to send an accused back into custody pending trial; to send a case back to a lower court
Syn: detain, recommit, return · **Ant:** release, discharge, free
HOOK: re- (back) + mandare (order) = ordered back, to jail or to the lower court

unconscionable *adj.*
"The court refused to enforce a clause so one-sided that it was unconscionable for a borrower with no bargaining power."
Meaning: so unfair or unreasonable that it shocks the conscience
Syn: unreasonable, outrageous, inequitable · **Ant:** fair, reasonable, just
HOOK: un- + conscience = no conscience could accept it

iniquitous *adj.*
"Critics called the tax iniquitous because it fell hardest on those least able to pay it."
Meaning: grossly unfair and morally wrong
Syn: unjust, wicked, inequitable · **Ant:** just, fair, righteous
HOOK: in- (not) + aequus (equal, fair) = not fair at all

deprecate *v.*
"The Bench deprecated the practice of filing the same petition in two High Courts at once."
Meaning: to express strong disapproval of; to play down or belittle
Syn: condemn, disapprove of, decry · **Ant:** approve, commend, endorse
HOOK: de- + precari (pray) = pray against something; strongly wish it away

pejorative *adj.*
"The judgment directed that caste names must not be used in a pejorative sense in official records."
Meaning: expressing contempt or disapproval
Syn: derogatory, disparaging, belittling · **Ant:** complimentary, flattering, laudatory
HOOK: Latin pejor = worse; a pejorative word makes someone look worse

aberration *n.*
"The High Court treated the single acquittal as an aberration, not as evidence that the trial court was biased."
Meaning: a departure from what is normal, usual or expected
Syn: anomaly, deviation, irregularity · **Ant:** norm, rule, standard
HOOK: ab- (away) + errare (wander) = wandering away from the usual path

canard *n.*
"The minister dismissed the report of his resignation as a canard spread by his political rivals."
Meaning: an unfounded rumour or false story
Syn: falsehood, fabrication, hoax · **Ant:** fact, truth, verity
HOOK: French canard = duck; a false report 'quacks' loudly but has no substance

desultory *adj.*
"After six years of desultory hearings, the inquiry had still not examined a single key witness."
Meaning: lacking a plan, purpose or enthusiasm; jumping from one thing to another
Syn: half-hearted, haphazard, aimless · **Ant:** methodical, systematic, purposeful
HOOK: Latin desultor = a circus rider who leapt from horse to horse; never staying on one

inveigle *v.*
"The accused had inveigled elderly depositors into signing blank cheques by posing as a bank officer."
Meaning: to persuade someone to do something by deception or flattery
Syn: lure, coax, entice · **Ant:** dissuade, deter, discourage
HOOK: French aveugler = to blind; you blind a person to the trap

CONFUSABLE PAIRS — DON'T MIX THESE UP

deprecate *vs* **depreciate**
deprecate: to express disapproval of
depreciate: to fall in value over time; to belittle
TIP: Courts deprecate a practice; cars and currencies depreciate in value.

official *vs* **officious**
official: relating to an office or authority; formally approved
officious: too eager to give orders or interfere; bossy
TIP: An official order carries authority; an officious clerk throws his weight around.

venal *vs* **venial**
venal: open to bribery; corrupt
venial: minor and easily forgiven
TIP: A venal officer sells his favours; a venial slip is pardonable. The extra 'i' is innocent.

exceptional *vs* **exceptionable**
exceptional: unusually good; out of the ordinary
exceptionable: open to objection; offensive
TIP: An exceptional judgment earns praise; an exceptionable remark invites objection (one takes exception to it).

continual *vs* **continuous**
continual: happening repeatedly, with breaks in between
continuous: going on without any break
TIP: Continual adjournments come again and again; continuous custody has no gap at all.

IDIOMS & ONE-WORD SUBSTITUTION

NAME: _____ ROLL NO: _____ BATCH: _____

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Idioms in context

- **to sit on the fence** — to avoid taking a side in a dispute or making a decision
  "The regional party sat on the fence until the very morning of the vote on the Bill."
- **to cut corners** — to do something in the easiest or cheapest way, often ignoring rules or safety
  "The inquiry found that the contractor had cut corners on the steel used in the bridge."
- **to jump the gun** — to act too soon, before the proper time
  "The channel jumped the gun by announcing the verdict before the judge had finished reading it."
- **to sweep under the carpet** — to hide a problem or wrongdoing instead of dealing with it
  "The audit warned that the losses could no longer be swept under the carpet."

