

EAV02 — Word Roots & One Word Substitution

Chapter EAV02 · CDS Grammar Level

CDS Level

✦ **Why This Chapter Matters:** CDS devotes 4–6 questions per paper to vocabulary — synonyms, antonyms, one word substitution, and word meaning in context. Knowing word roots lets you decode unfamiliar words from first principles, so you can answer questions even when you haven't seen the word before. **One Word Substitutions** are tested directly — and 80% of the tested words come from a predictable set that repeats across years. Both sections here are built from confirmed CDS PYQs 2020–2025.

PART A — WORD ROOTS

How roots work: Every English word has a root (the core meaning-unit), which may be preceded by a **prefix** (changes or adds to meaning) and followed by a **suffix** (changes the part of speech). Knowing a root unlocks a whole family of words.

Example: **chron** (Greek: time) → *chronic, chronology, synchronise, anachronism, chronicle*

If CDS asks the synonym of “anachronism” and you know *chron* = time, you know it relates to something out of its time period.

💡 **CDS Root Strategy:** You don't need to know the full etymology. You need to recognise the root in an unfamiliar word and eliminate wrong options. Roots in **Greek** dominate science and abstract vocabulary. Roots in **Latin** dominate everyday English and action vocabulary. **Prefixes** modify meaning direction (positive/negative/time/place). **Suffixes** change the word's part of speech.

