ROOT OF THE DAY

plic / plex / ply — *Latin plicare — to fold; plexus — woven, folded together · "fold; twist together"*

complicate — com- (together) + plic (fold) = to fold many things together, so that they are hard to separate
explicit — ex- (out) + plic (fold) = unfolded, laid out flat; stated clearly with nothing hidden
perplex — per- (thoroughly) + plex (twisted) = twisted through and through; to puzzle completely
duplicate — duo (two) + plic (fold) = folded in two; an exact second copy
replicate — re- (back, again) + plic (fold) = to fold back again; to repeat or copy exactly
imply — in- (in) + ply (fold) = to fold a meaning inside the words without stating it

POWER WORDS

implicate *v.*

"The forensic report did not implicate the driver; it showed that the brakes had failed before the collision."

Meaning: to show that someone is involved in a crime or wrongdoing
Syn: incriminate, involve, inculpate · **Ant:** exonerate, clear, absolve
HOOK: in- (into) + plic (fold) = to fold someone into the offence

explicate *v.*

"In a long footnote, the judgment explicates how the doctrine of basic structure grew out of Kesavananda Bharati."

Meaning: to analyse and explain an idea or text in detail
Syn: explain, expound, elucidate · **Ant:** obscure, confuse, cloud
HOOK: ex- (out) + plic (fold) = to unfold an idea so that every part can be seen

supplicant *n.*

"The petitioner came before the Governor not as a litigant asserting a right but as a supplicant seeking mercy."

Meaning: a person who asks humbly for something, especially from a person in power
Syn: petitioner, suppliant, applicant · **Ant:** benefactor, grantor, patron
HOOK: sub- (under) + plic (fold) = one who folds the knees and kneels down to ask

pliant *adj.*

"Critics feared that a pliant regulator would approve every merger the government favoured."

Meaning: easily influenced or controlled by others; (of a material) easily bent
Syn: compliant, docile, malleable · **Ant:** rigid, unyielding, independent
HOOK: from plicare (fold): what is pliant folds wherever it is pushed

suborn *v.*

"The prosecution alleged that the builder had tried to suborn two witnesses with cash to give false evidence."

Meaning: to persuade someone, usually by bribery, to commit perjury or another unlawful act
Syn: bribe, corrupt, induce · **Ant:** deter, dissuade, discourage
HOOK: sub- (secretly) + ornare (equip) = to equip a witness in secret with a false story

turpitude *n.*

"Service rules allow the dismissal of an employee convicted of an offence involving moral turpitude."

Meaning: depraved or wicked conduct; baseness of character
Syn: depravity, wickedness, vileness · **Ant:** virtue, probity, decency
HOOK: Latin turpis = base, shameful; turpitude is shameful conduct

encumber *v.*

"Before paying the full price, the buyer checked whether the flat was encumbered by a bank mortgage."

Meaning: to burden or hamper; in law, to place a charge, mortgage or liability on property
Syn: burden, saddle, charge · **Ant:** free, relieve, disencumber
HOOK: en- (in) + combre (barrier) = to put a barrier on; an 'encumbrance certificate' shows a property is clear

forfeit *v.*

"A bidder who withdraws after the auction closes forfeits the earnest money he deposited."

Meaning: to lose a right, property or money as a penalty for a wrong or a breach
Syn: lose, surrender, relinquish · **Ant:** retain, keep, gain
HOOK: foris (outside) + facere (do) = to act outside the law, and lose what you held

indubitable *adj.*

"The CCTV footage was indubitable proof that the accused was in the shop at the time of the theft."

Meaning: impossible to doubt; unquestionably true
Syn: undeniable, unquestionable, certain · **Ant:** doubtful, questionable, uncertain
HOOK: in- (not) + dubitare (doubt) = beyond any doubt

refractory *adj.*

"The refractory contractor ignored every reminder to clear the debris from the riverbed."

Meaning: stubborn and unmanageable; (of a disease) not responding to treatment
Syn: unruly, defiant, intractable · **Ant:** docile, manageable, compliant
HOOK: re- (back) + frangere (break) = one who breaks back against control

renege *v.*

"The State cannot renege on a written assurance after citizens have acted on it to their detriment."

Meaning: to go back on a promise, undertaking or contract
Syn: default, backtrack, retract · **Ant:** honour, keep, fulfil
HOOK: re- (back) + negare (deny) = to deny what one earlier agreed to

relegate *v.*

"The new rules relegate the advisory board to a purely ceremonial role."

Meaning: to send or consign to an inferior rank or position
Syn: demote, downgrade, sideline · **Ant:** promote, elevate, upgrade
HOOK: re- (back, away) + legare (send) = to send someone away to a lower place

CONFUSABLE PAIRS — DON'T MIX THESE UP

explicit *vs* **implicit**
explicit: stated clearly and directly
implicit: understood without being stated; implied
TIP: Ex- = out: an explicit term is spelt out in the contract. Im- = in: an implicit term is folded inside it.

implicate *vs* **explicate**
implicate: to show someone is involved in wrongdoing
explicate: to explain an idea in detail
TIP: Evidence implicates an accused; a judge explicates a doctrine.

relegate *vs* **delegate**
relegate: to send to a lower rank or place
delegate: to entrust a task or power to another
TIP: A team is relegated to a lower division; a minister delegates powers to an officer.

indubitable *vs* **indomitable**
indubitable: impossible to doubt
indomitable: impossible to defeat or subdue
TIP: Indubitable proof leaves no doubt; an indomitable spirit never gives up.

refractory *vs* **refectory**
refractory: stubborn; resistant to treatment
refectory: a dining hall in a college or monastery
TIP: A refractory student refuses to obey; the refectory is where he eats lunch.

