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
Latin and Greek Elements in English

Lesson 7: Loan Words

– 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!
Latin and Greek Elements in English

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
Latin and Greek Elements in English

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