A1

Greek Roots — Life, Time, Mind & Knowledge

bio

LIFE

biology

biography

antibiotic

biodiversity

symbiosis

biochemical

chron

TIME

chronicle

chronology

synchronise

anachronism

chronic

anachronous

geo

EARTH

geography

geology

geometry

geopolitics

apogeo

geothermal

graph/gram

WRITE / RECORD

graphology

paragraph

telegram

monogram

autograph

calligraphy

log/logue

WORD / REASON / STUDY

monologue

epilogue

prologue

dialogue

analogy

tautology

psych

MIND / SOUL

psychology

psychiatry

psychosis

psychic

psychoanalysis

metapsychics

phil

LOVE / FONDNESS

philanthropy

bibliophile

philology

philately

anglophil

theophil

phob

FEAR

xenophobia

claustrophobia

hydrophobia

acrophobia

agoraphobia

xenophobe

phon

SOUND / VOICE

micro**phone**

sym**phony**

homoph**one**

cacoph**ony**

eup**hony**

poly**phony**

path

FEELING / DISEASE /
SUFFERING

em**pathy**

symp**athy**

antip**athy**

ap**athy**

tele**pathy**

path**ology**

therm

HEAT

ther**mo**meter

ther**mo**stat

hypo**ther**mia

geo**ther**mal

ther**ma**l

exo**ther**mic

dem

PEOPLE

demo**cr**acy

epi**dem**ic

pand**em**ic

demo**gr**aphy

demo**ag**ogue

en**dem**ic

auto

SELF

auto**bi**ography

auto**cr**acy

auto**no**mous

auto**ma**tic

auto**psy**

auto**cr**at

onym

NAME / WORD

syn**o**nym

ant**o**nym

pseudo**no**ym

an**o**nymous

homo**no**ym

epon**o**ymous

cosm/astro

UNIVERSE / STAR

cos**mo**logy

cos**mo**politan

micro**cos**m

astro**no**my

astro**lo**gy

crat/arch

RULE / POWER

demo**cr**at

auto**cr**at

bureau**cr**at

mono**cr**ach

olig**ar**chy

arch**et**ype

astronaut

A2 Latin Roots — Action, Body & Quality

▶ LATIN ROOTS — MOST TESTED IN CDS

vit/viv

LIFE / ALIVE

vital vitality revive
convivial vivacious
vivid vivisection

mort/mor

DEATH

mortuary mortal
mortality
immortal
postmortem
morbid

dict

SAY / SPEAK

predict contradict
edict dictator
indictment
benediction

scrib/script

WRITE

prescribe
describe
subscribe
manuscript
inscription
postscript

port

CARRY

import export
transport deport
report portable

mit/miss

SEND

emit submit
transmit permit
mission omit

rupt

BREAK

duc/duct

LEAD

disrupt

corrupt

erupt

interrupt

bankrupt

abrupt

conduct

produce

induce

reduce

seduce

ductile

spec/spect

SEE / LOOK

inspect

respect

spectacle

retrospect

circumspect

prospect

fid

FAITH / TRUST

fidelity

confident

infidel

bonafide

diffident

bene/bon

GOOD / WELL

benefactor

benevolent

beneficiary

bonanza

benediction

benign

mal

BAD / EVIL

malice

malicious

malfunction

malnutrition

maltreat

malady

cred

BELIEVE / TRUST

credibility

credential

incredulous

accredited

credulous

discredit

ver/veri

TRUTH

verify

veritable

veracity

verdict

inverifiable

verbatim

cap/capit

HEAD / TAKE / SEIZE

capital

capitulate

decapitate

capture

capacity

corp

BODY

corporal

corporation

corpse

incorporate

corpulent

corpus

A3 Prefixes – Direction, Number & Negation

▶ NUMBER PREFIXES

mono/uni

ONE

monopoly

monologue

unilateral

uniform

monotheism

unison

bi/di

TWO

bilateral

bilingual

bicentenary

dilemma

dialogue

bifocal

poly/multi

MANY

polyglot

polygamy

polytheism

multilateral

multicultural

polygon

omni/pan

ALL

omnipotent

omniscient

omnipresent

pandemic

panorama

pantheism

▶ TIME / PLACE PREFIXES

pre/ante

BEFORE

precede

predict

antecedent

antedated

premature

prelude

post/ex

AFTER / OUT OF

posthumous

postmortem

expatriate

exile

postscript

excommunicate

inter/intra

BETWEEN / WITHIN

international

intervene

intranet

intramuscular

interrupt

intrastate

trans/circum

ACROSS / AROUND

transparent

transgress

circumspect

circumvent

circumstance

transform

► **NEGATION PREFIXES**

in/im/un/dis

NOT / OPPOSITE OF

inaudible

inevitable

immortal

unambiguous

dishonest

infallible

mis/counter

WRONGLY / AGAINST

misanthrope

misogynist

counterfeit

counterpart

misogamist

misnomer

A4

Key Suffixes – How They Change Word Class

Suffix	Creates	Meaning	CDS Examples
-ology	Noun	study of	<i>biology, psychology, sociology, chronology, geology, mythology, pathology</i>
-ism	Noun	doctrine / belief / practice	<i>stoicism, cynicism, plagiarism, altruism, narcissism, pacifism, anachronism</i>

Suffix	Creates	Meaning	CDS Examples
-ist	Noun (person)	one who practises / believes	<i>altruist, pacifist, optimist, pessimist, philatelist, numismatist, narcissist</i>
-phile	Noun (person)	lover of	<i>bibliophile, cinephile, anglophile, francophile, audiophile</i>
-phobia	Noun	fear of	<i>xenophobia, claustrophobia, hydrophobia, acrophobia, agoraphobia</i>
-cracy	Noun	rule / government by	<i>democracy, autocracy, oligarchy, plutocracy, theocracy, bureaucracy</i>
-icide	Noun	killing of	<i>homicide, infanticide, regicide, patricide, genocide, fratricide</i>
-mania	Noun	obsession with	<i>pyromania, kleptomania, megalomania, bibliomania, dipsomania</i>
-nym	Noun	name / word	<i>synonym, antonym, pseudonym, acronym, homonym, patronym</i>
-vore	Noun / Adj	eating	<i>carnivore, herbivore, omnivore, insectivore, piscivore</i>
-logy vs -latry	Noun	study of vs worship of	<i>mythology (study) vs idolatry (worship); astrology vs astrolotry</i>
-ous/-ious	Adjective	having the quality of	<i>vivacious, verbose, magnanimous, gregarious, nefarious, ostentatious</i>

CDS PYQ

Part A — Word Roots in CDS Questions

Q1. (CDS 2025-I) Choose the word closest in meaning to "ANACHRONISM":

- (a) An old tradition
- (b) Something out of its proper time
- (c) A medical condition
- (d) A form of government

Answer: (b) Root analysis: **ana** (against / back) + **chron** (time) + **ism** (state/condition) = a condition of being against or out of proper time. An

anachronism is something that belongs to a different time period — a historical error of placement in time.

