ROOT OF THE DAY

rog / rogat — *Latin rogare, rogatus — to ask, to propose (a law) · "ask, propose"*

interrogate — inter- (between) + rog (ask) = ask question after question; examine formally
interrogatory — inter- + rogat (asked) + -ory = a written question one party must answer on oath in a civil suit
prerogative — prae- (before) + rog (ask) = the Roman voters asked first; hence a special right belonging to one person or office
surrogate — sub- (in place of) + rog (ask, choose) = one chosen to stand in for another; a substitute
arrogate — ad- (to) + rog (ask) = claim for oneself; take a power without any right to it
arrogant — ad- + rog = one who keeps claiming more for himself; proud and overbearing

POWER WORDS

prorogue *v.*
"Once the President prorogues the Houses under Article 85, the session ends, but Bills pending before them do not lapse."
Meaning: to end a session of a legislature without dissolving it
Syn: discontinue, suspend, terminate (a session) · **Ant:** convene, summon, assemble
HOOK: pro- (forward) + rogare (ask) = originally 'ask for an extension'; now the formal close that puts a session off to a later date

collusion *n.*
"The decree was set aside because it had been obtained by collusion between the plaintiff and the defendant to defeat the creditors."
Meaning: a secret agreement between parties to cheat or deceive others
Syn: conspiracy, complicity, connivance · **Ant:** openness, honesty, opposition
HOOK: col- (together) + ludere (play) = two sides 'playing together' while pretending to oppose each other

quash *v.*
"Using its inherent powers, the High Court quashed the FIR because the complaint disclosed no offence at all."
Meaning: to reject or cancel officially, especially an order, charge or proceeding
Syn: annul, set aside, nullify · **Ant:** uphold, confirm, affirm
HOOK: Late Latin cassare (to make void), from cassus (empty); a quashed order is emptied of all force

subterfuge *n.*
"Calling the share transfer a 'gift' was a subterfuge to escape the tax on capital gains."
Meaning: a trick or deception used to achieve a goal or evade a rule
Syn: stratagem, ruse, evasion · **Ant:** candour, honesty, openness
HOOK: subter (secretly, beneath) + fugere (flee) = a secret escape route from a rule

indigent *adj./n.*
"Order XXXIII of the Civil Procedure Code allows an indigent person to file a suit without first paying the court fee."
Meaning: too poor to afford the basic necessities or legal costs
Syn: needy, impoverished, destitute · **Ant:** affluent, wealthy, prosperous
HOOK: Latin indigere = to be in need; the indigent lack even what a suit costs

largesse *n.*
"Critics argued that the pre-election largesse of free gadgets would strain the State's finances for years."
Meaning: generous giving of money or gifts, often by those in power
Syn: generosity, munificence, bounty · **Ant:** meanness, stinginess, parsimony
HOOK: Latin largus = abundant, generous; largesse is giving 'large'

derogatory *adj.*
"The High Court expunged the derogatory remarks the trial judge had made about the witness's community."
Meaning: showing a critical or disrespectful attitude; insulting
Syn: disparaging, belittling, insulting · **Ant:** complimentary, respectful, flattering
HOOK: de- (away) + rogare (propose a law) = to take something away from a law; a derogatory remark takes away from a person's worth

connivance *n.*
"Illegal sand mining could not have continued for years without the connivance of local officials."
Meaning: silent permission for wrongdoing; deliberately ignoring something one should stop
Syn: tacit consent, collusion, complicity · **Ant:** prevention, opposition, disapproval
HOOK: Latin connivere = to shut the eyes; connivance is a deliberate wink at wrongdoing

impropriety *n.*
"Even the appearance of impropriety is enough reason for a judge to step away from hearing a case."
Meaning: conduct that is improper, dishonest or unsuitable for one's position
Syn: misconduct, indecorum, wrongdoing · **Ant:** propriety, decorum, integrity
HOOK: im- (not) + proprius (proper, one's own) = what is not proper