IDIOMS & ONE-WORD SUBSTITUTION

Idioms in context

- **to bend over backwards** — to make every possible effort to help or please someone

One-word substitution

- a house or flat built on two floors, or a building divided into two hoı
  duplex

NAME: _____ ROLL NO: _____ BATCH: _____

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"The registry bent over backwards to help the visually impaired petitioner file her appeal on time."

- **to bend the rules** — to interpret rules loosely or make an exception, usually for one person
  "The examination board refused to bend the rules for the candidate who arrived after the gates closed."
- **to return to the fold** — to come back to a group or party one had left
  "After two years with the rival front, the MLA returned to the fold just before the election."
- **to bend someone's ear** — to talk to someone at length, especially to persuade or complain
  "Residents bent the councillor's ear about the broken streetlights until he raised the matter in the House."

- a cinema building with several screens → **multiplex**
- a network of nerves or blood vessels in the body → **plexus**
- the natural colour, texture and appearance of the skin of the face → **complexion**
- an exact copy of a building, model or work of art → **replica**

WORDS IN THE WILD — FROM TODAY'S NEWSPAPER

- **conducive** — making a certain situation or outcome likely or possible
  "It listed the shared transnational challenges facing the Bay of Bengal: terrorism, drug trafficking, organised crime, cybercrime, money laundering, human trafficking, violent extremism conducive to terrorism, smuggling of arms, piracy, poaching, illegal human migration and the misuse of cyberspace for terrorist purposes." — *CLAT Gurukul daily brief (BIMSTEC first Home Ministers' Meeting), 14 Oct 2026*
- **curb** — to restrain or keep something in check
  "In other words, the bulk of cancer-medicine spending lies in the non-scheduled segment, where a 10% annual-increase rule does nothing to curb a high starting mark-up." — *CLAT Gurukul daily brief (NPPA 30% trade-margin cap on cancer drugs), 14 Oct 2026*
- **substantive** — (of evidence) able by itself to prove a fact; in law, concerning rights and duties rather than procedure
  "Principle: a co-accused's confession is not substantive evidence; it can only support other evidence." — *CLAT Gurukul daily brief (SC on NDPS drug users as victims), 14 Oct 2026*
- **interoperable** — able to work together with other systems, devices or products
  "Every time a consumer buys a helmet, a pressure cooker, a phone charger or a piece of gold jewellery, an invisible set of standards determines whether that product is safe, interoperable and honestly described." — *CLAT Gurukul daily brief (World Standards Day 2026), 14 Oct 2026*

LEGAL & LATIN TERMS EVERY ASPIRANT MUST KNOW

- **vinculum juris** — the bond of law; the legal tie that binds parties to an obligation
- **turpis causa** — an immoral or base cause; an agreement founded on it is not enforced
- **mens legis** — the spirit or intention of the law, as distinct from its bare words
- **qui prior est tempore potior est jure** — one who is first in time is stronger in right
- **ubi eadem ratio ibi idem jus** — where the reason is the same, the law is the same
- **nemo inauditus condemnari debet** — no one should be condemned unheard
- **actus me invito factus non est meus actus** — an act done by me against my will is not my act
- **allegans contraria non est audiendus** — one who makes contradictory allegations is not to be heard
- **communis error facit jus** — a common error, long acted upon, can make law
- **quod fieri non debet factum valet** — what ought not to have been done is valid once done
- **impotentia excusat legem** — impossibility of performance excuses compliance with the law
- **res extincta** — the subject matter has perished; an agreement about a thing that no longer exists is void

RECALL CHECK — WORDS FROM EARLIER

specious (learnt 7 days ago) — meaning: _____

adjudicate (learnt 21 days ago) — meaning: _____

demur (learnt 45 days ago) — meaning: _____

PRACTICE DRILL

1. Two witnesses later admitted that the builder had tried to ___ them with cash to give false evidence.
   A) suborn · B) explicate · C) encumber · D) relegate
2. Service rules permit the dismissal of an employee convicted of an offence involving moral ___.
   A) aptitude · B) magnitude · C) turpitude · D) gratitude
3. Before paying the full price, a buyer must check whether the flat is ___ by a bank mortgage.
   A) explicated · B) encumbered · C) relegated · D) implicated
4. A bidder who withdraws after the auction closes must ___ the earnest money he deposited.
   A) renege · B) implicate · C) explicate · D) forfeit
5. After signing the settlement, the company ___ on its promise to pay compensation within thirty days.
   A) relegated · B) reneged · C) encumbered · D) suborned
6. In a long footnote, the judge went on to ___ the history of the doctrine, step by step.
   A) explicate · B) implicate · C) suborn · D) forfeit
7. Calm, well-lit classrooms with good ventilation are ___ to learning.
   A) refractory · B) pliant · C) indubitable · D) conducive
8. The patient's ___ fever did not respond to three courses of antibiotics.
   A) pliant · B) indubitable · C) refractory · D) substantive

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

ETYMOLOGY TRAIL

From the Latin plicare, to fold, we complicate a matter, perplex a reader, duplicate a file and imply what we will not say; unfold it and the meaning becomes explicit. To **implicate** *is to fold someone into a crime, to* **explicate** *is to unfold an idea, a* **supplicant** *folds his knees to plead, and a* **pliant** *regulator folds at every push. A court wants* **indubitable** *proof that someone tried to* **suborn** *a witness, punishes moral* **turpitude**, *lets a bidder* **forfeit** *his deposit but will not let the State* **renege** *on a prom* **refractory** *contractor may be relegated to the blacklist, and a mortgage may* **encumber** *a flat. In the news, extremism is conducive to terrorism, a margin rule fails mark-ups, a confession is not substantive evidence, and standards keep products interoperable.*

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