ROOT OF THE DAY

cur / curr / curs — *Latin currere (to run), cursus (a running, a course) and cursor (a runner) · "run"*

current — Latin currens, present participle of currere (to run) = running, flowing; hence of the present moment
concur — con- (together) + currere (to run) = run together; hence agree or happen at the same time
recourse — Latin recursus: re- (back) + cursus (a running) = a running back to someone for help; hence a source of help or remedy
incursion — Latin incursio: in- (into) + curs (run) = a running into; hence a sudden hostile raid or intrusion
excursion — Latin excursio: ex- (out) + curs (run) = a running out; hence a short trip or a digression
discursive — Medieval Latin discursivus: dis- (apart, to and fro) + curs (run) = running from topic to topic; hence rambling
courier — Old French courier, from Latin currere (to run) = a runner who carries messages

POWER WORDS

recourse *n.*
"When the insurer rejected the claim on a technicality, the family's only recourse was a complaint before the consumer commission."
Meaning: a source of help or remedy turned to in a difficulty; (law) the legal right to claim a remedy from someone
Syn: remedy, resort, option · **Ant:** helplessness, impasse
HOOK: re (back) + course (run): when stuck, you run back to your recourse

incursion *n.*
"The Ministry lodged a protest after a fresh incursion by foreign trawlers into India's exclusive economic zone."
Meaning: a sudden invasion or raid into another's territory; any unwelcome intrusion into a sphere of activity
Syn: raid, intrusion, foray · **Ant:** withdrawal, retreat
HOOK: in + cursion (running): forces running into land that is not theirs

concur *v.*
"Two judges concurred with the majority on the result but wrote separately because they disagreed with its reasoning."
Meaning: to agree with an opinion or decision; to happen at the same time
Syn: agree, assent, coincide · **Ant:** dissent, differ
HOOK: con (together) + cur (run): minds running together; a concurring judgment agrees, a dissent does not

discursive *adj.*
"The committee's discursive report wandered through history and anecdote before it reached a single recommendation."
Meaning: moving from subject to subject without clear order; digressive and rambling
Syn: rambling, digressive, meandering · **Ant:** concise, focused, succinct
HOOK: dis (to and fro) + curs (run): a discursive writer runs off in every direction

encroach *v.*
"The municipality issued notices to shopkeepers who had encroached on the public footpath with stalls and signboards."
Meaning: to intrude gradually on another's territory, rights or time; to advance beyond proper limits
Syn: intrude, trespass, impinge · **Ant:** withdraw, respect (limits)
HOOK: Old French encrochier, to seize with a hook (croc): an encroacher hooks a little more land each year

inure *v.*
"Years of crowded courtrooms had inured the clerk to noise, so the commotion outside hardly disturbed her."
Meaning: to accustom someone to something unpleasant so that they no longer feel it; (law) to take effect or operate for someone's benefit
Syn: accustom, harden, habituate · **Ant:** sensitise
HOOK: in + ure (old word for use, work): long use makes you inured to hardship

extricate *v.*
"It took the company three years of litigation to extricate itself from the joint venture it had entered in haste."
Meaning: to free someone or something from a difficulty, entanglement or constraint
Syn: free, release, disentangle · **Ant:** entangle, embroil, ensnare
HOOK: ex (out) + tricae (Latin for trifles, tangles): pull out of the tangle

embroil *v.*
"The minister refused to be embroiled in a public quarrel between the two state governments over river water."
Meaning: to involve someone deeply in a conflict, argument or difficult situation
Syn: entangle, involve, implicate · **Ant:** extricate, disentangle
HOOK: em (in) + broil (a quarrel): dragged into the broil

foist *v.*
"Consumer courts have repeatedly held that a bank cannot foist hidden charges on customers through clauses buried in the fine print."
Meaning: to impose an unwelcome or unwanted thing on someone by deceit or force (usually 'foist on')
Syn: impose, palm off, thrust · **Ant:** withhold, spare
HOOK: Dutch vuisten, to hide in the fist (vuist): foisted goods are slipped into your hand unseen

impound *v.*
"The magistrate ordered the police to impound the vehicle until the owner produced valid registration papers."
Meaning: to seize and take legal custody of goods, vehicles or documents; to shut up in an enclosure
Syn: confiscate, seize, detain · **Ant:** release, return
HOOK: im (in) + pound (an enclosure for stray cattle): the vehicle goes into the pound

CONFUSABLE PAIRS — DON'T MIX THESE UP

recourse *vs* **resource**
recourse: a source of help or remedy; the legal right to claim from someone
resource: a supply of money, materials or skill that can be drawn on
TIP: You HAVE RECOURSE TO a court; a country is rich in natural RESOURCES. 'Have resource to' is an error.

incursion *vs* **excursion**
incursion: a hostile raid into another's territory; an intrusion
excursion: a short pleasure trip; a brief digression from the main topic
TIP: IN-cursion runs INTO someone's land uninvited; EX-cursion runs OUT for a day and comes home.

course *vs* **coarse**
course: a route or direction; a series of lessons; a part of a meal
coarse: rough in texture; crude or vulgar in manner
TIP: COURSE (from cursus) is the path you run; COARSE has the A of 'abrasive'.

corporal *vs* **corporeal**
corporal: relating to the body, especially physical punishment (corporal punishment)
corporeal: having a physical, material existence; (law) tangible property such as land and goods
TIP: CORPORAL punishment hurts the body; CORPOREAL property can be touched. Both come from corpus, body.

IDIOMS & ONE-WORD SUBSTITUTION

Idioms in context

- **to run its course** — to continue naturally until it ends, without anyone stopping it
  "Doctors advised rest and fluids and said the viral fever would run its course within a week."