reticent *adj.*
"The minister remained reticent about the terms of the trade deal until it was formally signed."
Meaning: not revealing one's thoughts or feelings readily; reserved
Syn: reserved, tight-lipped, uncommunicative · **Ant:** forthcoming, talkative, communicative
HOOK: re- (intensifier) + tacere (be silent) = keeping deliberately silent, as in 'tacit'

polemic *n./adj.*
"The editorial was less a reasoned argument than a polemic against the new data-protection law."
Meaning: a strong verbal or written attack on a person, idea or policy
Syn: diatribe, tirade, broadside · **Ant:** eulogy, tribute, defence
HOOK: Greek polemos = war; a polemic is war waged with words

plenary *adj.*
"Article 142 gives the Supreme Court plenary power to pass any order needed to do complete justice in a pending case."
Meaning: full and complete; unqualified; (of a meeting) attended by all members
Syn: complete, absolute, unrestricted · **Ant:** limited, partial, qualified
HOOK: Latin plenus = full, as in 'plenty'; a plenary power is full power

CONFUSABLE PAIRS — DON'T MIX THESE UP

prorogue *vs* **adjourn**
prorogue: to end a session of a legislature without dissolving it
adjourn: to suspend a sitting or hearing to a later time
TIP: The Speaker adjourns a sitting for the day; the President prorogues the whole session.

indigent *vs* **indignant**
indigent: very poor; in need
indignant: angry at something unjust
TIP: An indigent litigant cannot pay the fee; an indignant litigant is furious about the delay.

interment *vs* **internment**
interment: burial of a dead body
internment: confinement of people, especially foreign nationals, without trial
TIP: Interment is in the earth; internment is in a camp. The extra 'n' locks people in.

collusion *vs* **collision**
collusion: a secret agreement to cheat others
collision: a violent crash between two objects
TIP: Collusion is a quiet plot; a collision is a loud crash.

reticent *vs* **reluctant**
reticent: unwilling to speak or reveal things
reluctant: unwilling to do something
TIP: A witness is reticent about what he saw; he is reticent to come to court at all.

IDIOMS & ONE-WORD SUBSTITUTION

One-word substitution

- one who dishonestly takes money entrusted to his care → **embezzl**

NAME: _____ ROLL NO: _____ BATCH: _____

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Idioms in context

- **hand in glove** — working very closely together, often in something dishonest
  "The inquiry found the contractor hand in glove with the officials who were meant to inspect his work."
- **to paper over the cracks** — to hide a problem or disagreement instead of resolving it
  "The joint statement papered over the cracks between the two coalition partners on the seat-sharing dispute."
- **a rubber stamp** — a person or body that approves decisions automatically, without real scrutiny
  "Opposition members warned that the committee must not become a rubber stamp for the ministry's proposals."
- **a kangaroo court** — an unofficial, unfair court that ignores proper procedure and decides guilt in advance
  "The village panchayat that ordered the couple's expulsion was condemned as a kangaroo court."

- one who pledges his property as security for a loan → **mortgagor**
- one who intrudes into a place or affair where he is not wanted → **interloper**
- one who deserts a party, cause or faith for another → **renegade**
- one who passes off another's writing or ideas as his own → **plagiarist**

WORDS IN THE WILD — FROM TODAY'S NEWSPAPER

- **severability** — the principle that the invalid part of a law can be struck out while the valid rest survives
  "Second, a court may strike down a provision only "insofar as" it exceeds a limit — partial invalidity (severability), not the whole law." — *CLAT Gurukul News at a Glance, 15 Oct 2026*
- **prejudicial** — harmful to someone's rights, interests or position
  "Under Article 19, passage is innocent so long as it is not prejudicial to the peace, good order or security of the coastal State." — *CLAT Gurukul News at a Glance, 15 Oct 2026*
- **incarceration** — the state of being confined in prison
  "Prosecuting such victims can have a spiralling effect and incarceration pending trial, can lead to more disastrous consequences of the victim joining the supply chain, by reason only of associations developed in prisons." — *CLAT Gurukul News at a Glance, 14 Oct 2026*
- **redundant** — no longer needed or useful; serving no purpose because something else does the job
  "Reading Clauses 32.4 and 32.5 harmoniously — so that neither becomes redundant — together with Clause 38, the seat was Goa." — *CLAT Gurukul News at a Glance, 13 Oct 2026*

