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It may also be used in reference to the shades of the dead, or phantoms.

Traditionally, these coinages were constructed using only Greek morphemes, e.g., metamathematics, but increasingly, Greek, Latin, and other morphemes are combined. These hybrid words were formerly considered to be 'barbarisms', such as: television (τήλε + Latin vision); metalinguistic (μετά + Latin lingua + -ιστική + -ισμός); and garbology (English garbage + -λογία). Some derivations are idiosyncratic, not following Greek compounding patterns, for example:[11] gas (< γάος) is irregular both in formation and in spelling; hadron < ἄδρός with the suffix -on, itself abstracted from Greek anion (ἄνιον); henotheism < ἑνώ(ς) 'one' + θεός 'god', though heno- is not used as a prefix in Greek; taxonomy < τάξις 'order' + -nomy (-νομία 'study of'), where the "more etymological form" is taxonomy.[1][12] as found in ταξίαρχος, 'taxiarch', and the neologism taxidermy. Modern Greek uses ταξινομή in its reborrowing.[13] psychedelic < ψυχή 'psyche' + ὁλγούσ 'make manifest, reveal'; the regular formation would be psychodelotic; telegram; the regular formation would have been telegrapheme.[14] hecto-, kilo-, myria-, etymologically hecato-, chilio-, myrio-;[15] heuristic, regular formation heuretic; chrysalis, regular spelling chrysalis; ptomaine, regular formation ptomaine; kerosene, hydrant, symbiont.

Many combining forms have specific technical meanings in neologisms, not predictable from the Greek sense: -cyte or cyto- < κύτος 'container', means biological cells, not arbitrary containers. -oma < -ωμα, a generic morpheme forming deverbal nouns, such as diploma ('a folded thing') and glaucoma ('greyness'), comes to have the very narrow meaning of 'tumor' or 'swelling', on the model of words like carcinoma < καρκίνωμα. For example, melanoma does not come from μελάνωμα 'blackness', but rather from the modern combining forms melano- ('dark' [in biology]) + -oma ('tumor'). -itis < -ιτις, a generic adjectival suffix; in medicine used to mean a disease characterized by inflammation: appendicitis, conjunctivitis, ..., and now facetiously generalized to mean "feverish excitement".[16] -osis < -οσις, originally a state, condition, or process; in medicine, used for a disease [16] In standard chemical nomenclature, the numerical prefixes are "only loosely based on the corresponding Greek words", e.g. octacuta- is used for 80 instead of the Greek ogdoeconta- '80'. There are also "mixtures of Greek and Latin roots", e.g., nonaconta-, for 90, is a blend of the Latin nona- for 9 and the Greek -conta- found in words such as ἐνενηκοντα enenekonta '90'.[17] The Greek form is, however, used in the names of polygons in mathematics, though the names of polyhedra are more idiosyncratic.

Many Greek affixes such as anti- and -ic have become productive in English, combining with arbitrary English words: antichoice, Fascistic. Some words in English have been reanalyzed as a base plus suffix, leading to suffixes based on Greek words, but which are not suffixes in Greek (cf. libfix). Their meaning relates to the full word they were shortened from, not the Greek meaning: -athon or -a-thon (from the portmanteau word walkathon, from walk + (mar)athon). -ase, used in chemistry for enzymes, is abstracted from diastase, where -ασις is not a morpheme at all in Greek. -on for elementary particles, from electron: lepton, neutron, phonon, ... -nomics refers specifically to economics: Reaganomics. Nostalgia was formed in German as a calque of Heimweh. Through other languages Some Greek words were borrowed through Arabic and then Romance. Many are learned: alchemy (al- + χημεία or χημία) chemist is a back-formation from alchemist elixir (al- + ξήριον) alembic (al- + ἀμβίξ) Others are popular: bottarga (ψωτάριζου) tajine (τάγινου) carat (κεράτιου) talisman (τέλεσμα) possibly quintal (κεντηνάριον < Latin centenarium (pondus)). A few words took other routes:[18] seine (a kind of fishing net) comes from a West Germanic form *sagina, from Latin sagēna, from σάγινη.