One-word substitution

- a person or company employed to carry documents and parcels fr place to another → **courier**
- a list of cases awaiting hearing in a court; also a summary of a cas **docket**

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- **par for the course** — what is normal or expected in a given situation, usually something unwelcome
  "Delays of a decade in civil suits are, sadly, par for the course in the lower courts."
- **to take the law into one's own hands** — to punish someone or act against a wrong oneself, without going to the police or courts
  "The court warned that villagers who take the law into their own hands by assaulting a suspect commit a crime themselves."
- **to cut one's losses** — to abandon a failing course of action early, to avoid losing even more
  "After two failed bids, the investor decided to cut his losses and withdraw from the auction."

- a person appointed to wind up a company's affairs, sell its assets and pay its creditors → **liquidator**
- a formal written request to an authority or court, asking for some action or relief → **petition**
- the legal transfer of title to property from one person to another by a deed → **conveyance**

WORDS IN THE WILD — FROM TODAY'S NEWSPAPER

- **statecraft** — the skilful management of a state's affairs; the art of using a state's power and tools (such as sanctions and trade) to pursue its aims
  "For a student of international relations, the episode is a useful case study of how economic statecraft works in practice: sanctions are not a single on/off switch but a layered system of prohibitions, exemptions and licences that governments adjust as conditions change." — CLAT Gurukul daily brief (US General License 135 on Russian diesel), 11 Oct 2026
- **speculative** — (of trading) done in the hope of profit from future price changes rather than for real need; based on guesswork rather than knowledge
  "It also reassures markets that essential imports such as crude oil will be financed smoothly, which can reduce speculative pressure on the currency." — CLAT Gurukul daily brief (RBI special dollar window for oil marketing companies), 11 Oct 2026
- **pluralism** — a condition in which many different groups, views or interests are represented and can coexist; in an institution, membership drawn from diverse sections of society
  "National human rights institutions (NHRIs) like the NHRC are measured against the Paris Principles — minimum standards on independence, pluralism, a broad mandate and adequate resources." — CLAT Gurukul daily brief (NHRC 33rd Foundation Day), 14 Oct 2026
- **retrospective** — taking effect from a date in the past; looking back on past events
  "The retrospective element matters because the defect here is historical." — CLAT Gurukul daily brief (EPFO amnesty for in-house PF Trusts), 14 Oct 2026

LEGAL & LATIN TERMS EVERY ASPIRANT MUST KNOW

- **cursus curiae est lex curiae** — the practice (course) of the court is the law of the court; settled procedure binds like a rule
- **quia timet** — 'because he fears': an action or injunction to prevent a wrong that is threatened but has not yet happened
- **pro hac vice** — for this occasion only; e.g. permission to appear in a single case
- **in toto** — wholly, completely, in its entirety (e.g. an appeal allowed in toto)
- **in situ** — in its original or natural place
- **ex concessis** — from what has been conceded; on the basis of the facts the other side has admitted
- **ex hypothesi** — by hypothesis; on the supposition that has been made
- **per contra** — on the other hand; by way of contrast
- **sub modo** — subject to a condition or qualification; within limits
- **de die in diem** — from day to day (e.g. a trial adjourned de die in diem until it concludes)

RECALL CHECK — WORDS FROM EARLIER

sanction (learnt 7 days ago) — meaning: _____

expunge (learnt 21 days ago) — meaning: _____

draconian (learnt 45 days ago) — meaning: _____

PRACTICE DRILL

1. Having lost in the trial court and the first appeal, the tenant's only remaining ____ was a revision petition before the High Court.
A) recourse · B) discourse · C) excursion · D) concurrence

2. Choose the word closest in meaning to EXTRICATE.
A) ensnare · B) free from a difficulty · C) implicate · D) detain in custody

3. A suit seeking an injunction to stop a nuisance that is threatened but has not yet begun is known as a ____ action.
A) in toto · B) ex concessis · C) pro hac vice · D) quia timet

4. Years of night duty had ____ the constable to sleeplessness, so the long vigil hardly troubled him.
A) foisted · B) embroiled · C) inured · D) impounded

5. Which sentence uses every word correctly?
A) Having lost the appeal, the company had resource to arbitration. · B) The students went on an incursion to the museum. · C) The cloth was too course to make a shirt. · D) The cloth was too coarse to be worn next to the skin.

6. The board's reply was ____: it set up another committee and promised a report, exactly as it does every year.
A) taking the law into its own hands · B) cutting its losses · C) par for the course · D) running its course

7. In 'a useful case study of how economic statecraft works in practice', STATECRAFT means:
A) the manufacture of goods by state enterprises · B) the skilful use of a state's power and tools to pursue its aims · C) the drafting of a written constitution · D) the traditional handicrafts of a state

8. Choose the word most nearly OPPOSITE in meaning to DISCURSIVE.
A) concise · B) rambling · C) digressive · D) meandering

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

ETYMOLOGY TRAIL

From Latin currere, to run, comes the current that keeps running and the courier who runs with the post. Judges who run together **concur***, a litigant who runs back for help has* **recourse***, troops who run into a neighbour's land make an* **incursion***, a day trip that runs out and back is an excursion, and a writer who runs to and fro is* **discursive***. Beside them, stalls* **encroach** *on footpaths, police* **impound** *vehicles, banks* **foist** *hidden charges, ministers refuse to be embroiled, and long practice inures us to delay until we can* **extricate** *ourselves. In the news: economic statecraft, speculative pressure on the rupee, pluralism in human rights b an amnesty with retrospective effect.*

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