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# EXTERNAL MEANS OF ENRICHING THE VOCABULARY OF ENGLISH: THE GREEK ELEMENT

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*Abstract**:** Heterogeneity is a feature of the vocabulary of English. The Romans, the Danish and Norwegian invaders, the Norman French conquerors, the influence of the ancient Latin and classical Greek, contacts in multilingual situations have all contributed to the vocabulary of English. The focus of the present article is on a foreign element that has influenced the structure of the English lexis.*

*Keywords**:** vocabulary, lexicon, foreign element, means of enriching vocabulary,classical languages*.

The influence of Greek on the English language has been mainly indirect, so it is rather difficult to isolate Greek from Latin or French. Words of Greek origin have come into English via Latin or have been borrowed directly from Greek writers; many words have been formed in modern times by combining Greek elements in new ways. Undoubtedly, almost always, it was via Latin that words of Greek origin came into the English lexis through scholarly, technical or scientific usage. Initially, the flow of Greek elements into English was limited and predominantly religious but the significant influx of such elements was in the late Middle Ages and the Renaissance. The affluence of Greek scientific and philosophical terms in the vocabulary of English is beyond question, so nobody can doubt the constant formation of classes of technical words. Bradley (1948:99) put it as follows:

> In all the departments of science that were known to the ancient world, the Greek technical vocabulary is marvellous in its lucidity and precision. It is therefore not wonderful that the greater part of has been adopted into all the modern European languages. So well adapted is the structure of the Greek language for the formation of scientific terms, that when a word is wanted to denote some conception peculiar to modern science, the most convenient way of obtaining it usually is to frame a new Greek compound or derivative.

As shown above, numerous words of Greek origin have come into the English language via Latin. Words like d*iuretic* [Gr. *diouretikos* from LL. *diureticus*] and *politic* [Gr. *politikos* from L. *politicus*] look like their originals and show that they have come into English through Latin. Philosophical and other related terms have taken the same route,

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starting from Greek via Latin to the English lexicon. A *peripatetic* teacher (L. *peripateticus* < Gr. *peripatetikos* < *peripatein,* to walk about) is a technical term, although it often appears in more popular writing. A word like *analytical* is of Greek origin, but it ends with a suffix of Latin origin. Some Greek elements have been adapted in English (e.g. *phone, graph*) for new technical inventions, such as *telephone* (*tele-* 'far off' and *-phone* 'sound') or *phonograph* ('sound-writing'). Other examples of words coined without actual knowledge of Classical elements are *dictaphone* (in which the first part is Latin), or *appendicitis* (in which the first part is Latin and the suffix is Greek). Many of these Greek technical terms have become familiar and are widely used today (often with extended meaning): *acrobat, atom, character, chorus, cycle*. Greek words, like those of Latin origin, are sometimes so deeply integrated into English that they can form new constructions by adding English suffixes and prefixes; by analogy, Greek prefixes and suffixes may be attached to English words. In *anti-British* and *hyper-sensitive* one can identify the Greek prefixes *anti-* (against, hostile to) and *hyper-* (above, over, more than the normal). Medical science has continually borrowed words of Greek origin, e.g. *poliomyelitis, psychology, neurology, antibiotic, allergy, leukemia, chromosome, protoplasm*. Suffixes related to this field are: *-itis* (arthritis), *-oma* (hematoma), *-osis* (tuberculosis). Some bases used here are: *cardi-* (cardiologist), chondr- (chondrocyte), *cyan-* (cyanide), *cyt-* (cytology), *hepat-* (hepatomegaly), *melan-* (melanosis), *nephr-* (nephritis), *oste-* (osteotome), *sclera-* (arteriosclerosis), *aden-* (adenoid), *hyster-* (hysterotomy), *mast-* (mastectomy), *leuc-, leuk-* (leucoma, leukemia), *neur-* (neurosis), or *rhin-* (rhinitis). In psychology, words like: *schizophrenia, psychiatry, psychoneurosis,* and *kleptomania* have been borrowed. The following are some words from Greek mythology: *Achilles' heel, chimera, atlas, mentor, myrmidon, stentorian*. Greek culture and philosophy have also contributed to the English vocabulary: *academy, Draconian, laconic, mausoleum, meander, ostracism, solecism,* or *philippic*. Most of the English words derived from Greek are formed from bases, prefixes, and suffixes. Greek bases (also called 'roots' or 'combining forms') appear in English derivatives without having the specific Greek endings (*-e, -os, -on,* etc.). For example, from the base *psych-* the following words have been formed: *psychiatry, psychotic, psychology, psychosis, psychoanalysis, psychopath, psychoneurosis, psychosomatic,* and *metempsychosis*. The following are some Greek bases: *bibli-, crypt-, cryph-, gloss-, icon-, pyr-,* and *cycl-*. Prefixes of Greek origin are numerous; here are some of