effendi comes from Turkish, borrowed from Medieval Greek αὐθεντίας ('authēntis', 'lord'). hora (the dance) comes from Romanian and Modern Hebrew, borrowed from χορός 'dance'. Vernacular or learned doublets Some Greek words have given rise to etymological doublets, being borrowed both through a later learned, direct route, and earlier through an organic, indirect route:[19][20] ἀδάμιας adamant, diamond; ἀμυγδαλή amygdala, almond; ἀντίφωνοι antiphon, anthem; ἀνοήκησ ἀποθε(α)ρ), boutique via French, bodega via Spanish; ἀσφάδεος asphodel, daffodil; αὐθεντικός authentic, effendi (αὐθεντίας via Turkish); βάλαραon (probably itself a borrowing from Semitic) balsam, balm; βάσις basis, base, bass (voice); βλάσφημος blasphemy, blame; βούτυρον butyr(ic), butter; διάβολος diabol(ic), devil; δραχμή drachma, dram, dirhem via Arabic; ἔλαιον elaeo-, oil, olive, oleum, latke via Russian and Yiddish; ἐλεημοσύνη eleemosynary, alms; ἐπίσκοπος episcop(al), bishop; ζηλος zeal, jealous; ἡμικρανία hemicrania, migraine; θησαυρός thesaurus, treasure; ἰώτα iota, jot; καθέδρα cathedra(l), chair, chaise; κέρασ/κέρατ- 'horn' keratin, carat via Arabic; κόλπος 'lap, womb, hollow, bay' colp(itis), gulf; κυβερνάω cybernetics, govern; πάπυρος papyrus, paper; πόδιον podium, pew; προεβότερος presbyter, priest; πυξίς pyxis(is), box; σκάνδαλον scandal, slander; τρίπους/τρίποδ- tripod, tripos (both learned); τύμπανον 'drum' tympanum 'eardrum', timbre, timpani; φρενετικός frenetic, frantic; χειρουργός chirurgial, surgeon; χορός chorus, choir; χρίσμα chrisim, cream; χριστιανός Christian, christen, cretin;[21] ώρα hora(s)cope), hour. Other doublets come from differentiation in the borrowing languages: γραμματική grammatic(al): grammar, glamor, grimoire; δίσκος discus: disc, dish, dais, and desk; κιθάρα cither: guitar, zither, gittern, cittern, etc.; κρύπτη crypt: grotto, (under)croft; παραβολή parabola: parable; additional doublets in Romance give palaver, parol, and parole; φαντασία phantasy: fantasy; fancy in 15th-century English. From modern Greek Finally, with the growth of tourism and emigration, some words reflecting modern Greek culture have been borrowed into English—many of them originally borrowings into Greek themselves: retsina ouzo souvlaki (< Latin) taverna (< Italian) moussaka (< Turkish < Arabic) baklava (< Turkish) feta (< Italian) bouzouki (< Turkish) gyro (the food, a calque of Turkish döner).

Greek as an intermediary Many words from the Hebrew Bible were transmitted to the western languages through the Greek of the Septuagint, often without morphological regularization: rabbi (ραββί) seraphim (σεραφίμ), paradise (παράδεισος < Hebrew < Persian) pharaoh (Φαραώ < Hebrew < Egyptian) Written form of Greek words in English Many Greek words, especially those borrowed through the literary tradition, are recognizable as such from their spelling. Latin had standard orthographies for Greek borrowings, including, but not limited to: Greek υ was written as 'y' η as 'e' χ as 'ch' φ as 'ph' κ as 'c' rough breathings as 'h' both ι and ε as 'i' These conventions, which originally reflected pronunciation, have carried over into English and other languages with historical orthography, like French.[22] They make it possible to recognize words of Greek origin, and give hints as to their pronunciation and inflection.

