

Latin and Greek Elements in English

Lesson 7: Loan Words

- **LOAN WORD**: “a word borrowed from another language in more or less its original form,” e.g. jihad
 - n.b. this is a rather imprecise term
 - to be a loan word, a term only has to have a “foreign” flavor of some sort
 - basically, a loan word is a derivative which is still felt to be “foreign”
 - for example, because it refers to something foreign
 - e.g. reggae, karate, hubris, perestroika, fiesta
 - or because it’s spelled or pronounced in a way that is foreign to English
 - ciao, autobahn, savoir faire, apartheid, c’est la vie, mardi gras

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- actually, loan-words are words on their way to becoming derivatives
 - pattern: foreign word > loan-word > derivative
 - e.g. French phrase *venez m'aider* (“come help me”)
 - > m'aider (loan word)
 - > mayday (derivative)
 - that is, spell ciao as “chow” and the word is beginning to change from a loan word to a derivative!
- why are there so many loan-words in English?
 - because loan-words make you sound like a cool and sophisticated globetrotter and multicultural connoisseur
 - when you've only ever left Utah once and that was to go to Idaho!

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Lesson 7: Greek Suffixes

- Greek suffixes operate much the same way as their Latin counterparts
 - some are even the same as those in Latin
 - e.g., -al, -ic, -tic
 - these suffixes are cognates because Latin and Greek are “sister” languages in the Indo-European linguistic family
- just as in Latin, Greek suffixes are grouped into categories: noun-forming and adjective-forming
 - also as in Latin, there are very few verb-forming suffixes
 - most BASES are verbs to begin with
 - actually there is only one Greek verb-forming suffix: -ize

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Lesson 7: Greek Suffixes

- one important difference between Latin and Greek suffixes:
 - Latin is full of ADJECTIVE-forming suffixes
 - whereas Greek is full of NOUN-forming suffixes
 - and some of those noun-forming suffixes are highly specialized, e.g.
 - -phobia: “abnormal fear of”
 - -logy: “science of”
 - -ectomy: “surgical operation for removing”
 - -crat: “one who advocates or practice rule by”
 - this is part of the modern tendency to use Greek for the creation of new technical and scientific vocabulary