ROOT OF THE DAY

loqu / locut — *Latin loqui, locutus — to speak · "speak, talk"*

eloquent — e- (out) + loqu (speak) = speaking out fluently; persuasive and expressive in speech
colloquial — col- (together) + loqu (speak) = the speech people use when talking together; informal, everyday language
interlocutor — inter- (between) + locut (spoken) + -or = one who takes part in a conversation; in diplomacy, an official go-between
interlocutory — inter- + locut = 'spoken in between'; an order made while a suit is pending, before the final decree
soliloquy — solus (alone) + loqu (speak) = speaking alone; a speech a character makes to himself on stage
elocution — e- (out) + locut (spoken) = the art of speaking clearly and expressively in public

POWER WORDS

loquacious *adj.*
"The Bench reminded the loquacious counsel that a three-page written note would serve better than an hour of oral argument."
Meaning: tending to talk a great deal; talkative
Syn: talkative, garrulous, voluble · **Ant:** taciturn, quiet, uncommunicative
HOOK: loqu (speak) + -acious (inclined to) = always inclined to speak

grandiloquent *adj.*
"Behind the grandiloquent preamble of the new policy lay just two concrete measures and no budget at all."
Meaning: pompous or extravagant in language, meant to impress
Syn: pompous, bombastic, high-flown · **Ant:** plain, simple, understated
HOOK: grandis (great) + loqu (speak) = speaking big, with more sound than substance

aspersion *n.*
"The judge refused to let counsel cast aspersions on the witness's character without any material to support them."
Meaning: an attack on someone's character or reputation, usually unfair
Syn: slur, insinuation, disparagement · **Ant:** compliment, praise, approval
HOOK: ad- (on) + spargere (sprinkle) = to sprinkle dirt on someone's good name

clemency *n.*
"Article 72 empowers the President to grant clemency, including a pardon or the commutation of a death sentence."
Meaning: mercy shown in punishing; a pardon or a lighter sentence than the law allows
Syn: mercy, forgiveness, pardon · **Ant:** severity, harshness, ruthlessness
HOOK: Latin clemens = mild, gentle; clemency is the mild hand of the State

misfeasance *n.*
"A director who carries out a lawful transaction carelessly and causes loss to the company may be liable for misfeasance."
Meaning: the improper or negligent performance of an act that is itself lawful
Syn: mishandling, abuse, wrongdoing · **Ant:** diligence, propriety, due performance
HOOK: mis- (badly) + Old French faisance (doing) = doing a lawful thing badly

rapacious *adj.*
"The court described the moneylender's demand of 60 per cent annual interest from tribal farmers as rapacious."
Meaning: aggressively greedy; seizing what belongs to others
Syn: grasping, predatory, avaricious · **Ant:** generous, charitable, unselfish
HOOK: Latin rapere = to seize, as in 'rapid' and 'raptor'

circumlocution *n.*
"The minister's reply was a masterpiece of circumlocution: two pages long, it never said whether the tender would be cancelled."
Meaning: the use of many words where fewer would do, especially to avoid a direct answer
Syn: verbosity, evasion, periphrasis · **Ant:** directness, brevity, conciseness
HOOK: circum (around) + locut (spoken) = talking around the point instead of to it

calumny *n.*
"The court held that a false accusation of bribery, spread through the whole village, was calumny for which damages must be paid."
Meaning: a false and malicious statement made to damage someone's reputation
Syn: slander, defamation, smear · **Ant:** praise, commendation, tribute
HOOK: Latin calumnia = trickery, false accusation; a calumny is a lie aimed at a person's name

traduce *v.*
"Opposition leaders accused the party's social-media cell of traducing the journalists who had exposed the scam."
Meaning: to speak badly of or tell lies about someone so as to damage his reputation
Syn: malign, defame, slander · **Ant:** praise, extol, defend
HOOK: trans (across) + ducere (lead) = to lead a person across town in disgrace

