

RESOURCE

Vocabulary Building for CLAT: A 90-Day Word List

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The poster is for the CLAT 150 Days Qualification Campaign. It features a young man in a black hoodie holding a book that says "DREAM LAW SCHOOL AWAITS." The background shows a classical building. The text "QUALIFY CLAT IN JUST 150 DAYS" is prominent. A vertical timeline on the right marks "DAY 1 START", "DAY 50 BUILD", "DAY 100 IMPROVE", and "DAY 150 QUALIFY". At the top, it says "SMARTER PREP. STRONGER YOU." and "FOCUS. STRATEGY. SUCCESS." The bottom section lists five key features: Expert Faculty, Smart Study Plan, Daily Targets & Tracking, Topic Tests & Mocks, and Personalized Mentorship. A banner at the bottom reads "150 DAYS. ONE GOAL. YOUR NLU DREAM!" and "START TODAY. BE CLAT READY. CLAT". The footer includes "Trusted by Aspirants Across India", "Proven Strategy. Better Results.", "Your Success. Our Commitment.", and the hashtag #CLATwithCLAT.

If you have spent even a week preparing for CLAT, you already know that the exam does not reward people who “know a lot of words.” It rewards people who can read a dense, unfamiliar passage under time pressure and still figure out what the author means, what the author feels, and what the author wants you to conclude.

Vocabulary is the foundation that makes all of that possible. You cannot infer tone, spot an inference-based trap option, or read 450 words in 90 seconds if you are stopping every third line to guess what a word means.

This is why vocabulary building deserves a dedicated, structured place in your CLAT preparation — not a vague resolution to “read more” that quietly disappears by February. This blog gives you a complete 90-day system: why vocabulary matters for CLAT specifically, how the exam actually tests it, the science of remembering words

instead of just seeing them once and forgetting them, and a full day-by-day and week-by-week word list to take you from October to test day. [Vocabulary Building for CLAT](#)

Why Vocabulary Still Matters in the Current CLAT Pattern

CLAT moved away from standalone vocabulary questions (synonym/antonym match-the-following, one-word substitution) years ago. Some students take this to mean vocabulary no longer matters. That is a costly misunderstanding. In the current pattern, vocabulary shows up in three disguised but decisive ways:

1. Reading speed and comprehension accuracy. CLAT gives you roughly 120 minutes for 120 questions, and English Language passages are usually the longest, densest text in the paper. If you have to pause on words like “ossified,” “recalcitrant,” or “expropriation” mid-passage, your reading speed collapses and your working memory of the passage’s argument resets. A strong vocabulary lets you read in “chunks of meaning” rather than word by word. [Why Strategic Study is Important for CLAT Aspirants | CLAT 2027](#)

2. Inference and tone-based questions. Many CLAT RC questions ask what the author’s attitude is — skeptical, critical, appreciative, ambivalent. These questions hinge on tone-carrying words: “lauded” versus “tolerated,” “condemned” versus “questioned,” “vindicated” versus “excused.” Missing the shade of meaning in a single verb can flip your answer to the opposite of what is correct.

3. Legal and editorial language in passages. CLAT passages are frequently drawn from legal commentary, opinion pieces in national newspapers, judgments, and policy writing. This is a specific register of English — formal, Latinate, precise — and it rewards a vocabulary built specifically around that register rather than generic GRE-style word lists.

In short: CLAT vocabulary work is not about parroting definitions. It is about building reading fluency in exactly the kind of English the exam uses. [CLAT 2026: Applications Open, Entrance Exam Date, Last ...](#) [Vocabulary Building for CLAT: A 90-Day Word List](#)

The Three Vocabulary Zones You Need to Cover

Before jumping into the 90-day list, it helps to understand what “CLAT vocabulary” actually consists of. Think of it as three overlapping zones:

- **Zone 1 — Editorial and Op-Ed Vocabulary:** The words you see repeatedly in The Hindu, Indian Express, and international commentary — “ostensible,” “conundrum,” “polarising,” “myopic,” “assuage.” These recur constantly in CLAT passages because CLAT sources its RC passages from serious journalism and commentary.
- **Zone 2 — Legal and Quasi-Legal Vocabulary:** Words that appear in judgments, legislative debates, and legal reasoning passages — “adjudicate,” “culpable,” “onus,” “tantamount,” “ultra vires.” You do not need to master black-letter law, but you need enough comfort with this vocabulary that a legal reasoning passage does not read like a foreign language.
- **Zone 3 — Abstract/Academic Vocabulary:** Words used to describe arguments, structures, and reasoning itself — “corollary,” “paradox,” “dichotomy,” “premise,” “refute.” These matter enormously because CLAT’s Critical Reasoning and Logical Reasoning sections are built entirely out of this vocabulary of argumentation.

