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MOST IMPORTANT LEGAL VOCABULARY WORDS FOR LAW ENTRANCE EXAMS

LEGAL VOCABULARY WORDS FOR LAW

1. Abet - To encourage or assist someone to do something wrong, especially in committing a crime.
2. Acquit - To find not guilty of a criminal offense.
3. Adjudicate - To make a formal judgment or decision about a problem or disputed matter.
4. Affidavit - A written statement confirmed by oath or affirmation, for use as evidence in court.
5. Alimony - A husband's or wife's court-ordered provision for a spouse after separation or divorce.
6. Amend - Make changes to (a legal document or legislative bill) in order to correct errors or improve clarity.
7. Annulment - A legal declaration that nullifies a marriage, declaring it as if it never existed.
8. Appeal - Apply to a higher court for a reversal of the decision of a lower court.
9. Arbitration - The use of an arbitrator to settle a dispute.
10. Assault - A physical attack or a threat of attack.
11. Bail - Temporary release of an accused person awaiting trial, sometimes on condition that a sum of money be lodged to guarantee their appearance in court.
12. Bankruptcy - The legal state of being unable to repay debts.
13. Barrister - A lawyer entitled to practice as an advocate, particularly in the higher courts.
14. Bequeath - Leave (a personal estate or one's body) to a person or other beneficiary by a will.
15. Bigamy - The act of going through a marriage ceremony while already married to another person.
16. Breach - An act of breaking or failing to observe a law, agreement, or code of conduct.
17. Capital Punishment - The legally authorized killing of someone as punishment for a crime.
18. Case Law - The law as established by the outcome of former cases.
19. Caveat Emptor - Let the buyer beware; the principle that the buyer alone is responsible for checking the quality and suitability of goods before a purchase is made.
20. Certiorari - A writ or order by which a higher court reviews a decision of a lower court.
21. Clemency - Mercy or leniency granted to an offender by a chief executive.
22. Coercion - The practice of persuading someone to do something by using force or threats.
23. Collusion - Secret or illegal cooperation or conspiracy, especially in order to cheat or deceive others.
24. Compensation - Something, typically money, awarded to someone in recognition of loss, suffering, or injury.
25. Complaint - A formal legal document setting out the facts and legal reasons that the filing party believes are sufficient to support a claim against the party being sued.
26. Conciliation - The action of stopping someone from being angry; placation.
27. Conspiracy - A secret plan by a group to do something unlawful or harmful.
28. Constitution - A body of fundamental principles or established precedents according to which a state or other organization is acknowledged to be governed.
29. Contempt of Court - The offense of being disobedient to or disrespectful toward a court of law and its officers.
30. Contract - A written or spoken agreement, especially one concerning employment, sales, or tenancy, that is intended to be enforceable by law.
31. Conviction - A formal declaration that someone is guilty of a criminal offense.
32. Corroboration - Evidence that confirms or supports a statement, theory, or finding; confirmation.
33. Counsel - The lawyer or lawyers conducting a case.
34. Counterclaim - A claim made to rebut accusations against the claimant.
35. Cross-examination - The examination of a witness who has already testified in order to check or discredit the witness's testimony, knowledge, or credibility.
36. Custody - The protective care or guardianship of someone or something.
37. Damages - Monetary compensation awarded to someone in recognition of loss, suffering, or injury.
38. De facto - In fact, or in effect, whether by right or not.
39. De jure - According to rightful entitlement or claim; by right.
40. Defamation - The action of damaging the good reputation of someone; slander or libel.
41. Defendant - An individual, company, or institution sued or accused in a court of law.