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them: *a-, amphi-, ana-, cata, dia-, dys-, endo-, ec-, en-, epi-, hyper-, hypo-, meta-, para-, pro-,* or *syn-*. Suffixes have also been used in word formation: *-ic, -ism, -al, -ist, -ics, -tics, -al, --an, -ast, -y, -ma, -sis, -logy, -nomy, -cracy, -ous, -arch, -mania, -phobia, -meter, -graph, -scope, -gram, -ize,* or *-ous*.

As far as the spelling of Greek words is concerned, we must emphasize that it has been modelled by the ortographies of Latin and French, e.g. *kalligraphia* (Greek) which becomes *calligraphia* (Latin), *calligraphie* (French), *calligraphy* (English); sometimes, however, the Greek spelling is kept, e.g. *kaleidoscope*, not *caleidoscope* and synonymous pairs occur, as with *ceratin/keratin*.

What follows is a short collection of words of Greek origin arranged chronologically. An analysis of the semantic fields to which these words belong will constitute the focus of another paper. Dates are given here in abbreviated form according to the table used in the *Shorter Oxford English Dictionary*: **ME** Middle English (1150–1349); **LME** Late Middle English (1350–1469); **L15** Late fifteenth century (1470–1499); **E16** Early sixteenth century (1500–1529); **M16** Mid sixteenth century (1530–1569); **L16** Late sixteenth century (1570–1599); **E17** Early seventeenth century (1600–1629); **M17** Mid seventeenth century (1630–1669); **L17** Late seventeenth century (1670–1699); **E18** Early eighteenth century (1700–1729); **M18** Mid eighteenth century (1730–1769); **L18** Late eighteenth century (1770–1799); **E19** Early nineteenth century (1800–1829); **L19** Mid nineteenth century (1830–1869); **L19** Late nineteenth century (1870–1899); **E20** Early twentieth century (1900–1929); **M20** Mid twentieth century (1930–1969); **L20** Late twentieth century (1970 - ).

**MIDDLE ENGLISH: Cosmos** *noun* **ME Greek** (*kosmos* order, ornament, world). **1** ME The Universe as an ordered whole. **2** M19 Harmony, order. **3** L19 An ordered system of ideas. **Tau** *noun* (also **taw**) **ME Greek** (from Hebrew *taw* final letter of Hebrew alphabet). **1** ME The nineteenth (originally the final) letter of the Greek alphabet, corresponding in form to the letter T. **2** ME A T-shaped mark, sign, or object; *specifically* (a) the sign of the cross as made with the hand; (b) (more fully *tau cross*) a cross in which the transverse piece surmounts the upright piece (also called *St Anthony's cross*); (c) an ANKH; (d) a T-shaped pastoral staff (more fully *tau-staff*) **3** M20 *Particle Physics* **a** A meson that decays into three pions, now identified as a kaon. **b** L20 An unstable heavy charged lepton (also *tau lepton*, *tau particle*).

**LATE MIDDLE ENGLISH: Eta** *noun* **LME Greek 1** LME The seventh letter of the Greek alphabet. **2** M20 *Physics* A meson with zero isospin and a mass of 549 MeV. In full *eta meson*. **Iota** *noun* **LME Greek 1** LME The ninth letter of the Greek alphabet. **2** M17 *figurative* The smallest