The romanization of some digraphs is rendered in various ways in English. The diphthongs αι and οι may be spelled in three different ways in English: the Latinate digraphs ae and oe; the ligatures æ and œ; and the simple letter e. The ligatures have largely fallen out of use worldwide; the digraphs are uncommon in American usage, but remain common in British usage. The spelling depends mostly on the variety of English, not on the particular word. Examples include: encyclopaedia / encyclopædia / encyclopedia; haemoglobin / hæmoglobin / hemoglobin; and oedema / œdema / edema. Some words are almost always written with the digraph or ligature: amoeba / amœba, rarely ameba; Oedipus / Œdipus, rarely Edipus; others are almost always written with the single letter: sphære and hæresie were obsolete by 1700; phenomenon by 1800; phenomenon by 1800; phenotype and phænon by 1930. The verbal ending -ίω is spelled -ize in American English, and -ise or -ize in British English. Since the 19th century, a few learned words were introduced using a direct transliteration of Ancient Greek and including the Greek endings, rather than the traditional Latin-based spelling: nous (νοῦς), koine (κοινή), hoi polloi (οἱ πολλοί), kudos (κῦδος), moron (μωρόν), kubernetes (κυβερνήτης). For this reason, the Ancient Greek digraph ει is rendered differently in different words—as i, following the standard Latin form: idol < εἶδωλον; or as ei, transliterating the Greek directly: eidetic (< εἰδητικός), deixis, seismic. Most plurals of words ending in -is are -es (pronounced [iːz]), using the regular Latin plural rather than the Greek -εις; crises, analyses, bases, with only a few didactic words having English plurals in -eis: poleis, necropoleis, and acropoleis (though English Many Greek words, especially those borrowed through the literary tradition, are recognizable as such from their spelling. Latin had standard orthographies for Greek borrowings, including, but not limited to: Greek υ was written as 'y' η as 'e' χ as 'ch' φ as 'ph' κ as 'c' rough breathings as 'h' both ι and ε as 'i' These conventions, which originally reflected pronunciation, have carried over into English and other languages with historical orthography, like French.[22] They make it possible to recognize words of Greek origin, and give hints as to their pronunciation and inflection.