LEGAL & LATIN TERMS EVERY ASPIRANT MUST KNOW

- **letters rogatory** — a formal request from a court to a court in another country for help, such as examining a witness or collecting evidence
- **actori incumbit onus probandi** — the burden of proof lies on the one who brings the claim
- **affirmanti non neganti incumbit probatio** — the burden of proof lies on the one who affirms a fact, not on the one who denies it
- **in dubio pro reo** — when in doubt, decide in favour of the accused
- **actus non facit reum nisi mens sit rea** — an act does not make a person guilty unless the mind is also guilty
- **nemo punitur pro alieno delicto** — no one is punished for the wrong of another
- **ignorantia facti excusat** — ignorance of fact is an excuse, unlike ignorance of the law
- **interest reipublicae ut sit finis litium** — it is in the interest of the State that litigation should come to an end; a basis of res judicata and limitation
- **lex prospicit non respicit** — the law looks forward, not backward; statutes are presumed not to act retrospectively
- **cessante ratione legis cessat ipsa lex** — when the reason for a law ceases, the law itself ceases
- **quod ab initio non valet in tractu temporis non convalescit** — what is invalid from the beginning does not become valid with the passage of time
- **nemo debet locupletari ex alterius incommodo** — no one should be enriched at another's loss; the basis of the law on unjust enrichment
- **falsa demonstratio non nocet** — a mistaken description does not invalidate a document if what is meant is otherwise clear

RECALL CHECK — WORDS FROM EARLIER

nefarious (learnt 7 days ago) — meaning: _____

averse (learnt 21 days ago) — meaning: _____

construe (learnt 45 days ago) — meaning: _____

PRACTICE DRILL

1. Under Article 85, the President may ___ the Houses of Parliament, ending the session without dissolving the Lok Sabha.
   A) quash · B) prorogue · C) arrogate · D) impeach
2. The decree was set aside because the two parties had acted in ___ to defeat the claims of genuine creditors.
   A) largesse · B) reticence · C) polemic · D) collusion
3. Finding that the complaint disclosed no offence, the High Court ___ the FIR under its inherent powers.
   A) quashed · B) prorogued · C) endorsed · D) insinuated
4. Order XXXIII of the CPC allows an ___ person to sue without first paying the court fee.
   A) affluent · B) obdurate · C) indigent · D) impartial
5. The illegal mining went on for years only because of the ___ of local officials, who chose to look the other way.
   A) connivance · B) largesse · C) reticence · D) prerogative
6. Calling the share transfer a 'gift' was a mere ___ to escape the tax on capital gains.
   A) polemic · B) prerogative · C) plenary · D) subterfuge
7. The appellate court expunged the trial judge's ___ remarks about the witness's community.
   A) plenary · B) reticent · C) derogatory · D) indigent
8. Article 142 gives the Supreme Court ___ power to pass any order needed to do complete justice.
   A) derogatory · B) plenary · C) reticent · D) collusive

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

ETYMOLOGY TRAIL

From the Latin rogare, to ask, comes the President's prerogative to **prorogue** *a session and the* **derogatory** *remark that takes away from a person's worth. Courts* **quash** *a decree won by* **collusion**, *and condemn the* **connivance** *that lets a* **subterfuge** *pass. An* **indigent** *litigant may still sue free of fee, a judge may use* **plenary** *power to do complete justice, and severability lets a court strike out only the prejudicial part of a law, so that no clause is left redundant. A* **reticent** *minister can resist a* **polem**… *no amount of* **largesse** *can hide an* **impropriety**.

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