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or a very small part or quantity. **Kappa** *noun* **LME Greek 1** The tenth letter of the Greek alphabet. **2** M20 *Biology* An infective and independently reproducing particle which occurs within cells of some strains of the ciliate *Paramecium aurelia*. Also, such particles collectively. **Maranatha** *adverb, noun, interjection* **LME Greek A** *adverb* LME In translations of 1 Corinthians 16:22: at the coming of the Lord. **B** *noun* M17 (By a misunderstanding of 1 Corinthians 16:22: a portentously intensified anathema; a terrible curse. More fully *anathema maranatha*. **C** *interjection* L19 In the early Church: expressing a deep longing for the coming of the Lord. **Pseudo** *adjective, noun* **LME Greek** (independent use of *pseudo-*, false). **A** *adjective* 1 LME False, counterfeit, pretended, spurious. **2** M20 Intellectually or socially pretentious; insincere, affected; meaningless. **B** *noun* plural **pseudo(e)s**. **1** LME-M19 A false person, a pretender. **2** M20 An intellectually or socially pretentious person; an insincere person. Abbreviated to *pseud* (slang). **Psi** noun **LME Greek 1** LME The twenty-third letter of the Greek alphabet. **2** M20 Paranormal phenomena or faculties collectivelly; the psychic force supposed to be manifested by these. Frequently attributive, as *psi powers*. **3** L20 *Nuclear Physics* A neutral, relatively long-lived strongly interacting particle, produced by high-energy collisions. **Rho** *noun* **LME Greek 1** LME The seventeenth letter of the Greek alphabet. **2** M20 *Statistics* A correlation coefficient. **3** M20 *Physics* A meson with isospin and spin of one and a mass of 770 MeV. In full *rho meson*. **Theta** *noun* **LME Greek 1** LME The eighth letter of the Greek alphabet. **2** M20 *Chemistry* Used *attributively* to designate the temperature of a polymer solution at which it behaves ideally as regards its osmotic pressure and the conditions, solvent, etc., associated with such behaviour. **3** *Particle Physics* A meson that decays into two pions, now identified as a kaon.

**SIXTEENTH CENTURY: Acme** *noun* **L16 Greek** The highest point; the point or period of perfection. Long after its introduction into English it was consciously used as a Greek word and written in Greek letters. It was formerly also used in the specific senses of 'the period of full growth; the flower or full bloom of life'(L16-M19) and 'the crisis of an illness' (M17-M19). **Agora** *noun* plural **agorae, agorai, agoras** **L16 Greek** *Greek History* An assembly; a place of assembly, especially a market-place. **Anamnesis** *noun* plural **anamneses** **L16 Greek 1** L16 The recalling of things past; reminiscence. **2** L19 *Christian Church* That part of the Eucharistic canon in which the sacrifice of Christ is recalled. **3** L19 A patient's account of her medical history. **Anastrophe** *noun* **M16 Greek** *Rhetoric* Inversion or unusual order of words or clauses.

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**Archon** *noun* plural **archons, archontes** **L16 Greek 1** L16 The chief magistrate, or, after the time of Solon, each of the nine chief magistrates, of ancient Athens. **2** M18 A ruler, a president. **3** M18 A power subordinate to God, held by some of the Gnostics to have created the world. **Cacodemon** *noun* **L16 Greek 1** L16 An evil spirit. **2** E18 A malignant or deprecated person. **Catastasis** *noun* plural **catastases** **M16 Greek** The third part of the ancient drama, in which the action is heightened for the catastrophe. **Gnosis** *noun* plural **gnoses** **L16 Greek** A special knowledge of spiritual mysteries; *specifically* in *Theology*, the redemptive knowledge that the Gnostics claimed to possess. **Haltere** *noun* plural **halteres** **M16 Greek 1** M16 In *plural*. Weights held in the hand to give an impetus in jumping. **2** E19 *Entomology* Either of the two knobbed filaments which in dipteran insects take the place of posterior wings. Also called *balancer, poiser*. Usually in plural. **Logos** *noun* **L16 Greek 1** L16 *Philosophy* and *Christian Theology* The Word of God , the second person of the Trinity. **2** M17 A pervading cosmic idea or spirit of creativity or rationality. **Mimesis** *noun* **M16 1** M16 Chiefly *Rhetoric* Imitation of another person's words or actions. **b** M20 The representation of the real world in art, poetry, etc. **2** M19 *Biology* Mimicry by one organism of another. Now *rare*. **3** M20 *Sociology* The deliberate imitation of the behaviour of one group of people by another as a factor in social change. **Nemesis** *noun* plural **nemeses** **L16 Greek 1** L16 An agent of retribution; a person who avenges or punishes. **b** M20 A persistent tormentor; a long-standing rival or enemy. **2** L16 (An instance of) retributive justice **Omega** *noun* **E16 Greek 1** E16 The last letter of the Greek alphabet, having originally the value of a long open *o*; *figurative* the last of a series; the last word, the final development. **2** M20 *Particle Physics* Either of two subatomic particles: *omega meson* and *omega minus*. **Pathos** *noun* **L16 Greek 1** L16 A pathetic expression or utterance. **2** M17 A quality in speech, writing, events, persons, etc., which excites pity or sadness; the power of stirring tender or melancholy emtion. **3** L17 Physical or mental suffering. **Peripeteia** *noun* (also **peripetia**) **L16 Greek** A sudden change of fortune or reverse of circumstances (fictional or real). **Telos** *noun* plural **teloi** **M16 Greek 1** At the end of a book; the end, *rare*. **2** L19 End, purpose, ultimate object or aim. **Tmesis** *noun* plural **tmeses** **M16** *Grammar* and *Rhetoric* The separation of the elements of a compound word by the interposition of another word or words.