recusal *n.*
"Since he had once advised one of the parties, the judge announced his recusal from hearing the appeal."
Meaning: a judge's withdrawal from a case because of possible bias or a conflict of interest
Syn: withdrawal, disqualification, stepping aside · **Ant:** participation, sitting, hearing
HOOK: Latin recusare = to refuse, object; in recusal the judge refuses himself

otiose *adj.*
"If the second proviso merely repeated the first, it would be otiose, and courts presume that the legislature does not use words in vain."
Meaning: serving no practical purpose; superfluous
Syn: superfluous, pointless, futile · **Ant:** useful, essential, functional
HOOK: Latin otium = leisure; an otiose word sits idle and does no work

dissemble *v.*
"A witness who dissembles under cross-examination soon loses the confidence of the court."
Meaning: to hide one's real feelings, motives or knowledge; to pretend
Syn: feign, conceal, pretend · **Ant:** reveal, disclose, confess
HOOK: dis- + simulare (pretend), as in 'simulate'; to dissemble is to put on a false face

CONFUSABLE PAIRS — DON'T MIX THESE UP

aspersion *vs* **aspiration**
aspersion: an attack on someone's reputation
aspiration: a strong hope or ambition
TIP: You cast an aspersion on a rival; you nurse an aspiration for yourself.

eloquent *vs* **loquacious**
eloquent: fluent and persuasive in speech
loquacious: talking too much
TIP: Eloquence is about the quality of speech; loquacity is only about its quantity.

recusal *vs* **refusal**
recusal: a judge's withdrawal from a case for possible bias
refusal: a declining to do or accept something, for any reason
TIP: Every recusal is a refusal to sit, but it is always about bias or conflict of interest.

dissemble *vs* **disassemble**
dissemble: to hide one's true motives or feelings
disassemble: to take something apart
TIP: A witness dissembles in the box; a mechanic disassembles an engine.

misfeasance *vs* **malfeasance**
misfeasance: doing a lawful act in an improper way
malfeasance: doing an act that is itself unlawful
TIP: Mis- = right act, wrong way; mal- = wrong act altogether; non-feasance = no act at all.

IDIOMS & ONE-WORD SUBSTITUTION

One-word substitution

- one who speaks so that the voice seems to come from somewhere el
  ventriloquist

NAME: _____ ROLL NO: _____ BATCH: _____

SCAN AT DESK TO COLLECT
CG-VOCAB-20261109

- **to beat about the bush** — to avoid coming to the main point
  "Instead of beating about the bush, the Attorney General told the Bench plainly that the notification would be withdrawn."
- **not to mince one's words** — to speak frankly and directly, even if it offends
  "The Chief Justice did not mince words, calling the delay in filing the counter-affidavit wholly unacceptable."
- **to drag someone's name through the mud** — to damage someone's reputation publicly
  "The actor sued the portal for dragging her name through the mud with fabricated stories."
- **to temper justice with mercy** — to punish less harshly than the law allows, out of compassion
  "Noting the accused's age, the court tempered justice with mercy and reduced the sentence to the period already served."

- one who tells stories in a skilful and amusing way → **raconteur**
- a leader who wins support by exploiting popular prejudice rather than reason → **demagogue**
- one who secretly listens to the private conversations of others → **eavesdropper**
- one who boasts loudly about his own achievements → **braggart**

WORDS IN THE WILD — FROM TODAY'S NEWSPAPER

- **retrogressive** — going back to an earlier and worse condition; the opposite of progressive
  "Legislation, said the Court, is "progressive, not retrogressive"." — *CLAT Gurukul daily brief (Hindu widow's limited estate), 12 Oct 2026*
- **rebuttable** — (of a presumption) able to be disproved by contrary evidence
  "Note the word "presumed": it is a rebuttable presumption, a nuance examiners like to test." — *CLAT Gurukul daily brief (World Mental Health Day 2026), 10 Oct 2026*
- **incitement** — the act of urging or provoking others to commit an unlawful act
  "Another could define genocide and ask whether hate propaganda, without physical violence, can be punished as incitement." — *CLAT Gurukul daily brief (Nobel Peace Prize to Navi Pillay), 11 Oct 2026*
- **misconceived** — based on a wrong understanding; mistaken in principle
  ""At present, all the three entities are at broadly the same regulatory stage," the release said, calling the suggestion of unfairness "baseless and misconceived"." — *CLAT Gurukul daily brief (satcom framework and Starlink clearance), 10 Oct 2026*

