

# Welcome to Your CLAT Vocabulary Journey!

DearCLATAspirant,

Congratulations on taking this crucial step toward mastering the vocabulary that will give you an edge in the Common Law Admission Test. This carefully curated collection of 100 high-frequency words represents the vocabulary that appears most often in CLAT reading comprehension passages, legal reasoning sections, and logical reasoning questions.

These words aren't just definitions to memorize—they're tools that will help you comprehend complex legal texts faster, understand nuanced arguments better, and express your thoughts more precisely. Each word has been selected based on its frequency in past CLAT papers and its relevance to legal and academic contexts.

Remember: Vocabulary building is not a sprint; it's a marathon. Consistent practice and contextual understanding will transform these words from mere entries in a list to powerful instruments in your analytical toolkit.

# Study Tips for Effective Retention

- ✓ Read in Context: Don't just memorize definitions. Read the example sentences carefully to understand how each word is used in legal and academic contexts.
- ✓ Create Your Own Sentences: After learning each word, write 2-3 original sentences using it in different contexts. This reinforces memory through active recall.
- ✓ Use Spaced Repetition: Review 20 words daily for five days, then revisit all 100 words weekly. This spacing technique significantly improves long-term retention.
- ✓ Connect to Real Cases: When you encounter these words in actual judgments, newspapers, or legal articles, note them down. Real-world exposure cements understanding.
- ✓ Practice with Synonyms and Antonyms: For each word, identify 2-3 synonyms and antonyms. This builds a network of related vocabulary.
- ✓ Test Yourself Regularly: Cover the definitions and try to recall them. Self-testing is one of the most effective learning strategies.
- ✓ Use Flashcards: Create physical or digital flashcards for words you find challenging. Review them during short breaks throughout the day.
- ✓ Read Quality Content: Regularly read editorials from The Hindu, Indian Express, and Supreme Court judgments to see these words in action.
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# 100 High-Frequency Words

ESSENTIAL VOCABULARY FOR CLAT PREPARATION

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Prepared by:  
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Total Words:  
100

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## Aberration n.

A departure from what is normal or expected.

*The court's harsh judgment was an aberration from its usual leniency.*

## Abrogate v.

To repeal or abolish (a law, right, or formal agreement)

*Parliament has the power to abrogate a treaty.*

## Acquiesce v.

To accept something reluctantly but without protest.

*The accused acquiesced to the conditions of the bail.*

## Adjudicate

v.

To make a formal judgment or decision about a problem or disputed matter.

*The tribunal was established to adjudicate on disputes between states.*

## Ameliorate

v.

To make something bad or unsatisfactory better.

*The new policy aims to ameliorate the conditions of undertrial prisoners.*

## Ambiguous

adj.

Open to more than one interpretation; unclear.

*The ambiguous wording of the contract led to a dispute.*



## Anachronism

n.

Something belonging to a period other than that in which it exists.

*The law was seen as an anachronism in the modern digital era.*

## Analogous

adj.

Comparable in certain respects.

*The lawyer argued that the case was analogous to a previous Supreme Court ruling.*

## Anomaly

n.

Something that deviates from what is standard, normal, or expected.

*The single dissenting judgment was an anomaly in an otherwise unanimous court.*

## Antithesis

n.

A direct opposite; a contrast.

*His actions were the antithesis of the peaceful protest he claimed to support.*

## Apathy

n.

Lack of interest, enthusiasm, or concern.

*Voter apathy is a challenge to democratic participation.*

## Apex

n.

The top or highest part.

*The matter was referred to the apex court.*

## Articulate

v./adj.

To express clearly; able to speak fluently.

*She was able to articulate her legal position very effectively.*

## Ascertain

v.

To find out for certain.

*The police tried to ascertain the facts of the case.*

## Assiduous

adj.

Showing great care and perseverance.

*The assiduous investigation by the CBI uncovered the corruption.*

## Austere

adj.

Severe or strict in manner, attitude, or appearance.

*The judge's austere demeanor commanded silence in the courtroom.*

## Belligerent

adj.

Hostile and aggressive.

*The belligerent tone of the accused did not help his case.*

## Benevolent

adj.

Well-meaning and kindly.

*The trust was set up for benevolent purposes.*

## Cacophony

n.

A harsh, discordant mixture of sounds.

*The debate devolved into a cacophony of opposing views.*

## Candid

adj.

Truthful and straightforward; frank.

*The expert witness was remarkably candid about the limitations of the data.*

## Capricious

adj.

Given to sudden unaccountable changes of mood or behavior.

*A judicial decision should not be capricious; it must be based on reason.*

## Catalyst

n.

A person or thing that precipitates an event or change.

*The tragic incident acted as a catalyst for new safety legislation.*



## Caveat

n.

A warning or proviso of specific conditions.

*The judge agreed, with the caveat that new evidence could change the ruling.*

## Clemency

n.

Mercy or leniency, especially by a person in authority.