**SEVENTEENTH CENTURY: Aceldama** *noun* **M17 Greek** A scene of bloodshed; a place of slaughter. **Acropolis** *noun* **E17 Greek** The citadel or elevated fortified part of a Greek city,

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especially of Athens. **Acroterion** *noun* plural **acroteria** **M17 Greek** *Architecture* **1** *collectively singular* and in *plural* Ornaments in ranges on roofs of classical buildings **2** E18 A pedestal for a statue or the like on the centre or side of a pediment. **Agape** *noun* **E17 Greek 1** E17 A love-feast held by early Christians in connection with the Eucharist; *transferred* a parochial feast at a festival **2** M19 Christian love, charity. **Agon** *noun* plural **agones** **E17 Greek** *Greek History* **1** E17 A public celebration comprising athletic games; a contest for the prize at such games **2** L19 A verbal contest between two characters in a play. **Apokatastasis** *noun* **L17 Greek** Restoration, renewal; *specifically* in *Theology* the ultimate salvation of all moral beings. **Atlantes** *noun plural* **E17 Greek** *Atlas*, *Atlant-*, the Titan supposed to hold up the pillars of the universe, and a mountain range in western North Africa also regarded mythically as supporting the heavens. *Architecture* Male figures used as pillars to support an entablature. The singular form of the word, meaning *a person who supports a great burden* was introduced via Latin (L16) and soon afterwards (M17) became the name for *a collection of maps or charts bound in a volume*. **Boustrophedon** *adverb* and *adjective* **E17 Greek** (= as the ox turns in ploughing, from *bous*, ox + *strophos*, twist + adverbial suffix *–don*). (Written) from right to left and from left to right in alternate lines. **Eidolon** *noun* plural **eidola, eidolons** **M17 1** An emanation considered by atomic philosophers to constitute the visible image of an object. **2** E19 A spectre, a phantom. Also, an idealized image. **Eureka** *interjection* and *noun* **E17 Greek** (*heureka*, 1st person singular perfect of *heuriskein*, to find). **A** *interjection* E17 Expressive of exultation at a sudden discovery **B** *noun* **1** M17 A cry of *eureka!* **2** M19 A fortunate discovery **3** E20 (**Eureka**) (Proprietary name for) an *alloy* of copper and nickel used for electrical filament and resistance wire). **Euthanasia** noun **E17 Greek 1** E17 A gentle and easy death **2** M18 A means of bringing about such a death **3** M19 The action of bringing about such a death, especially of a person who requests it as a release from incurable disease. **Exegesis** *noun* plural **exegeses** **E17 Greek** (An) exposition, especially of Scripture; an explanatory note or discourse. **Glaucoma** *noun* **M17 Greek** (from *glaukos*, bluish-green, bluish-grey). *Medicine* An eye condition characterized by increased pressure within the eyeball and a gradual impairment or loss of sight. **Hapax legomenon** *noun phrase* **M17 Greek** A word, form, etc., of which only one recorded instance is known. **Hebe** *noun* **E17** (The Greek goddess of youth and spring, daughter of Zeus and Hera, and cupbearer of Olympus) **1** E17 A young woman resembling Hebe; a waitress **2** M20 Any of numerous New Zealand evergreen shrubs constituting the genus *Hebe*, with spikes of blue,