Q2. (CDS 2024-II) The word "POSTHUMOUS" means:

- (a) Awarded during one's lifetime
- (b) After death
- (c) A form of punishment
- (d) An official announcement

Answer: (b) Root: **post** (after) + **hum** (from humus = earth/ground, where bodies are buried) + **ous** (adjective suffix). Posthumous = occurring after death. A posthumous award is given after the recipient has died.

Q3. (CDS 2024-I) Which word means "ruling by a few people"?

- (a) Democracy
- (b) Autocracy
- (c) Oligarchy
- (d) Plutocracy

Answer: (c) Oligarchy

Root: **olig** (Greek: few) + **archy** (rule). Oligarchy = rule by a few. Compare: democracy (demos = people), autocracy (auto = self/one person), plutocracy (pluto = wealth — rule by the wealthy).

Q4. (CDS 2023-II) "CIRCUMSPECT" most nearly means:

- (a) Direct and confident
- (b) Wary and careful in all directions
- (c) Surrounded by obstacles
- (d) Short-sighted

Answer: (b) Root: **circum** (around) + **spect** (look/see). Circumspect = looking around in all directions before acting; hence, cautious and careful. Compare: inspect (look into), retrospect (look back), prospect (look forward).

Q5. (CDS 2025-II) "CREDULOUS" describes a person who:

- (a) Is highly critical
- (b) Believes things too easily
- (c) Refuses to trust anyone
- (d) Has great confidence

Answer: (b) Root: **cred** (believe) + **ulous** (tending to). *Credulous* = tending to believe too easily; gullible. Contrast: *incredulous* (in + cred = not believing; deeply sceptical). *Credible* = worthy of belief.

TRICKY Q

Root-Based Word Confusion — CDS Synonym/Antonym Pattern

Q. Distinguish using roots: *empathy, sympathy, antipathy, apathy*

All share root **path** = feeling. The prefix reveals the relationship:

empathy = em (into) + path → feeling INTO another person's emotions; understanding from inside

sympathy = sym (together/with) + path → feeling WITH someone; sharing their sorrow

antipathy = anti (against) + path → feeling AGAINST; strong dislike

apathy = a (without) + path → WITHOUT feeling; complete indifference

CDS pattern: "The soldiers showed utter ___ towards the enemy's suffering" → *antipathy* (against-feeling = dislike). "Despite the hardship, the officer showed ___ for his troops" → *empathy*.

Q. Distinguish using roots: *benevolent, malevolent, magnanimous, pusillanimous*

benevolent = bene (good) + vol (wish/will) → wishing good for others; kind and generous

malevolent = mal (bad) + vol (wish/will) → wishing harm to others; evil-minded

magnanimous = magn (great/large) + anim (spirit/soul) → great-spirited; generous in forgiving

pusillanimous = pusill (very small) + anim (spirit) → small-spirited; cowardly, timid

CDS pattern: Antonym of "magnanimous" → *pusillanimous* (small-spirited = petty/cowardly).

✦ **How to use this section:** Each entry shows the **one word**, its definition, and where relevant, the **root breakdown** so you can remember it through meaning, not just memory. Words are grouped by theme — the same way CDS questions cluster them. PYQs are woven in throughout.