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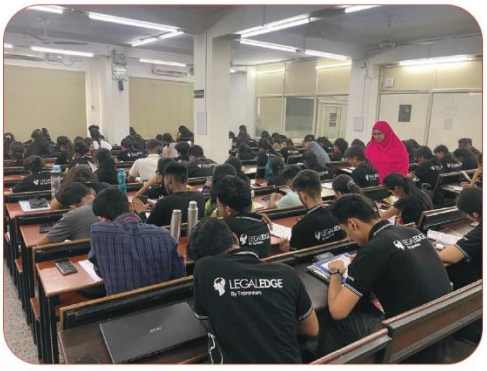
42. Deposition - The process of giving sworn evidence.
43. Discovery - The compulsory disclosure, by a party to an action, of relevant documents referred to by the other party.
44. Dissent - The expression or holding of opinions at variance with those previously, commonly, or officially held.
45. Divorce - The legal dissolution of a marriage by a court or other competent body.
46. Doctrine - A belief or set of beliefs held and taught by a church, political party, or other group.
47. Due Process - Fair treatment through the normal judicial system, especially as a citizen's entitlement.
48. Embezzlement - Theft or misappropriation of funds placed in one's trust or belonging to one's employer.
49. Equity - The quality of being fair and impartial.
50. Estate - An area or amount of land or property, in particular.
51. Evidence - The available body of facts or information indicating whether a belief or proposition is true or valid.
52. Ex Parte - With respect to or in the interests of one side only or of an interested outside party.
53. Extradition - The action of extraditing a person accused or convicted of a crime.
54. Felony - A crime, typically one involving violence, regarded as more serious than a misdemeanor, and usually punishable by imprisonment for more than one year or by death.
55. Fiduciary - Involving trust, especially with regard to the relationship between a trustee and a beneficiary.
56. Foreclosure - The action of taking possession of a mortgaged property when the mortgagor fails to keep up their mortgage payments.
57. Fraud - Wrongful or criminal deception intended to result in financial or personal gain.
58. Garnishment - A legal process by which a court orders the confiscation of part of an individual's salary or property to pay off a debt.
59. Habeas Corpus - A writ requiring a person under arrest to be brought before a judge or into court, especially to secure the person's release unless lawful grounds are shown for their detention.
60. Harassment - Aggressive pressure or intimidation.
61. Hearsay - Information received from other people that one cannot adequately substantiate; rumor.
62. Indictment - A formal charge or accusation of a serious crime.
63. Injunction - An authoritative warning or order.
64. Insolvency - The state of being unable to pay the money owed, by a person or company, on time; bankruptcy.
65. Interrogatories - A set of written questions to be answered by a party in a lawsuit, a part of the discovery process.
66. Intestate - Not having made a will before one dies.
67. Jurisdiction - The official power to make legal decisions and judgments.
68. Jury - A body of people (typically twelve in number) sworn to give a verdict in a legal case on the basis of evidence submitted to them in court.
69. Larceny - Theft of personal property.
70. Legislation - Laws, considered collectively.
71. Liability - The state of being responsible for something, especially by law.
72. Lien - A right to keep possession of property belonging to another person until a debt owed by that person is discharged.
73. Litigation - The process of taking legal action.
74. Mandamus - A judicial writ issued as a command to an inferior court or ordering a person to perform a public or statutory duty.
75. Manslaughter - The crime of killing a human being without malice aforethought, or otherwise in circumstances not amounting to murder.
76. Mediation - Intervention in a dispute in order to resolve it; arbitration.
77. Misdemeanor - A minor wrongdoing.
78. Mitigation - The action of reducing the severity, seriousness, or painfulness of something.
79. Moot - Subject to debate, dispute, or uncertainty, and typically not admitting of a final decision.
80. Negligence - Failure to take proper care in doing something.
81. Notary - A person authorized to perform certain legal formalities, especially to draw up or certify contracts, deeds, and other documents for use in other jurisdictions.
82. Novation - The substitution of a new contract in place of an old one.
83. Objection - An expression or feeling of disapproval or opposition; a reason for disagreeing.
84. Ordinance - A piece of legislation enacted by a municipal authority.
85. Pardon - The action of forgiving or being forgiven for an error or offense.
86. Parole - The release of a prisoner temporarily (for a special purpose) or permanently before the completion of a sentence, on the promise of good behavior.

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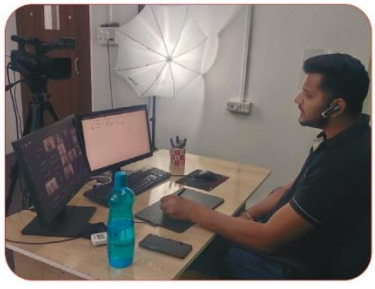














