

Latin and Greek Elements in English

Lesson 17: Terms from the Law

- there are many words in English which come originally from legal terminology – especially Latin – for two reasons:
 - Roman law is the basis of most Western legal systems
 - the Normans imposed on England a legal structure conducted in Anglo-Norman (based on Latin)
- I won't add any terms to those in Ayers

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Lesson 17: Terms from the Law

- know these examples from Ayers, pp. 245-247
 - martyr (“a person tortured or killed for his/her beliefs”)
 - originally, “witness” (Greek)
 - paraphernalia (“personal belongings, equipment, gear”)
 - originally, “a wife’s property not counted as part of her dowry” (Greek)
 - privilege (“right, benefit”)
 - originally, “a law made in favor of or against an individual”
 - peculiar (“distinctive, special”)
 - originally, “p.t. (one’s own) cattle/property”

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Lesson 17: Terms from the Law

- know these examples from Ayers, pp. 245-247
 - ordeal (“severe test, calamity”)
 - from an Anglo-Saxon word for “judgment”
 - cf. trial by fire
 - roué (“a dissipated man, a rake, a debauchee”)
 - originally, a person deserving torture on the “wheel”
 - subpoena (“a writ summoning someone into court”)
 - literally from Latin, “under penalty (of law)”
 - size/assize (“measurement/to assess the measure of something”)
 - originally from Latin *ad/sedere*, “to sit in judgment”

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Lesson 17: Terms from the Law

- know these examples from Ayers, pp. 245-247
 - bailiwick (“a jurisdictional district, a field of expertise”)
 - originally, “the village (-wick) governed by a bailiff (a representative of the king)”
 - escheat/cheat (“confiscate [for the state]”/“dupe, steal”)
 - because those working for the king were often seen as “stealing” an estate from its rightful heirs
 - ignoramus (“dunce”)
 - originally, “we are ignorant” [Latin]
 - a term used when a grand jury determined that there was not enough evidence to bring an indictment
 - later, the name of a particularly stupid lawyer in a 17th-century play written by George Ruggle; hence, “dunce”

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Lesson 18: Literary Terms

- literary works have naturally had an enormous impact on the evolution of English
- while Ayers demonstrates that well in Lesson 18, he short-changes drama and theatre
- let's correct that oversight right now!

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Lesson 18: Literary Terms

- literary terms from drama and theatre
 - exposition: “the backstory of a play or movie”
 - literally, “place/lay out” (from Latin)
 - climax: “the final point of excitement and tension near the end of a play”
 - literally, “ladder” (from Latin via Greek)
 - denouement: “the final resolution of a dramatic plot following the climax”
 - literally, “un-knot” (from Latin, *dis-* + *nodo*, “knot”)

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Lesson 18: Literary Terms

- literary terms from drama and theatre
 - bohemian: “a person who lives an unconventional lifestyle, usually an artist”
 - originally, “a person from Bohemia, a gypsy”
 - “bohemian” in the sense of “wild” was popularized by Wm. Thackeray who used it to describe Becky Sharp’s parents in *Vanity Fair*:

She was of a wild, roving nature, inherited from her father and mother, who were both Bohemian by taste and circumstance.

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Lesson 18: Literary Terms

- literary terms from drama and theatre
 - farce: “short, broadly comical play; ridiculous scene”
 - literally, “stuffing” (Latin)
 - because farces were originally used as comic interludes in longer plays
 - later, > “anything absurd”
 - example of the change from concrete-to-abstract
 - “farce” can still be used as a cooking term meaning “to stuff a fowl with mixed ingredients”

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Lesson 18: Literary Terms

- know these examples from Ayers, pp. 248-250
 - hypocrite (“one who pretends to someone or something he or she is not”)
 - originally, “actor” (from Greek)
 - episode (“an installment in a serialized story; an event”)
 - originally, “the part of a Greek tragedy between choral songs”
 - chorus (“a group that sings together, and often dances also”)
 - orchestra (“a large musical ensemble”)
 - originally, “a place for dancing in the Greek theatre”
 - later, the front of the theatre; the seating there; the place where the musicians sit and play; the musicians themselves