*The convict appealed to the President for clemency.*

## Coercion n.

The practice of persuading someone to do something by using force or threats.

| ***The contract was voidable as it was signed under coercion.***

## Collusion n.

Secret or illegal cooperation, especially to cheat or deceive others.

| ***The companies were fined for collusion to fix prices.***

## Construe v.

To interpret or assign meaning.

| ***How the court construes this statute will be crucial.***



## Convoluted adj.

Extremely complex and difficult to follow (of an argument, story, or sentence).

| ***The convoluted legal procedures caused long delays.***

## Credence n.

Belief or acceptance of something as true.

| ***The court gave little credence to the uncorroborated testimony.***

## Culpable

adj.

Deserving blame; responsible for a wrong.

*The officer was found culpable of dereliction of duty.*

## De facto

adj./adv.

In fact, in reality (whether officially recognized or not)

*He was the de facto leader of the organization, though not officially appointed.*

## Debilitate

v.

To make someone weak and infirm.

*The lengthy cross-examination seemed to debilitate the witness.*



## Demur

v.

To raise doubts or objections.

*The defense counsel demurred at the prosecution's line of questioning.*

## Deprecate

v.

To express disapproval of; to belittle.

*The judgment deprecated the practice of using delaying tactics.*

## Deride

v.

To express contempt for; ridicule.

*The senior counsel derided the opposition's argument as baseless.*

## Desecrate v.

To treat (a sacred place or thing) with violent disrespect.

*The mob was charged with attempting to desecrate a monument.*

## Deterrent n.

A thing that discourages or is intended to discourage someone from doing something.

*Capital punishment is often debated as a deterrent for heinous crimes.*

## Dichotomy n.

A division or contrast between two things that are opposed.

*The dichotomy between individual rights and state security is often debated.*

## Didactic adj.

Intended to teach, particularly in having moral instruction as an ulterior motive.

*The judgment had a didactic tone, explaining the values of the Constitution.*

## Disparate adj.

Essentially different in kind; not allowing comparison.

*The two cases involved disparate issues and could not be clubbed together.*

## Eclectic

adj.

Deriving ideas, style, or taste from a broad and diverse range of sources.

*His legal philosophy was eclectic, drawing from various schools of thought.*

## Efcacy

n.

The ability to produce a desired or intended result.

*The efficacy of the new anti-terror law is yet to be tested.*

## Egregious

adj.

Outstandingly bad; shocking.

*The tribunal noted the egregious violation of procedural norms.*

## Embellish

v.

To make (a story or statement) more interesting by adding extra details, often fictitious ones.

*The witness was accused of embellishing his account of the event.*

## Empirical

adj.

Based on, concerned with, or verifiable by observation or experience rather than theory.

*The policy shift was based on empirical data from several studies.*

## Enervate v.

To cause someone to feel drained of energy; weaken.

*The prolonged legal battle enervated the plaintiff.*

## Ephemeral adj.

Lasting for a very short time.

*The success of the policy was ephemeral, as problems resurfaced quickly.*

## Equitable adj.

Fair and impartial; valid in equity as distinct from law.

*The judge sought an equitable solution that fairly divided the assets.*



## Exacerbate v.

To make a problem, bad situation, or negative feeling worse.

*The new testimony served to exacerbate the contradictions in the case.*

## Exonerate v.

To absolve someone from blame for a fault or wrongdoing, especially after due consideration of the case.

*New DNA evidence exonerated the man who had spent 10 years in prison.*

## Extraneous adj.

Irrelevant or unrelated to the subject being dealt with.

*The judge asked the lawyer to avoid extraneous details and stick to the facts.*

## Facetious adj.

Treating serious issues with deliberately inappropriate humor; flippant.

*The judge warned the lawyer against making facetious remarks in court.*

## Fastidious adj.

Very attentive to accuracy and detail.

*The fastidious clerk ensured every legal document was perfectly formatted.*

## Fatuous adj.

Silly and pointless.

*The court dismissed the fatuous argument as having no legal basis.*

## Flippant adj.

Not showing a serious or respectful attitude.

*The lawyer's flippant remarks resulted in a contempt notice.*

## Garrulous

adj.

Excessively talkative, especially on trivial matters.

*The garrulous witness was repeatedly asked to be concise by the judge.*

## Germane

adj.

Relevant to a subject under consideration.

*The objection was sustained as the question was not germane to the matter at hand.*

## Gregarious

adj.

Fond of company; sociable.

*The gregarious nature of the assembly was protected under Article (b).*

## Hapless

adj.

Unfortunate; deserving pity.

*The hapless victim was caught in a complex web of fraud.*

## Harbinger

n.

A person or thing that announces or signals the approach of another.

*The ruling was seen as a harbinger of stricter regulations to come.*

## Hedonistic adj.

Engaged in the pursuit of pleasure; sensually self-indulgent.

