

Latin and Greek Elements in English

Lesson 21: Blends

- **BLEND**: “a word formed by combining two other words such that a part of each remains and the meaning of the new word suggests both of its constituent members,” e.g.
 - herstory = her + history: “the study of the past focusing on issues relating to women’s lives and concerns”
 - affluenza = affluent + influenza: “an unnatural interest in making and keeping wealth”
- also, called “portmanteau words”
 - portmanteau: a steamer trunk that opens like a book
 - phrase coined by Lewis Carroll

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- Interpol = international + police
- spam = spiced + ham
- hazmat = hazardous + materials
- cybrarian = cybernetic + librarian
 - a librarian who specializes in internet sources
- coopetition = cooperative + competition
 - when rival companies work together to bring down a third competitor (NPR, 12/13/04)

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- weather blends:
 - frizzle = frozen + drizzle
 - snizzle = snowy + drizzle
 - slument = slushy + cement
 - precipitation which falls wet and then freezes solid
- Nexrad = next generation + radar
- contraption = contrivance + trap + invention

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- a new custom arises of having a meal between breakfast and lunch > brunch
- rich people build landing pads for helicopters on the roofs of skyscrapers to save time in traffic > helipad
- girlfriends, like wives, demand payment for “services rendered” from their boyfriends > palimony
- Hollywood capitalizes on the success of a movie by continuing a series but exploring the backstory > prequel
- a new type of two-wheeled motorized vehicle which is a cross between a motorcycle and a bicycle > moped

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- the type of behavior which is appropriate for the internet
> netiquette
- a third victory in succession, like Roger Federer's recent success at the US Open tennis championship > three-peat
- a illustrator used to draw lines on a television screen
> telestrator
- a small computer resource involving simple binary unit operations (on/off, yes/no, zero/one) > bit

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- blends are important because they give language the ability to bridge concepts
 - they allow one word to do the work of two
 - and they also provide humor based on the integration of things which seem absurd to many people, e.g. palimony

SEE EXERCISE IV, p. 124