B1 People by Character, Behaviour & Attitude

misanthrope

One who hates or distrusts all human beings

mis (hate) + anthrop (human)

philanthropist

One who loves and helps humanity through charitable acts

phil (love) + anthrop (human)

misogynist

One who hates women

mis (hate) + gyn (woman)

misogamist

One who hates the institution of marriage

mis (hate) + gam (marriage)

altruist

One who selflessly works for the welfare of others

alter (other) — placing others first

egotist / narcissist

One who is excessively self-centred and self-admiring

ego (self) / Narcissus (Greek myth)

stoic

One who endures pain or hardship without showing emotion

Stoicism (Greek philosophy of endurance)

cynic

One who believes people act only from selfish motives; sneering disbeliever

kynikos (dog-like) — Greek philosophy

sycophant

One who flatters powerful people to gain personal advantage; a flatterer

syko + phainein (fig-showing) — historical Greek informer

prodigal

One who spends money recklessly and wastefully

prodigus (lavish) — Latin

recluse / hermit

One who lives in solitude, away from society

hypochondriac

One who always imagines themselves to be ill

recludere (shut away) – Latin

hypo (under) + chondros (cartilage – old belief: emotions in ribs)

insomniac

One who suffers from inability to sleep
in (not) + somnus (sleep)

somnambulist

One who walks in sleep; a sleepwalker
somnus (sleep) + ambul (walk)

chauvinist

One who is excessively patriotic or believes one group is superior
Nicolas Chauvin – French soldier famous for blind patriotism

pedant

One who makes excessive display of learning or attaches great importance to rules
pedagogue (teacher) – one who over-teaches

B2

People by Hobby, Expertise & Lifestyle

polyglot

One who knows and uses many languages
poly (many) + glot (tongue/language)

bibliophile

One who loves and collects books
biblio (book) + phil (love)

philatelist

One who collects postage stamps
phil (love) + ateleia (exemption from tax – postage)

numismatist

One who collects and studies coins and currency
numisma (coin) – Latin/Greek

connoisseur

One who is an expert judge of art, wine, food, or other matters of taste
connaître (to know) – French

epicure / gourmet

One with refined taste in food and drink; a lover of fine dining
Epicurus (Greek philosopher who valued pleasure)

prodigy

One (especially a child) with exceptional abilities or talents
prodigium (marvel/omen) – Latin

novice / neophyte

One who is new to a skill, profession, or belief; a beginner
novus (new) – Latin / neo (new) + phyte (plant/growth)

itinerant

One who travels from place to place, especially for work
itinerari (to travel) – Latin

contemporary

One who lives or works in the same period as another
con (together) + tempor (time)

CDS PYQ**One Word Substitution — People**

Q6. (CDS 2025-I) One who collects stamps is called a:

- (a) Numismatist
- (b) Philatelist
- (c) Bibliophile
- (d) Connoisseur

Answer: (b) Philatelist

Stamp collector = *philatelist*. (a) Numismatist = coin collector. (c) Bibliophile = book lover. (d) Connoisseur = expert judge of fine things. The root *phil* (love) links philatelist with philophile — someone who loves postage/stamps.

Q7. (CDS 2024-II) “A person who hates human beings” is called:

- (a) Misogynist
- (b) Philanthropist
- (c) Misanthrope
- (d) Altruist

Answer: (c) Misanthrope

mis (hate) + anthrop (human) = hater of humanity. (a) Misogynist = hater of women (gyn = woman). (b) Philanthropist = lover of humanity (phil = love). (d) Altruist = selfless helper of others (alter = other). All four share the theme of attitudes toward humans — perfect for CDS contrast questions.

B3**Places — Buildings & Locations**

mortuary

A place where dead bodies are kept before burial or cremation
mort (death) – Latin

crematorium

A place where dead bodies are cremated (burned)
cremare (burn) – Latin

sanatorium

An establishment for the long-term care of patients with chronic illness
sanare (heal) – Latin

infirmary

A small hospital or medical room, especially in a school or institution
infirm (weak/sick) – Latin

asylum

A place of refuge and safety; historically an institution for the mentally ill
asylon (refuge) – Greek

orphanage

A place where orphans (children without parents) are cared for
orphanos (bereaved) – Greek

abattoir

A slaughterhouse; a place where animals are killed for food
abattre (knock down) – French

aviary

A large cage or enclosure for keeping birds
avis (bird) – Latin

apiary

A place where bees are kept; a collection of beehives
apis (bee) – Latin

arsenal

A collection of weapons or a place where they are stored
dar as-sina'a (house of industry) – Arabic origin

archives

A place where historical documents and records are kept
arche (government/beginning) – Greek

observatory

A building with telescopes for observing stars and space
observare (watch) – Latin

monastery / convent

A place where monks / nuns live in religious community
monachos (alone) – Greek / conventus (assembly) – Latin

mint

A place where coins are manufactured by government authority
moneta (money) – Latin (Juno Moneta, Roman goddess)