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white, mauve, etc., flowers. **Hexapla** *noun* **E17** A sixfold text in parallel columns, especially of the Old or New Testament. **Hoi polloi** *noun phrase* **M17 Greek** (= the many). The majority, the masses. Frequently with *the* in English, unnecessarily duplicating the Greek definite article *hoi*. **Horme** *noun* **L17 Greek 1** L17 A passion, an impulse. *Rare*. Only in L17. **2** E20 *Psychology* Vital or purposeful energy. **Kinesis** *noun* plural **kineses E17 Greek 1** E17 Motion; a kind of movement. *Rare*. **2** E20 *Biology* An undirected movement of an organism that occurs in response to a particular kind of stimulus **3** M20 *Zoology* Mobility of the bones of the skull, as in some birds and reptiles. **Miasma** *noun* plural **miasmas, miasmata M17 Greek** pollution, related to *miainen*, to pollute. **1** M17 (An) infectious or noxious vapor, especially from putrescent organic matter, which pollutes the atmosphere. **2** M19 *figurative* A polluting, oppressive, or foreboding atmosphere; a polluting or oppressive influence. **Narcosis** *noun* plural **narcoses L17 Greek** *Medicine* The operation or effects of narcotics on the body; a state of insensibility or stupor, especially as induced by a drug; the production of this state. Also, therapeutic sleep artificially prolonged by the use of drugs. **Pentathlon** *noun* **E17 Greek 1** E17 *Classical History* An athletic contest in which competitors engaged in five different events (leaping, running, discus-throwing, spear-throwing, and wrestling). **2** E20 An athletic or sporting contest in which competitors engage in five different events (especially fencing, shooting, swimming, riding, and cross-country running). **Periegesis** *noun* plural **periegeses E17 Greek** A description of a place or region. **Pseudepigrapha** *noun plural* **L17 Greek** Books or writings collectively wrongly titled or attributed; spurious writings; *specifically* Jewish writings ascribed to various biblical patriarchs and prophets but composed c.200 BC – AD 200. **Stoa** *noun* plural **stoas, stoai E17 Greek 1** E17 The great hall in ancient Athens in which the philosopher Zeno lectured; the Stoic school of philosophy **2** L18 A portico, a roofed colonnade. **Strophe** *noun* plural **strophes, strophae E17 Greek** Originally, a movement from right to left in Greek choruses and dances, answered by an *antistrophe*; the lines of choral song recited during this movement. Also, a metrically structured section of a usually Greek choral ode or lyric verse, the structure of which is repeated in an antistrophe. More widely, a group of lines forming a section of a lyric poem. **Threnos** *noun* plural **threnoi E17 Greek** A song of lamentation; a dirge, a threnody. **Trauma** *noun* plural **traumas, traumata L17 Greek** (= wound) **1** L17 *Medicine* Originally, physical wound. Now, external or internal injury; a state or condition resulting from this. **2** L19 *Psychoanalysis* and *Psychiatry* A physic inhury, especially

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one caused by emotional shock; a state or condition resulting from this. **3** L20 *generally* distress; a disturbance. **Upsilon** *noun* **M17 Greek 1** M17 The twentieth letter of the Greek alphabet. **2** L20 *Particle Physics* A meson with a mass of about 9.4 GeV. Also *upsilon particle*.