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Most learned borrowings and coinages follow the Latin system, but there are some irregularities: eureka (cf. heuristic); kaleidoscope (the regular spelling would be calidoscope[6]) kinetic (cf. cinematography); krypton (cf. cryptic); acolyte (< ἀκόλουθος; acoluth would be the etymological spelling, but acolythus, acolotus, acolithus are all found in Latin);[23] stoichiometry (< στοιχείω; regular spelling would be st(o)echio-), aneurysm was formerly often spelled aneurism on the assumption that it uses the usual -ism ending. Some words whose spelling in French and Middle English did not reflect their Greco-Latin origins were refashioned with etymological spellings in the 16th and 17th centuries: caracater became character and quire became choir. In some cases, a word's spelling clearly shows its Greek origin: If it includes ph pronounced as /f/ or y between consonants, it is very likely Greek, with some exceptions, such as nephew, cipher, triumph,[24] If it includes rrh, phth, or chth; or starts with hy-, ps-, pn-, or chr-; or the rarer pt-, ct-, chth-, rh-, x-, sth-, mn-, tm-, gn- or bd-, then it is Greek, with some exceptions: gnat, gnaw, gneiss. Other exceptions include: ptarmigan is from a Gaelic word, the p having been added by false etymology; style is probably written with a 'y' because the Greek word στῦλος 'column' (as in peristyle, 'surrounded by columns') and the Latin word stilus, 'stake, pointed instrument', were confused. trophy, though ultimately of Greek origin, did not have a φ but a π in its Greek form, τρόπαιον. Pronunciation In clusters such as ps-, pn-, and gn- which are not allowed by English phonotactics, the usual English pronunciation drops the first consonant (e.g., psychology) at the start of a word; compare gnosis [ˈnɒsɪs] and agnostic [æɡnɒstɪk]; there are a few exceptions: tmesis [t(ə)mɪsɪs]. Initial x- is pronounced like k rather than as in "church": e.g., character, chaos. The consecutive vowel letters 'ea' are generally pronounced separately rather than forming a single vowel sound when transcribing a Greek ea, which was not a digraph, but simply a sequence of two vowels with hiatus, as in genealogy or pancreas (cf., however, ocean, ωκεανός); zeal (earlier zeal) comes irregularly from the η in ζῆλος. Some sound sequences in English are only found in borrowings from Greek, notably initial sequences of two fricatives, as in sphere.[25] Most initial /z/ sounds are found in Greek borrowings.[25] The stress on borrowings via Latin which keep their Latin form generally follows the traditional English pronunciation of Latin, which depends on the syllable structure in Latin, not in Greek. For example, in Greek, both ὑπόθεσις (hypothesis) and ἐξήγησις (exegesis) are accented on the antepenult, and indeed the penult has a long vowel in exegesis; but because the penult of Latin exegēsis is heavy by Latin rules, the accent falls on the penult in Latin and therefore in English. Inflectional endings and plurals Though many English words derived from Greek through the literary route drop the inflectional endings (tripod, zoology, pentagon) or use Latin endings (papyrus, mausoleum), some preserve the Greek endings: -ov: phenomenon, criterion, neuron, lexicon; -οι: plasma, drama, dilemma, trauma (-ma is derivational, not inflectional); -oc: chaos, ethos, asbestos, pathos, cosmos; -ς: climax (ξ x = k + s), helix, larynx, eros, pancreas, atlas; -η: catastrophe, agape, psyche; -ις: analysis, basis, crisis, emphasis; -ης: diabetes, herpes, isosceles. In cases like scene, zone, fame, though the Greek words ended in -η, the silent English e is not derived from it. In the case of Greek endings, the plurals sometimes follow the Greek rules: phenomenon, phenomena; tetrahedron, tetrahedra; crisis, crises; hypothesis, hypotheses; polis, poleis; stigma, stigmata; topos, topoi; cyclops, cyclopes; but often do not: colon, colons not *cola (except for the very rare technical term of rhetoric); pentathlon, pentathlons not *pentathla; demon, demons not *demonēs; climaxes, not *climaceas. Usage is mixed in some cases: schema, schemas or schemata; lexicon, lexicons or lexica; helix, helikes or helices; sphinx, sphinges or sphinxes; citoris, clitorises or clitorides. And there are misleading cases: pentagon comes from Greek pentagonon, so its plural cannot be *pentaga; it is pentagons—the Greek form would be *pentagōn; (cf. hyposistas)[29] Cicero coined moron on analogy with Greek θῦρός.[30] recent is modeled on μέλιωδός.[31] Greek phrases were also calqued in Latin. Sometimes English uses the English Many Greek words, especially those borrowed through the literary tradition, are recognizable as such from their spelling. Latin had standard orthographies for Greek borrowings, including, but not limited to: Greek υ was written as 'y' η as 'e' χ as 'ch' φ as 'ph' κ as 'c' rough breathings as 'h' both ι and ε as 'i' These conventions, which originally reflected pronunciation, have carried over into English and other languages with historical orthography, like French.[22] They make it possible to recognize words of Greek origin, and give hints as to their pronunciation and inflection.