87. Patent - A government authority or license conferring a right or title for a set period, especially the sole right to exclude others from making, using, or selling an invention.
88. Perjury - The offense of willfully telling an untruth in a court after having taken an oath or affirmation.
89. Plaintiff - A person who brings a case against another in a court of law.
90. Plea Bargain - An agreement between a defendant and a prosecutor, in which the defendant agrees to plead guilty to a particular charge in return for some concession from the prosecutor.
91. Power of Attorney - The authority to act for another person in specified legal or financial matters.
92. Precedent - An earlier event or action that is regarded as an example or guide to be considered in subsequent similar circumstances.
93. Probate - The official proving of a will.
94. Prosecution - The institution and conducting of legal proceedings against someone in respect of a criminal charge.
95. Quash - Reject or void, especially by legal procedure.
96. Rebuttal - A refutation or contradiction.
97. Recidivism - The tendency of a convicted criminal to reoffend.
98. Remand - Place (a defendant) on bail or in custody, especially when a trial is adjourned.
99. Restitution - The restoration of something lost or stolen to its proper owner.
100. Subpoena - A writ ordering a person to attend a court.
101. Summons - A legal document issued by a court or by an administrative agency of government for various purposes, including the service of a notice to appear in court.
102. Tort - A wrongful act or an infringement of a right (other than under contract) leading to civil legal liability.
103. Trademark - A symbol, word, or words legally registered or established by use as representing a company or product.
104. Treason - The crime of betraying one's country, especially by attempting to kill or overthrow the sovereign or government.
105. Trial - A formal examination of evidence before a judge, and typically before a jury, in order to decide guilt in a case of criminal or civil proceedings.
106. Trust - An arrangement whereby a person (a trustee) holds property as its nominal owner for the good of one or more beneficiaries.
107. Unanimous - (Of two or more people) fully in agreement.
108. Verdict - A decision on a disputed issue in a civil or criminal case or an inquest.
109. Voir Dire - A preliminary examination of a witness or a juror by a judge or counsel.
110. Waiver - The voluntary relinquishment or surrender of some known right or privilege.
111. Warrant - A document issued by a legal or government official authorizing the police or some other body to make an arrest, search premises, or carry out some other action relating to the administration of justice.
112. Will - A legal document by which a person expresses their wishes as to how their property is to be distributed at death, and names one or more persons, the executor(s), to manage the estate until its final distribution.
113. Witness - A person who sees an event, typically a crime or accident, take place.
114. Writ - A form of written command in the name of a court or other legal authority to act, or abstain from acting, in some way.
115. Zoning - The legislative process for dividing land into zones for different uses.
116. Jurisprudence - The theory or philosophy of law.
117. Legalism - Excessive adherence to law or formula.
118. Litigant - A person involved in a lawsuit.
119. Moot Court - A mock court where law students argue imaginary cases for practice.
120. Negotiable Instrument - A document guaranteeing the payment of a specific amount of money, either on demand, or at a set time, with the payer named on the document.
121. Ordinance - An authoritative order; a decree.
122. Pleadings - Written statements filed with the court that describe a party's legal or factual assertions about the case.
123. Pro Bono - For the public good; usually refers to professional work undertaken voluntarily and without payment.
124. Pro Se - Representing oneself in a court proceeding without the assistance of a lawyer.

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125. Real Property - Land, and generally whatever is erected or growing upon or affixed to land.
126. Rebuttal Witness - A witness introduced to contradict or rebut evidence on the other side.
127. Reciprocal - Given, felt, or done in return.
128. Redress - Remedy or compensation for a wrong or grievance.
129. Regulation - A rule or directive made and maintained by an authority.
130. Relinquishment - Voluntarily giving up a claim, right, or possession.
131. Replevin - An action for recovering goods wrongfully taken or detained.
132. Res Judicata - A matter that has been adjudicated by a competent court and therefore may not be pursued further by the same parties.
133. Rescission - The revocation, cancellation, or repeal of a law, order, or agreement.
134. Slander - The action or crime of making a false spoken statement damaging to a person's reputation.
135. Specific Performance - A legal remedy for breach of contract which requires the breaching party to perform the contract, rather than simply paying damages.
136. Statute - A written law passed by a legislative body.
137. Subrogation - The assumption by a third party (such as a second creditor or an insurance company) of another party's legal right to collect a debt or damages.
138. Testamentary - Relating to or bequeathed or appointed through a will.
139. Trespass - Enter the owner's land or property without permission.
140. Undue Influence - Unfair persuasion by one person over another, often in a fiduciary relationship.
141. Usury - The illegal action or practice of lending money at unreasonably high rates of interest.
142. Vicarious Liability - Legal responsibility placed on one person for the acts of another.
143. Void - Not legally binding or enforceable.
144. Voidable - Legally valid until declared void.
145. Waive - Refrain from insisting on or using (a right or claim).
146. White-Collar Crime - Financially motivated nonviolent crime committed by business and government professionals.
147. Witness Tampering - The act of attempting to alter or prevent the testimony of witnesses within criminal or civil proceedings.
148. Writ of Certiorari - An order by a higher court directing a lower court to send up a case for review.
149. Writ of Habeas Corpus - A court order to a person or agency holding someone in custody to deliver the imprisoned individual to the court issuing the order.
150. Writ of Mandamus - An order from a court to an inferior government official ordering the government official to properly fulfill their official duties or correct an abuse of discretion.

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