The 90-day list below is deliberately built across all three zones, weighted toward what actually shows up in CLAT rather than generic vocabulary lists meant for GRE or CAT.



SMARTER PREP.
STRONGER YOU.



FOCUS.
STRATEGY.
SUCCESS.

QUALIFY
CLAT
— IN JUST —
150
DAYS



DAY 150
QUALIFY

DAY 100
IMPROVE

DAY 50
BUILD

DAY 1
START



**EXPERT
FACULTY**

Learn from
the best



**SMART
STUDY PLAN**

150-day
structured roadmap



**DAILY TARGETS
& TRACKING**

Stay consistent.
Stay ahead.



**TOPIC TESTS
& MOCKS**

Practice like
the real exam



**PERSONALIZED
MENTORSHIP**

Guidance.
Whenever you need.

150 DAYS. ONE GOAL.
YOUR NLU DREAM!

START TODAY.

BE CLAT READY.

CLAT



Trusted by
Aspirants Across India



Proven Strategy.
Better Results.



Your Success.
Our Commitment.

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How to Use a 90-Day Plan Without Burning Out

A 90-day plan fails for one predictable reason: people treat it as a checklist to get through, rather than a system to retain. Seeing a word once and moving on gives you

almost nothing — research on spaced repetition consistently shows that without revisiting a word at increasing intervals, most people forget 70–80% of new vocabulary within a week. So the structure below is not “10 new words a day for 90 days.” It is a layered cycle:

- **New words:** 8–10 new words per day, six days a week (one day is kept lighter for revision only).
- **Active revision:** Every 3rd day, revisit the words from the previous two days — not by rereading them, but by trying to recall and use them without looking.
- **Weekly test:** At the end of each week, self-test on all words from that week using a “meaning blind” method (cover meanings, try to define or use in a sentence).
- **Monthly consolidation:** At the end of each 30-day block, take one full day to revise all words from that month using flashcards or a spaced-repetition app, and specifically flag words you keep forgetting.

This turns 90 days into roughly 500–600 words that you can genuinely recall and use — which is a far better outcome than “exposure” to 1,500 words you half-remember.



IMPORTANT DATES FOR CLAT 2027

PLAN TODAY, PREPARE BETTER, SECURE TOMORROW.

Event	Date
APPLICATION STARTS Online registration begins	1 AUGUST 2026
APPLICATION ENDS Last date to apply online	31 OCTOBER 2026
ADMIT CARD RELEASE Admit card available for download	1 DECEMBER 2026
CLAT 2027 EXAM CLAT 2027 Examination Date	7 DECEMBER 2026
RESULT DECLARATION CLAT 2027 Result Announcement	JANUARY 2027

★ Stay updated through the official website: consortiumofnlus.ac.in

Techniques That Actually Make Words Stick

Before the list, a few practical techniques worth building into your daily routine:

Learn words in context, not isolation. Do not just memorise “obviate: to remove a need or difficulty.” Read one full sentence using the word, ideally from an actual editorial or CLAT-style passage. Context is what your brain actually retrieves during the exam — you rarely need to recall a dictionary definition; you need to recognise what a word is doing in a sentence.

Build root-word clusters. Learning that “bene-” means “good” instantly unlocks benevolent, benefactor, beneficiary, and benediction. Learning “mal-” unlocks

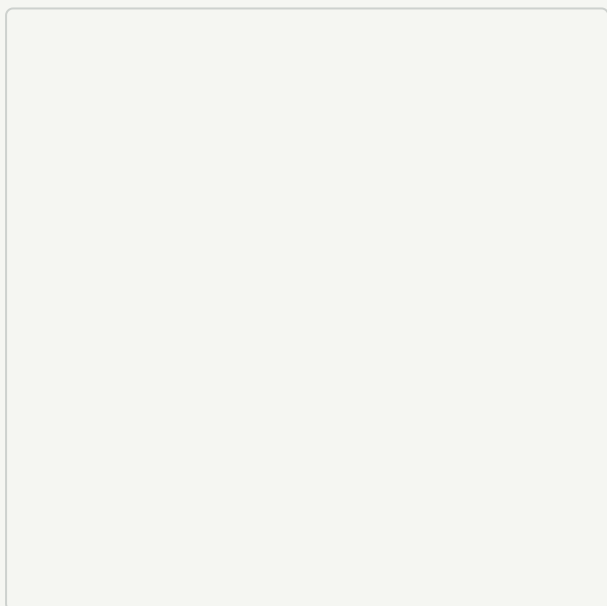
malevolent, malicious, malaise, and malfeasance. Roots let you guess unfamiliar words on exam day even when you have never seen them before — a skill CLAT actively rewards since it loves testing words through context rather than direct definition.