B4

Government Systems & Political Terms

democracy

Government by the people through elected representatives

autocracy

Government by a single person with absolute power

demos (people) + cracy (rule)

auto (self/alone) + cracy (rule)

oligarchy

Government by a small, select group of people
oligos (few) + archy (rule)

plutocracy

Government by the wealthy; rule by the rich
ploutos (wealth) + cracy (rule)

theocracy

Government by divine authority or by religious leaders
theos (god) + cracy (rule)

anarchy

Absence of government; state of lawlessness and disorder
an (without) + archy (rule)

bureaucracy

Government by departments staffed with officials following fixed rules
bureau (office) + cracy (rule)

meritocracy

System where advancement is based on ability and achievement, not birth
meritus (deserved) + cracy (rule)

gerontocracy

Government or rule by old people
geron (old man) + cracy (rule)

ochlocracy

Government by mob rule; rule of the masses without law
ochlos (mob/crowd) + cracy (rule)

B5

Speeches, Writing & Literary Terms

eulogy

A speech or piece of writing that praises someone highly, esp. at their funeral
eu (good/well) + logos (word/speech)

elegy

A mournful poem or song lamenting someone's death
elegeia (lament) – Greek

panegyric

A speech or text giving extravagant public praise; a tribute
panegyris (public assembly) – Greek

epitaph

An inscription on a tombstone or monument; words in memory of a dead person
epi (upon) + taphos (tomb)

soliloquy

A speech made to oneself when alone (as in a play)
solus (alone) + loqui (to speak)

monologue

A long speech by one person in a conversation or performance
mono (one) + logue (speech)

epilogue

A section at the end of a book or play that comments on or concludes the work

epi (after/upon) + logue (word/speech)

prologue

An introduction or preface to a book, play, or other work

pro (before) + logue (word/speech)

plagiarism

The practice of taking another's work or ideas and presenting them as one's own

plagiarius (kidnapper) – Latin

pseudonym

A false name used by an author or person; a pen name

pseudo (false) + onym (name)

anonymous

Written or done by an unknown person; without any name acknowledged

an (without) + onym (name) + ous

anthology

A published collection of poems, stories, or other writings by various authors

anthos (flower) + logia (collection) – a bouquet of writings

bibliography

A list of books and articles used in the preparation of a work

biblio (book) + graph (write)

obituary

A notice of a person's death, usually with a brief biography

obitus (death/departure) – Latin

extempore

Spoken or done without preparation; impromptu

ex (out of) + tempore (time) – Latin

tautology

Saying the same thing twice in different words; needless repetition

tauto (same) + logy (word)

B6

States, Conditions & Special Situations

nostalgia

Sentimental longing for the past; a wistful desire to return to former times

nostos (return home) + algos (pain) – homesickness

amnesia

A medical condition involving partial or total loss of memory

a (without) + mnesia (memory)

euthanasia

The painless killing of a person suffering from an incurable illness; mercy killing
eu (good/easy) + thanatos (death)

autopsy

A post-mortem examination to discover cause of death
auto (self) + opsia (seeing) – seeing for oneself

posthumous

Occurring or published after the death of the originator
post (after) + humus (ground/burial)

incognito

Having one's true identity concealed; in disguise
in (not) + cognitus (known) – Italian/Latin

propaganda

Information spread to promote a particular cause or point of view, often biased
propagare (spread) – Latin

blasphemy

The action of speaking about God or sacred things in a disrespectful way
blaptein (injure) + pHEME (speech) – Greek

infallible

Incapable of making mistakes or being wrong; never failing
in (not) + fallere (deceive/err) – Latin

inevitable

Certain to happen; unable to be avoided
in (not) + evitare (avoid) – Latin

ambiguous

Open to more than one interpretation; not clear or definite
ambi (both ways) + agere (act/drive)

ambivalent

Having mixed or contradictory feelings about something
ambi (both) + valere (be strong) – two equal pulls

