

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

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- 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”)

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- 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”)

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WHAT'S YOUR PHOBIA?

acrophobia	fear of heights
agoraphobia	fear of public places
ailurophobia	fear of cats
algophobia	fear of pain
androphobia	fear of men
anuptophobia	fear of being single
astraphobia	fear of lightning
atychiphobia	fear of failure (bad luck)
autophobia	fear of yourself

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WHAT'S YOUR PHOBIA?

bathophobia	fear of	depths
brontophobia	fear of	thunder
cynophobia	fear of	dogs
demophobia	fear of	people (crowds)
dromophobia	fear of	crossing the street
ecophobia	fear of	home
ergasiophobia	fear of	work
erotophobia	fear of	sex
gamophobia	fear of	marriage

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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 <small>(overconfidence)</small>
lalophobia	fear of	speaking
macrophobia	fear of	long waits

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megalophobia	fear of	large things
monophobia	fear of	being alone
neophobia	fear of	new things
onomatophobia	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

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WHAT'S YOUR PHOBIA?

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