Use active recall, not passive rereading. Flashcards (physical or apps like Anki/Quizlet) where you must produce the meaning before flipping the card are dramatically more effective than reading a list top to bottom repeatedly.

Read one editorial a day. This is non-negotiable. A word list gives you the vocabulary; reading The Hindu's editorial page, Indian Express's "Explained" section, or similar daily gives you the exposure to see those words used naturally, which is what cements them and simultaneously builds your RC speed.

Keep a "confusion log." Maintain a small running list of words you keep mixing up — "flout vs flaunt," "elicit vs illicit," "affect vs effect," "ensure vs insure vs assure." These pairs are disproportionately likely to appear as CLAT trap options because test-makers know they are commonly confused.

Write, don't just read. Once a week, pick five words from that week and write your own two-line paragraph using all five correctly. Production is a stronger memory anchor than recognition.



The 90-Day CLAT Vocabulary List

The list below is organised into three 30-day phases, each broken into weeks. Phase 1 builds your foundation with high-frequency editorial words. Phase 2 shifts toward legal and argumentative vocabulary. Phase 3 sharpens nuance — synonyms with

different shades of meaning, and the trickier words that CLAT loves to hide correct answers behind.

Each week gives you a curated set of words with concise meanings. Treat each week as a unit: learn 8–10 words a day from that week's set, then revise the full set on your designated revision days.

Phase 1 (Days 1–30): Editorial Foundation Vocabulary

Week 1 — Days 1–7 Ostensible (apparent but not necessarily real), Ambivalent (having mixed feelings), Pragmatic (dealing with things sensibly), Candid (truthful and straightforward), Deference (respect, esp. to authority), Vindicate (clear from blame), Assuage (ease/soothe a feeling), Discern (perceive or recognise), Innate (inborn, natural), Prudent (acting with care and foresight)

Week 2 — Days 8–14 Conundrum (a confusing problem), Myopic (short-sighted, lacking foresight), Polarise (divide into sharply contrasting groups), Skeptic (one who questions accepted beliefs), Anomaly (something that deviates from the norm), Coherent (logical and consistent), Discrepancy (a lack of agreement, inconsistency), Empirical (based on observation/experience), Fallacy (a mistaken belief, flawed reasoning), Galvanise (shock/excite into action)

Week 3 — Days 15–21 Hackneyed (overused, unoriginal), Impede (delay or obstruct), Juxtapose (place side by side for contrast), Lucid (clear, easy to understand), Nuance (a subtle difference), Obsolete (no longer in use), Placate (make someone less angry), Quandary (a state of uncertainty), Rhetoric (persuasive speech/writing), Scrutinise (examine closely)

Week 4 — Days 22–30 Tenuous (weak, flimsy), Ubiquitous (present everywhere), Volatile (likely to change suddenly), Wary (cautious of danger), Zeal (great energy for a cause), Acquiesce (accept reluctantly), Bolster (support or strengthen), Circumvent (find a way around), Deprecate (express disapproval of), Elucidate (make clear, explain)

Day 30: Monthly consolidation — revise all 40 Phase 1 words using flashcards.

Phase 2 (Days 31–60): Legal & Argumentative Vocabulary

Week 5 — Days 31–37 Adjudicate (make a formal judgment), Culpable (deserving blame), Litigant (a party in a lawsuit), Onus (burden of responsibility/proof), Tantamount (equivalent in effect), Ultra vires (beyond legal power/authority), Statute

(a written law), Precedent (an earlier case/example as a guide), Jurisdiction (authority to make legal decisions), Sanction (official approval, or a penalty)

Week 6 — Days 38–44 Indemnity (compensation for harm/loss), Injunction (a court order), Liability (legal responsibility), Malfeasance (wrongdoing by an official), Mitigate (make less severe), Perjury (lying under oath), Plaintiff (person bringing a case), Recourse (a source of help), Repeal (revoke a law), Statutory (required/permited by law)

Week 7 — Days 45–51 Arbitrary (based on random choice, not reason), Coerce (persuade by force/threat), Culminate (reach a climax/final result), Deter (discourage from an action), Egregious (outstandingly bad), Feasible (possible to do), Impartial (not favouring one side), Incumbent (currently holding office/necessary as a duty), Litigious (prone to lawsuits), Mandate (an official order/authority to act)

Week 8 — Days 52–58 Nullify (make legally void), Obligatory (required by law/rule), Pertinent (relevant to a matter), Prerogative (a special right/privilege), Redress (remedy for a wrong), Repudiate (reject/deny validity of), Sovereign (having supreme power), Stipulate (specify as a condition), Testimony (a formal statement of evidence), Waive (voluntarily give up a right)

Days 59–60: Weekly test + monthly consolidation — revise all 32 Phase 2 words.