One-word substitution

- one who runs away to escape arrest or justice → **fugitive**
- one who is held in custody while awaiting trial → **undertrial**
- one who receives property or money under a will → **legatee**
- one who has no settled home or regular work → **vagrant**
- one who lends money at an unfairly high rate of interest → **usurer**

WORDS IN THE WILD — FROM TODAY'S NEWSPAPER

- **extradition** — the formal surrender of an accused or convicted person by one state to another for trial or punishment
  "Several instruments named in the Declaration — on extradition, transfer of sentenced persons and trafficking in persons — are still only "proposed"." — *CLAT Gurukul News at a Glance, 14 Oct 2026*
- **recommendatory** — having the power only to recommend, not to bind or enforce
  "Its findings are recommendatory — the core of the "recommend, not command" debate." — *CLAT Gurukul News at a Glance, 14 Oct 2026*
- **contraband** — goods that are illegal to possess, import or export
  "No contraband was recovered from the appellant or her bag, per the police team's own statements." — *CLAT Gurukul News at a Glance, 14 Oct 2026*
- **superseded** — took the place of something older; replaced
  "BIS superseded the ISI on 1 April 1987 under the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986." — *CLAT Gurukul News at a Glance, 14 Oct 2026*

LEGAL & LATIN TERMS EVERY ASPIRANT MUST KNOW

- **ejusdem generis** — of the same kind; general words following specific ones are read as limited to things of the same class
- **noscitur a sociis** — a word is known by the company it keeps; its meaning is drawn from the words around it
- **expressio unius est exclusio alterius** — the express mention of one thing implies the exclusion of others
- **generalia specialibus non derogant** — a general provision does not override a special provision on the same subject
- **ut res magis valeat quam pereat** — a provision should be read so that it works rather than fails
- **contemporanea expositio** — the meaning given to a statute at the time it was made, and acted upon since, is a strong guide to its interpretation
- **nemo tenetur se ipsum accusare** — no one is bound to accuse himself; the basis of the right against self-incrimination (Article 20(3))
- **qui facit per alium facit per se** — he who acts through another acts himself; the basis of a principal's liability for an agent
- **respondeat superior** — let the master answer; an employer is liable for wrongs committed by an employee in the course of employment
- **quantum meruit** — as much as he has earned; reasonable payment for work done where no price was fixed or the contract failed
- **restitutio in integrum** — restoration to the original position; the aim of damages is to put the injured party back where it was
- **sub silentio** — under silence; a point decided without argument or reasoning is not a binding precedent on that point
- **salus populi suprema lex** — the welfare of the people is the supreme law

RECALL CHECK — WORDS FROM EARLIER

peremptory (learnt 7 days ago) — meaning: _____

averse (learnt 21 days ago) — meaning: _____

adduce (learnt 45 days ago) — meaning: _____

PRACTICE DRILL

1. Under Article 248, Parliament holds the ___ power to make laws on matters not listed in any of the three Lists.
   A) subsidiary · B) residuary · C) desultory · D) iniquitous
2. The court refused to enforce a penalty clause so harsh on a helpless borrower that it was ___.
   A) incontrovertible · B) commensurate · C) pejorative · D) unconscionable
3. A last-minute ___ from the President stayed the execution while the mercy petition was reconsidered.
   A) reprieve · B) remand · C) canard · D) aberration
4. The magistrate ___ the accused to judicial custody for fourteen days.
   A) reprieved · B) deprecated · C) remanded · D) inveigled
5. The minister dismissed the report of his resignation as a ___ planted by his rivals.
   A) canard · B) verdict · C) reprieve · D) precedent
6. One acquittal among a hundred convictions was treated as an ___, not as evidence of a pattern.
   A) axiom · B) outcome · C) aberration · D) ordinance
7. Posing as a bank officer, the fraudster tried to ___ elderly depositors into signing blank cheques.
   A) deprecate · B) remand · C) absolve · D) inveigle
8. The committee's ___ inquiry, held in fits and starts over six years, produced no findings at all.
   A) methodical · B) desultory · C) rigorous · D) iniquitous

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

ETYMOLOGY TRAIL

From the Latin sedere, to sit, come the judge who presides over a session and the **residuary** *power that is left sitting with Parliament once every List has been filled; a newer authority that takes the seat of an older one has superseded it. A magistrate may* **remand** *an undertrial while the court looks for contraband, but a last-minute* **reprieve** *can still save a convict from the gallows. Judges* **deprecate** **desultory** *hearings, refuse to enforce* **unconscionable** *or* **iniquitous** *bargains, and treat* **pejorative** **canard** *as an* **aberration** *that no fair record should carry.*

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