LEGAL & LATIN TERMS EVERY ASPIRANT MUST KNOW

- **res ipsa loquitur** — the thing speaks for itself; negligence may be inferred when the accident would not ordinarily happen without it
- **suppressio veri suggestio falsi** — suppression of the truth is equivalent to the suggestion of what is false
- **falsus in uno falsus in omnibus** — false in one thing, false in everything; Indian courts do not apply it rigidly and separate truth from falsehood
- **qui tacet consentire videtur** — he who is silent is taken to consent
- **in pari delicto potior est conditio defendentis** — where both parties are equally at fault, the position of the defendant is the stronger
- **accessorium sequitur principale** — the accessory follows the principal thing
- **cuius est solum eius est usque ad coelum** — whoever owns the soil owns everything up to the sky (now limited by air-space law)
- **nemo est haeres viventis** — no one is the heir of a living person; inheritance opens only on death
- **nemo moriturus praesumitur mentiri** — a dying man is presumed not to lie; the basis of admitting dying declarations
- **testis unus testis nullus** — one witness is no witness; not the rule in India, where conviction may rest on a single reliable witness
- **omnia praesumuntur rite esse acta** — all official acts are presumed to have been done rightly and regularly
- **res inter alios acta** — a thing done between others does not bind or affect a person who was not a party to it
- **contemporanea expositio est optima et fortissima in lege** — the interpretation given at the time a law was made is the best and strongest

RECALL CHECK — WORDS FROM EARLIER

expunge (learnt 7 days ago) — meaning: _____

subvert (learnt 3 weeks ago) — meaning: _____

estoppel (learnt 45 days ago) — meaning: _____

PRACTICE DRILL

1. The minister's two-page reply was pure ____: it never said whether the tender would be cancelled.
   A) clemency · B) circumlocution · C) recusal · D) calumny
2. Article 72 empowers the President to show ____ by commuting a death sentence to life imprisonment.
   A) calumny · B) aspersion · C) misfeasance · D) clemency
3. Because he had once advised one of the parties, the judge announced his ____ from the appeal.
   A) recusal · B) clemency · C) elocution · D) incitement
4. Counsel was warned not to cast ____ on a witness's character without any material to back them.
   A) clemencies · B) recusals · C) aspersions · D) soliloquies
5. If the second proviso merely repeated the first, it would be ____, and courts presume the legislature does not waste words.
   A) otiose · B) loquacious · C) rapacious · D) eloquent
6. The court called the moneylender's demand of 60 per cent annual interest from tribal farmers ____.
   A) otiose · B) colloquial · C) rebuttable · D) rapacious
7. A witness who ____ under cross-examination, hiding what he really saw, soon loses the court's confidence.
   A) traduces · B) disassembles · C) dissembles · D) convokes
8. The law presumes a person unheard of for seven years to be dead, but the presumption is ____: proof that he is alive defeats it.
   A) retrogressive · B) rebuttable · C) grandiloquent · D) colloquial

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

ETYMOLOGY TRAIL

From the Latin loqui, to speak, come the **loquacious** *counsel, the* **grandiloquent** *preamble and the minister's* **circumlocution**. *Speech turns harmful in* **calumny** *and* **aspersion**, *and a witness who would* **traduce** *others or* **dissemble** *in the box soon loses the court's trust.* **Recusal** *guards a court's fairness and* **clemency** *softens a sentence, yet no court spares a* **rapacious** *lender or an officer's* **misfeasance**. *Courts read no clause as* **otiose**, *treat many presumptions as rebuttable, reject a misconceived plea, punish incitement, and call good law progressive, not retrogressive.*

SCAN AT DESK TO COLLECT
CG-VOCAB-20261109