B7**Phobias & Manias – Fear and Obsession****claustrophobia**

Intense fear of enclosed or confined spaces
claustrum (enclosed space) + phobia (fear)

agoraphobia

Fear of open or public spaces; fear of leaving safe environments
agora (open marketplace) + phobia (fear)

xenophobia

Fear or dislike of people from other countries or cultures
xenos (stranger/foreigner) + phobia (fear)

hydrophobia

Fear of water; also the technical term for rabies
hydro (water) + phobia (fear)

acrophobia

Fear of heights

*akron (peak/height) + phobia (fear)***pyromania**

Obsessive desire to start fires

*pyro (fire) + mania (obsession)***kleptomania**

Uncontrollable urge to steal things regardless of need

*klepto (steal) + mania (obsession)***megalomania**

Obsession with having power; delusions of greatness

*megalo (large/great) + mania (obsession)***CDS PYQ****One Word Substitution — Government, Speech & Conditions**

Q8. (CDS 2025-II) "Government by a group of wealthy people" is called:

- (a) Theocracy
- (b) Oligarchy
- (c) Plutocracy
- (d) Bureaucracy

Answer: (c) Plutocracy

ploutos (wealth) + cracy (rule) = rule by the wealthy. (b) Oligarchy = rule by a few (oligos = few) — not specifically the wealthy. (a) Theocracy = rule by religious authority. (d) Bureaucracy = rule by departments/officials. CDS often gives four “-cracy” words together to test this precise distinction.

Q9. (CDS 2024-I) A speech delivered in praise of a person who has just died is called:

- (a) Obituary
- (b) Elegy
- (c) Eulogy
- (d) Epitaph

Answer: (c) Eulogy

eu (good) + logos (word) = a speech of good words about someone. (a) Obituary = written death notice with brief biography. (b) Elegy = a mournful poem lamenting death. (d) Epitaph = inscription on a tombstone. The key distinction: *eulogy* = speech

at funeral; *elegy* = written poem; *obituary* = newspaper notice; *epitaph* = carved on tomb.

Q10. (CDS 2023-I) "The act of mercy killing" is called:

- (a) Autopsy
- (b) Euthanasia
- (c) Amnesia
- (d) Homicide

Answer: (b) Euthanasia

eu (good/easy) + thanatos (death) = an easy/good death; the painless killing of a terminally ill person. (a) Autopsy = post-mortem examination. (c) Amnesia = memory loss. (d) Homicide = killing of a human being (homo = human + cide = kill).

Q11. (CDS 2025-I) A person who walks in sleep is called:

- (a) Insomniac
- (b) Somnambulist
- (c) Hypochondriac
- (d) Narcissist

Answer: (b) Somnambulist

somnus (sleep) + ambul (walk) = one who walks during sleep. (a) Insomniac = one who cannot sleep. (c) Hypochondriac = one who imagines being ill. (d) Narcissist = one excessively in love with themselves. The root *ambul* appears in ambulance, ambulatory (able to walk).

Q12. (CDS 2024-II) "A person speaking or performing without any preparation" is said to speak:

- (a) In soliloquy
- (b) Extempore
- (c) Tautology
- (d) Anonymously

Answer: (b) Extempore

ex (out of) + tempore (time) = out of the moment; without prior preparation. (a) Soliloquy = speaking to oneself (alone). (c) Tautology = needless repetition of

meaning. (d) Anonymously = without revealing one's name. Extempore is used for speeches, debates, and discussions done without notes or preparation.

