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
Latin and Greek Elements in English

Lesson 21: Blends

- **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)
Latin and Greek Elements in English

Lesson 21: Blends

• 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
Latin and Greek Elements in English

Lesson 21: Blends

• 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
Latin and Greek Elements in English

Lesson 21: Blends

• 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
Latin and Greek Elements in English

Lesson 21: Blends

• 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