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Examples include:[26] (grammatical) case, from casus ('an event', 'something that has fallen'), a semantic calque of Greek πτώσις ('a fall'); nominative, from nōminātivus, a translation of Greek ὀνομαστική; adverb, a morphological calque of Greek ἐπίρηγμα as ad- + verbum; magnanimous, from Greek μεγάλθυμος (lit. 'great spirit'); essence, from essentia, which was constructed from the notional present participle *essens, imitating Greek οὐσία[28] substance, from substantia, a calque of Greek ὑπόστασις; (cf. hyposistas)[29] Cicero coined moron on analogy with Greek θῦρός.[30] recent is modeled on μέλιωδός.[31] Greek phrases were also calqued in Latin. Sometimes English uses the Latin form: deus ex machina 'god out of the machine' was calqued from the Greek ἀπὸ μηχανῆς θεός (apo mēchanḗs theós), materia medica is a short form of Dioscorides' De Materia Medica, from Περὶ ὕλης ἰατρικῆς, quod erat demonstrandum (Q.E.D.) is a calque of ὅπερ εἶδει δεῖξαι, quitescence is post-classical quinta essentia, from Greek πέμπτη οὐσία. Sometimes the Latin is in turn calqued in English: English commonplace is a calque of locus communis, itself a calque of Greek κοινός τόπος, subject matter is a calque of subiecta matéria, itself a calque of Aristotle's phrase "ἡ ὑποκειμένη ὕλη." wisdom tooth came to English from dentes sapientiae, from Arabic adrásu 'lhikmi, from soφρονοιστήρες, used by Hippocrates.

political animal is from πολιτικὸν ζῷον (in Aristotle's Politics). The Greek word εὐαγγέλιον has come into English both in borrowed forms like evangelical and the form gospel, an English calque (Old English gód spel 'good tidings') of bona adnuntiatio, itself a calque of the Greek. Statistics The contribution of Greek to the English vocabulary can be quantified in two ways, type and token frequencies: type frequency is the proportion of distinct words; token frequency is the proportion of words in actual texts.

Since most words of Greek origin are specialized technical and scientific coinages, the type frequency is considerably higher than the token frequency. And the type frequency in a large word list will be larger than that in a small word list. In a typical English dictionary of 80,000 words, which corresponds very roughly to the vocabulary of an educated English speaker, about 5% of the words are borrowed from Greek.[32] Most common of the 500 most common words in English, 18 (3.6%) are of Greek origin: place (rank 115), problem (121), school (147), system (180), program (241), idea (252), story (307), base (328), center (335), period (383), history (386), type (390), music (393), political (395), policy (400), paper (426), phone (480), economic (494).[33] See also Ancient Greece portalLanguage portalLinguistics portal List of Greek and Latin roots in English List of Greek morphemes used in English List of Greek words commonly used in systematic names Transliteration of Greek into English Classical compound Hybrid word Latin influence in English References Citations ~ a b Oxford English Dictionary, by subscription ~ Online Etymological Dictionary, free ~ Merriam-Webster Dictionary, free ~ American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, free ~ Ayers, Donald M. 1986. English Words from Latin and Greek Elements. (2nd ed.). p. 158. ~ a b Tom McArthur, ed., The Oxford companion to the English language, 1992, ISBN 019214183X, s.v. 'Greek', p. 453-454 ~ This must have been an early borrowing, since the Latin v reflects a still-pronounced digamma; the earliest attested form of it is the Mycenaean Greek, e-ra3-wo 'elaiwo(n)', attested in Linear B syllabic script. (see C.B. Walker, John Chadwick, Reading the Past: Ancient Writing from Cuneiform to the Alphabet, 1990, ISBN 0520074319, p. 161) The Greek word was in turn apparently borrowed from a pre-Indo-European Mediterranean substrate; cf. Greek substrate language. ~ Carl Darling Buck, A Dictionary of Selected Synonyms in the Principal Indo-European Languages (ISBN 0-226-07937-6) notes that the word has the form of a compound βοῦς + τυρός 'cow-cheese', possibly a calque from Scythian, or possibly an adaptation of a native Scythian word.