TRICKY Q

Confusable OWS Pairs — CDS Distinction Questions

Q. Distinguish: *eulogy* / *elegy* / *panegyric* / *epitaph* / *obituary* — all relate to death or praise. Fill in the correct word: “The general delivered a moving ___ at the fallen soldier’s funeral ceremony.”

Answer: eulogy — a spoken tribute delivered at or after a funeral.

elegy = a written/sung lament; a poem mourning death (not a speech)

panegyric = extravagant public praise in speech or writing (not necessarily at a funeral)

epitaph = carved or written words on a gravestone (not a speech)

obituary = printed death notice in a newspaper (not spoken)

CDS trick: All four seem similar but the context (spoken at funeral vs written vs on stone) separates them.

Q. Distinguish: *omnipotent* / *omniscient* / *omnipresent* / *infallible* — fill in the correct one: “The ___ deity was believed to know all things.”

Answer: omniscient

omnipotent = all-powerful (potent = power)

omniscient = all-knowing (scient = knowing) ← correct here

omnipresent = present everywhere (present = being there)

infallible = never making mistakes (fallere = err) — different: about being error-free, not about knowledge

All four are commonly confused in CDS because they all sound like divine attributes.

The root suffix is the key.



Quick Reference — Roots & OWS

Greek Roots — Key

- bio = life; chron = time; geo = earth
- psych = mind; phil = love; phob = fear
- phon = sound; path = feeling; auto = self
- dem = people; onym = name; crat = rule

Latin Roots — Key

- mort = death; vit/viv = life
- dict = say; port = carry; rupt = break
- cred = believe; ver = truth; bene = good
- mal = bad; fid = faith; spec = see

Key Prefixes

- mono/uni = one; bi/di = two; poly/multi = many
- pre/ante = before; post = after; inter = between
- omni/pan = all; auto = self; mis = hate/wrong
- in/un/dis/mal = not/bad; circum = around

People — OWS

- polyglot = many languages; bibliophile = book lover
- misanthrope = hates humans; philanthropist = loves humans
- somnambulist = sleepwalker; insomniac = cannot sleep
- sycophant = flatterer; pedant = over-precise

Government — OWS

- democracy = people; autocracy = one person
- oligarchy = few; plutocracy = wealthy
- theocracy = god/religion; anarchy = no rule
- meritocracy = ability; gerontocracy = old people

Speech / Writing — OWS

- eulogy = funeral speech of praise
- elegy = mournful poem; epitaph = tomb inscription
- soliloquy = speech to oneself; extempore = impromptu
- plagiarism = copying others; pseudonym = false name

Places — OWS

- mortuary = bodies kept; crematorium = bodies burned
- abattoir = slaughterhouse; aviary = birds; apiary = bees
- arsenal = weapons; archives = documents; mint = coins
- sanatorium = chronic illness; asylum = refuge/mentally ill

States / Conditions

- nostalgia = longing for past; amnesia = memory loss
- euthanasia = mercy killing; autopsy = post-mortem exam
- posthumous = after death; incognito = in disguise
- infallible = never wrong; inevitable = cannot be avoided

Phobias & Manias

- claustrophobia = enclosed spaces; agoraphobia = open spaces
- xenophobia = foreigners; acrophobia = heights
- pyromania = fire obsession; kleptomania = stealing
- megalomania = delusions of grandeur

⚠ Root Decoding Strategy

- Find the prefix → direction/negation
- Find the root → core meaning
- Find the suffix → part of speech
- Put together → approximate meaning without memorising

⚠ CDS-Specific Confusion Pairs

- eulogy (speech) vs elegy (poem)
- empathy (feel into) vs sympathy (feel with)
- omniscient (knows all) vs omnipotent (all-powerful)
- misanthrope (hates humans) vs misogynist (hates women)

⚠ Suffix Quick Decode

- -ology = study of; -ism = belief/practice
- -phile = lover of; -phobia = fear of
- -cracy = rule by; -cide = killing of
- -mania = obsession; -nym = name



Mock Tests



Subject Quiz



Telegram

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