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Lesson 18: Literary Terms

- know these examples from Ayers, pp. 248-250
 - scene (“the place where something happens or is imagined”)
 - originally, “tent on which a background was painted in Greek theatre”
 - person (“an individual”)
 - originally from Latin, “mask, often designating a character type”
 - explode (“blow up”)
 - originally, “clap off the stage” (from Latin; cf. applaud)
 - pants (“clothing covering the legs separately”)
 - originally, “pantaloon” (clip); from the character Pantalone who was seen often in Renaissance Italian theatre (commedia dell’arte) and wore a distinctive pants-like costume
 - later, “any such legwear” (generalization)

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Lesson 18: Literary Terms

- know these examples from Ayers, pp. 248-250
 - limelight (“a prominent or conspicuous position”)
 - originally, “a strong spotlight created by oxidized lime”
 - robot (“mechanical assistant, automaton”)
 - originally from the Czech playwright Karel Capek’s 1923 play *R.U.R.* (*Rossum’s Universal Robots*) which featured mechanical workers
 - ultimately from the Czech word *robota* (“compulsory service”); cf. German *arbeit*
 - romance (“a story about love and adventure; a love affair”)
 - originally, “Roman” (vs. Latin)
 - in reference to medieval works aimed at a non-scholarly audience and published in the popular languages which had evolved from Latin

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Lesson 19: Terms from Various Occupations

- know these examples from Ayers, pp. 253-254
 - from weaving
 - tease (“irritate, harass”)
 - originally, “separate or pull apart fibers of wool, flax, etc.”
 - heckle (“annoy with interruptions”)
 - originally, “comb out in preparation for spinning”
 - subtle (“clever, mysterious, hard to understand”)
 - originally, “made of finely woven, thin cloth”
 - from Latin *sub-* + *tela* (“web”)
 - on tenterhooks (“in suspense, anxious”)
 - originally, “attached to the pegs of a frame used for stretching cloth”
 - cf. Latin *TENT-* (“stretch”)

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Lesson 19: Terms from Various Occupations

- know these examples from Ayers, pp. 253-254
 - from commerce and trading
 - dicker (“trade by bargaining, haggle”)
 - originally, “sell furs by the tens”; cf. Latin *decuriae* (“groups of ten”)
 - shambles (“disarray, confusion”)
 - originally, “a bench in a butcher’s shop”
 - broker (“middleman, seller”)
 - originally, “one who broached a cask of wine”
 - from hunting
 - untrammelled (“freed of restraint”)
 - a trammel is a kind of net: “*tri-* (“triple”) + *macula* (“mesh”)

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Lesson 19: Terms from Various Occupations

- know these examples from Ayers, pp. 253-254
 - from shepherding
 - pester (“annoy constantly”)
 - originally, “hobble”; i.e. tie a horse’s feet so it can’t escape its pasture (Latin *pastorium*)
 - ruminare (“think over, ponder”)
 - originally, “chew cud”; cf. ruminant (animals which chew cud)
 - greenhorn (“young, inexperienced person”)
 - originally, a reference to young animals whose horns are new (“green”)

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Lessons 20-25: Scientific and Medical Terminology

- you are required to know the bases and affixes listed in the last six lessons in Ayers (Lessons 20-25, pp. 257-280) *on a “matching” basis only*
 - for Lessons 20-25, please do the following:
 - review the affixes listed in each lesson
 - then review the BASES listed in each lesson
 - memorize these affixes/BASES only as potential elements in “matching” exercises
 - to practice this, do the matching exercise at the end of each lesson
 - you’ll see the same sort of matching exercise on the Final

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Lessons 20-25: Scientific and Medical Terminology

- for the next class, do Lessons 20-22 and we'll review the matching exercises at the end of these lessons in class (pp. 262, 265, 268)
- for the class following that, do Lessons 23-25 and the matching exercises in those lessons (pp. 272, 276, 279)