*The defense argued the crime was not premeditated but a result of a hedonistic spree.*

## Iconoclast n.

A person who attacks cherished beliefs or institutions.

*The legal scholar was an iconoclast, challenging traditional interpretations.*

## Idiosyncratic adj.

Relating to idiosyncrasy; peculiar or individual.

*The judge's idiosyncratic style of writing judgments was well-known.*

## Immutable adj.

Unchanging over time or unable to be changed.

*The lawyer argued that the right to life was an immutable principle.*

## Inexorable adj.

Impossible to stop or prevent; relentless.

*The inexorable march of justice may be slow, but it is certain.*

## Innocuous adj.

Not harmful or offensive.

*What seemed an innocuous clause in the contract later became the center of the dispute.*

## Intransigent adj.

Unwilling or refusing to change one's views or to agree about something.

*The intransigent stance of both parties made mediation impossible.*

## Laconic adj.

Using very few words; brief and concise.

*The witness gave a laconic "yes" or "no" to every question.*

## Lament v.

To express regret or disappointment about something.

*The dissenting judge lamented the majority's narrow interpretation of the right*

## Laudable adj.

Deserving praise and commendation.

*The NGO's laudable efforts led to legal aid for hundreds.*

## Magnanimous adj.

Very generous or forgiving, especially toward a rival or someone less powerful.

*In a magnanimous gesture, the victim's family pleaded for a lenient sentence.*

## Meticulous adj.

Showing great attention to detail; very careful and precise.

*The meticulous investigation uncovered crucial evidence.*

## Myriad adj./n.

A countless or extremely great number (of things).

*The case presented myriad complex legal questions.*

## Nefarious adj.

Wicked; villainous, or criminal.

*The racket was used for nefarious activities like money laundering.*

## Obfuscate v.

To render obscure, unclear, or unintelligible; to confuse.

*The complex legal jargon seemed designed to obfuscate the real issues.*

## Ostensible adj.

Stated or appearing to be true, but not necessarily so.

*The ostensible purpose of the law was security, but it curtailed freedoms.*

## Paradigm n.

A typical example or pattern of something; a model.

*The case established a new paradigm for privacy law in India.*

## Parochial adj.

Having a limited or narrow outlook or scope.

*The court urged the authorities to rise above parochial interests for national integration.*



## Permeate v.

To spread throughout; to pervade.

*A sense of injustice permeated the community after the verdict.*

## Pragmatic adj.

Dealing with things sensibly and realistically, based on practical rather than theoretical considerations.

*The court took a pragmatic approach, focusing on the likely outcome.*

## Precedent n.

A earlier event or action that is regarded as an example or guide.

*The Supreme Court set a landmark precedent with this judgment.*

## Prosaic adj.

Having the style or diction of prose; lacking poetic beauty; commonplace.

*The lawyer transformed the prosaic details of tax law into a compelling narrative.*

## Puerile adj.

Childishly silly and trivial.

*The court refused to entertain the puerile arguments against the well-established law.*

## Quintessential adj.

Representing the most perfect or typical example of a quality or class.

*The case is the quintessential example of a breach of fiduciary duty.*

## Recalcitrant adj.

Having an obstinately uncooperative attitude toward authority or discipline.

*The recalcitrant witness was held in contempt of court.*

## Reticent

adj.

Not revealing one's thoughts or feelings readily; reserved.

*The key witness was strangely reticent on the stand.*

## Sanguine

adj.

Optimistic or positive, especially in a bad situation.

*Despite the setback, the lawyer remained sanguine about the final appeal.*

## Superfluous

adj.

Unnecessary especially through being more than enough.

*After the confession, further evidence seemed superfluous.*



## Sycophant

n.

A person who acts obsequiously toward someone important to gain advantage.

*The minister was surrounded by sycophants who never gave honest advice*

## Taciturn

adj.

Reserved or uncommunicative in speech; saying little.

*The judge was known to be taciturn, but his written judgments were expansive.*

## Tenacious adj.

Tending to keep a firm hold of something; persistent.

*The tenacious lawyer pursued the case for over a decade.*

## Ubiquitous adj.

Present appearing, or found everywhere.

*References to the Constitution are ubiquitous in legal arguments.*

## Vacillate v.

To alternate or waver between different opinions or actions; be indecisive.

*The jury seemed to vacillate between guilt and innocence.*



## Vindicate v.

To clear (someone) of blame or suspicion; to justify.

*The final verdict vindicated her long fight for justice.*

## Voracious adj.

Wanting or consuming great quantities of something (often knowledge).

*A voracious reader, she went through all the case files in a day.*

## Wane

v.

To decrease in vigor, power, or extent; become weaker.

*Public support for the strict law began to wane.*

## Warrant

v.

To justify or necessitate (a course of action).

*The evidence was sufficient to warrant a full investigation.*

## Zealous

adj.

Having or showing zeal; fervent, passionate.

*The zealous advocate fought tirelessly for her client.*



**CLAT TRIBE**