Phase 3 (Days 61–90): Nuance, Argumentation & High-Yield Confusables

Week 9 — Days 61–67 Corollary (a natural consequence), Dichotomy (a division into two contrasting parts), Paradox (a seemingly contradictory but possibly true statement), Premise (a starting assumption in an argument), Refute (prove wrong), Substantiate (provide evidence for), Corroborate (confirm/support with evidence), Digress (move away from the main topic), Discourse (written/spoken communication, debate), Rebuttal (a counter-argument)

Week 10 — Days 68–74 Extrapolate (extend conclusions beyond given data), Inference (a conclusion reached through reasoning), Antithesis (a direct opposite), Contentious (causing disagreement), Consensus (general agreement), Convoluted (extremely complex/twisted), Explicit (clearly stated), Implicit (implied, not directly stated), Presumptuous (overstepping what is appropriate), Redundant (no longer needed, superfluous)

Week 11 — Days 75–81 Flout vs Flaunt (disregard a rule vs show off), Elicit vs Illicit (draw out vs illegal), Affect vs Effect (influence vs result), Ensure vs Insure vs Assure (make certain vs cover financially vs promise confidently), Complement vs

Compliment (complete/enhance vs praise), Discreet vs Discrete (careful/subtle vs separate), Adverse vs Averse (harmful vs strongly disliking), Eminent vs Imminent (distinguished vs about to happen), Precede vs Proceed (come before vs continue), Stationary vs Stationery (not moving vs writing materials)

Week 12 — Days 82–87 Austere (severe/plain, without luxury), Belligerent (hostile and aggressive), Cynical (distrustful of human motives), Docile (easy to manage/teach), Erudite (having deep knowledge), Facetious (treating serious things with inappropriate humour), Garrulous (excessively talkative), Homogeneous (of the same kind throughout), Inadvertent (unintentional), Judicious (having good judgment)

Week 13 — Days 88–90 Final high-yield sweep: Obfuscate (make unclear/confuse deliberately), Perfunctory (done with minimal effort/care), Quintessential (representing the most typical example), Reticent (reserved, reluctant to speak), Salient (most noticeable/important), Trepidation (a feeling of fear/anxiety), Vindictive (having a strong desire for revenge), Wanton (deliberate and unprovoked), Zealot (a fanatical follower), Acerbic (sharp and forthright, biting in tone)

Days 88–90: Final consolidation — revise the entire 90-day list, focusing especially on Week 11's confusable pairs, since these are the words CLAT most often exploits in tricky answer options.

Weekly Revision Routine (Copy This Into Your Planner)

- **Day 1–2 of each week:** Learn new words, write one example sentence for each.

- **Day 3:** No new words — pure recall test on Days 1–2’s words.
- **Day 4–5:** Learn remaining new words for the week.
- **Day 6:** Recall test on the full week, plus read one editorial and circle any of this week’s words you spot in real use.
- **Day 7:** Rest from new words; skim your confusion log and flashcard deck instead.

Common Mistakes Students Make With Vocabulary Prep

Relying only on word lists, with no reading. A list gives you a word’s meaning in isolation, but CLAT tests you on words functioning inside an argument. Without daily reading, you will recognise a word’s dictionary meaning but freeze when it appears in a twisted, ironic, or negated form in a passage.

Learning too many words too fast. Cramming 30 words a day feels productive but produces almost no retention. Eight to ten words a day, revised properly, will outperform thirty words crammed and forgotten.

Ignoring word families. If you learn “credible,” also learn “credulous,” “incredulous,” and “credence.” This multiplies your vocabulary far faster than learning unrelated words one at a time.

Never testing yourself under time pressure. In the last month before your exam, start doing timed RC passages using unfamiliar vocabulary so you practise inferring meaning from context — a skill you will need for the handful of words even a 90-day list won’t cover.

Treating vocabulary as separate from Reading Comprehension practice. The two should be trained together. Every editorial or passage you read is also a vocabulary drill if you actively note new words rather than skimming past them.

Bringing It All Together

Ninety days is enough time to genuinely transform how you read — not by memorising an enormous, disconnected list, but by building a layered, revisited vocabulary rooted in the specific register CLAT actually uses: editorial commentary, legal reasoning, and the language of argument. The words in this list are not arbitrary; they are chosen because they recur, again and again, in the kinds of passages CLAT has historically drawn from.

Treat this as a system, not a syllabus to finish. Revisit words. Read daily. Keep your confusion log. Test yourself without looking at the answer first. Do this consistently for 90 days, and by the time you sit for CLAT, dense passages will read less like decoding and more like simply understanding — which is exactly the edge you want when every second in that 120-minute exam counts.