Latin and Greek Elements in English

Lesson 14: Terms from Sports and Games

• another lesson in words from “idiomatic sources”

• marathon
  – named for Phidippides’ famous run in 490 BCE after the Battle of Marathon (490 BCE) to announce the Athenian victory
  – now the basis for the suffix -athon (“protracted event”)
  • e.g, telethon, dance-athon, walk-athon, bike-athon, etc.

• jeopardy
  – from Old French ieu parti (“a divided game, a tie”)
  – “even score” > “uncertainty, hazardous situation”
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• **forfeit**
  – from French *forfait* (“crime”): *for*[s] (“outside”) + *fait* (“done”)
  – i.e. “done outside (of the law)”
  – later, “transgression, overstepping (i.e. the line)”
  • applied to sports, “misconduct”
  • later, “a penalty for the failure to show up at a sporting event”

• **arena**
  – from Latin *harena* (“sand”)
  – sand was used to soak up the blood of those slain in Roman games
Lesson 14: Terms from Sports and Games

• also know these examples from Ayers, pp. 231-233
  • **check** ("a warning of impending danger")
    – from Persian *shah/mat* ("the king is dead")
    – this leads to other senses of check, e.g. bank check (i.e. verification)
  • **desultory** ("jumping from subject to subject, disconnected")
  • **haggard** ("tired-looking, gaunt, drawn")
  • **lure/allure** ("entice[ment]")
  • **full tilt** ("with great speed and force")
  • **get wind of** ("learn about, usually through indirect channels")
  • **at fault** ("blameworthy")
  • **in full cry** ("in eager pursuit")
  • **pitfall** ("a hidden danger or temptation")
Lesson 14: Terms from Sports and Games

- also know these examples from Ayers, pp. 231-233
  - bias (“inclination, propensity toward one side of an issue”)
  - there’s the rub (“Houston, we have a problem”)
  - fluke (“an accident stroke of good fortune”)
  - bandy (“exchange aggressively”)
  - hazard (“risk, danger”)
  - fourflusher (“a bluffer”)
    - i.e. a person who tries to claim a flush with only four cards
  - bunco (“a confidence game, a swindle effected with others”)
  - crestfallen (“dejected, dispirited”)
  - dark horse (“a surprise contender”)
Latin and Greek Elements in English

**WHAT'S YOUR PHOBIAS?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fear of</th>
<th>Latin/Greek Element</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acrophobia</td>
<td>fear of <strong>heights</strong></td>
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<td>Agoraphobia</td>
<td>fear of <strong>public places</strong></td>
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<td>Ailurophobia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Algophobia</td>
<td>fear of <strong>pain</strong></td>
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<td>Androphobia</td>
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<td>Anuptophobia</td>
<td>fear of <strong>being single</strong></td>
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<td>Astraphobia</td>
<td>fear of <strong>lightning</strong></td>
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<td>Atychiphobia</td>
<td>fear of <strong>failure (bad luck)</strong></td>
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<td>Autophobia</td>
<td>fear of <strong>yourself</strong></td>
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<td>gamophobia</td>
<td>fear of</td>
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</table>
Latin and Greek Elements in English

WHAT'S YOUR PHOBIA?

- **gynophobia**  
  fear of **women**

- **gephyrophobia**  
  fear of **bridges**

- **gymnophobia**  
  fear of **being naked**

- **hemophobia**  
  fear of **blood**

- **hodophobia**  
  fear of **road travel**

- **hypnophobia**  
  fear of **sleep**

- **hypophobia**  
  fear of **lack of fear**  
  (overconfidence)

- **lallophobia**  
  fear of **speaking**

- **macrophobia**  
  fear of **long waits**
WHAT'S YOUR PHOBIA?
megalophobia fear of large things
monophobia fear of being alone
neophobia fear of new things
onomatophobophobia fear of certain words
ophidiophobia fear of snakes
pantophobia fear of everything
papaphobia fear of the pope
phobophobia fear of having lots of fears
hydrophobophobia fear of rabies
Latin and Greek Elements in English

WHAT'S YOUR PHOBIA?

- photophobia: fear of light
- sitophobia: fear of food (eating)
- sociophobia: fear of having friends
- syngenesophobobia: fear of your relatives
- taphephobia: fear of being buried alive
- technophobia: fear of PowerPoint
- thanatophobia: fear of death/dying
- xenophobia: fear of strangers
- zoophobia: fear of animals