~ Okrent, Arika. October 8, 2014. "5 Words That Are Spelled Weird Because Someone Got the Etymology Wrong." Mental Floss. (Also in OED.) ~ The 14th-century Byzantine monk Neophytos Prodromenos independently coined the word in Greek in his Against the Latins, with the meaning 'absurdity'. ~ These are all listed as "irregularly formed" in the Oxford English Dictionary. ~ Both are used in French; see Jean-Louis Fisher, Roselyne Rey, "De l'origine et de l'usage des termes taxonomie-taxonomie". Documents pour l'histoire du vocabulaire scientifique, Institut national de la langue française, 1983, 5:97-113 ~ Andriotis et al., Ααζικό της κοινής νεοελληνικής = Triantafyllidis Dictionary, s.v. ~ Oxford English Dictionary, s.v. ~ Thomas Young as reported in Brewster, David (1832). The Edinburgh Encyclopaedia. Vol. 12 (1st American ed.). Joseph and Edward Parker. Retrieved 2021-11-22.

~ a b Simeon Potter, Our language, Penguin, 1950, p. 43 ~ N. Lozac'h, "Extension of Rules A-1.1 and A-2.5 concerning numerical terms used in organic chemical nomenclature (Recommendations 1986)", Pure and Applied Chemistry 58:12:1693-1696 doi:10.1351/pac198658121693, under "Discussion", p. 1694-1695 full texte.g.%2C%20nona-%20for%209%2C%20undeca-%20for%2011%2C%20nonaconta-%20for%2090). deep link to WWW version ~ Skeat gives more on p. 605-606, but the Oxford English Dictionary does not agree with his etymologies of cobalt, nickel, etc.. ~ Walter William Skeat, A Concise Etymological Dictionary of the English Language, "List of Doublets", p. 599ff (full text) ~ Edward A. Allen, "English Doublets". Publications of the Modern Language Association of America 23:2:184-239 (1908) doi:10.2307/456687 ~ Etymology is disputed; perhaps from Latin Christianus, as a euphemism; perhaps from Latin crista, referring to a symptom of iodine deficiency ~ Crosby, Henry Lamar, and John Nevin Schaeffer. 1928. An Introduction to Greek. section 66. ~ Thesaurus Linguae Latinae, s.v. ~ Century Dictionary and Cyclopedia, 1897, s.v., p. 4432 ~ a b Hickey, Raymond. "Phonological change in English." In The Cambridge Handbook of English Historical Linguistics 12.10, edited by M. Kytö and P. Pahta. ~ a b Fruyt, Michèle. "Latin Vocabulary." In A Companion to the Latin Language, edited by J. Clackson. p. 152. ~ Eleanor Devetville, "An Overview of Latin Morphological Calques on Greek Technical Terms: Formation and Success", M.A. thesis, University of Georgia, 2015, full text ~ Joseph Owens, Étienne Henry Gilson, The Doctrine of Being in the Aristotelian Metaphysics, 1963, p. 140 ~ F.A.C. Mantello, Medieval Latin, 1996, ISBN 0813208416, p. 276 ~ Wilhelm Wundt et al., Ethics: An Investigation of the Facts and Laws of the Moral Life, 1897, p. 1:26 ~ A.J. Woodman, "O MATRE PVLCHRA: The Logical lambist: To the memory of Niall Rudd", The Classical Quarterly 68:1:192-198 (May 2018) doi:10.1017/S0009838818000228, footnote 26 ~ Scheler, Manfred. 1977. Der englische Wortschatz. Berlin: Schmidt. ~ New General Service List, [1] Sources Baugh, Albert C., Thomas Cable. 2002. A History of the English Language, 5th edition. ISBN 0415280990 Gaidatzis, Theopoula. July 1985. "Greek loanwords in English" (M.A. thesis). University of Leeds Konstantinidis, Aristidis. 2006. Η Οικουμενική Διάσταση της Ελληνικής Γλώσσας [The Universal Reach of the Greek Language]. Athens: self-published. ISBN 960-90338-2-2. Krill, Richard M.

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