**EIGHTEENTH CENTURY:** **Amnesia** *noun* **L18 Greek** Loss of memory. **Anabasis** *noun* plural **anabases** **E18 Greek** (= going up, from *ana-*, up + *basis*, going) A military advance, an up-country march. The original *anabasis* was that of ten thousand Greek auxiliaries under the Persian Cyrus the Younger into Asia in 401 BC. The Athenian writer Xenophon narrated the story of the ill-fated expedition, which turned into a *katabasis* or retreat in which he played a conspicuous role, in his *Anabasis*. **Anagnorisis** *noun* plural **anagnorises** **L18 Greek** Recognition; the denouement in a drama. **Analgesia** *noun* **E18 Greek** *Medicine* Absence or reduction of ability to feel pain; relief of pain, especially by drugs. **Anamorphosis** *noun* plural **anamorphoses** **E18 Greek 1** E18 A distorted projection or drawing of anything, which appears normal when viewed from a particular point or by means of a suitable mirror. **2** M19 *Botany* and *Zoology* Progression to a higher type. Now *specifically* development of the adult form through a series of small changes. **Anti** *noun* and *adjective* **L18 Greek** (*anti-* = opposite, against) **A** *noun* L18 someone who is opposed to someone or something. **B** *adjective* M19 Against or antagonistic to someone or something. The use of *anti-* as a prefix in words adopted from Greek, and in English words modelled on those, long predates the use of *anti* as an independent word, and as a prefix *anti-* has been freely used with nouns and adjectives in the twentieth century with the sense *opposite, against, preventing*. **Bathos** *noun* **E18 Greek** (= depth) **1** E18 *rhetoric* Ludicrous descent from the elevated to the commonplace; anticlimax. **2** E19 A comedown; a performance absurdly unequal to the occasion. First introduced (M17) with its original Greek meaning of depth, lowest phase, bottom, the word is now rare or obsolete in this sense, which has been superseded by the two senses above. **Demos** *noun* plural **demi** **E18 Greek 1** L18 A district of ancient Attica, Greece. **2** M19 The common people of an ancient Greek State; (a personification of) the populace, especially in a democracy. **Epsilon** *noun* **E18 Greek 1** E18 The fifth letter of the Greek alphabet; *Astronomy* the fifth brightest star in a constellation. **2** E20 A person of low intelligence. **Eupepsia** *noun* **E18 Greek** (*eupepsia*, digestibility, from *eupeptos*, from *eu-*, good + *peptein*, to digest) Good digestion; absence of indigestion. **Hamartia** *noun* **L18 Greek** (= fault, failure, guilt) The fault or error leading to destruction of the tragic hero or heroine of a play, novel, etc. **Kudos** *noun* **L18**

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**Greek** (= praise, renown) Glory, renown. **Laura** *noun* **E18 Greek** (= lane, passage, alley) *Christian Church* A group of huts or cells inhabited by reclusive monks in Egypt and the Middle East. In the Orthodox Church, a monastery consisting of separate cells; a large monastery. **Martyrion** *noun* **E18 Greek** A shrine, oratory, or church in memory of a martyr; a building marking the place of a martyrdom or the site of a martyr's relics. **Melos** *noun* **M18 Greek** (= song, music) *Music* Song, melody; *specifically* the succession of tones considered apart from rhythm; an uninterrupted flow of melody. **Mythos** *noun* plural **mythoi M18 Greek 1** M18 A traditional story, either wholly or partly fictitious, a myth; a body of myths. **2** M20 A traditional or recurrent narrative theme or pattern; a standard plot in literature. **Naos** *noun* **L18 Greek** (= temple) the inner cell or sanctuary of a temple; also *Christian Church*, the main part of an Orthodox church where the congregation assembles. **Onomasticon** *noun* **E18 Greek** A vocabulary or alphabetic list of proper names. Also, a vocabulary of nouns; a general lexicon. **Peplos** *noun* **L18 Greek** *Greek Antiquities* A robe or shawl worn by women in ancient Greece, hanging in loose folds and sometimes drawn over the head; *specifically* the one wowen for the statue of the goddess Athene at Athens, and carried in procession to her temple at the greater Panathenaea. **Protome** *noun* **M18 Greek** Chiefly *Classical Antiquities* A bust; a piece of sculpture representing the forepart of an animal. **Xoanon** *noun* plural **xoana E18 Greek** Chiefly *Greek Antiquities* A primitive simply carved image of a deity, originally of wood, and often said to have fallen from heaven.

**NINETEENTH CENTURY:** **Agapemone** *noun* **M19 Greek** An abode of love; an establishment where free love is practised. **Agraphon** *noun* plural **agrapha L19 Greek** A saying attributed to Jesus but not in the canonical Gospels. Usually in plural. **Anthemion** *noun* plural **anthemia M19 Greek** (= flower) A figure or ornament resembling a stylized honeysuckle. **Aphasia** *noun* **M19 Greek** (from *aphatos*, speechless, from *a-*, without + *phanai*, to speak) Loss or impairment of the faculty of speech or of understanding of language, due to cerebral disease or damage. **Apo koinou** *adverb* and *adverb phrase* **L19 Greek** (literally, *in common*) *Grammar* Designating a construction comprising two clauses having an unrepeated word or phrasein common; so as to form such a construction. **Aryballos** *noun* **M19 Greek** (*aruballos*, bag, purse, oil-flask) A globular flask with a narrow neck used to hold oil or unguent. **Ascesis** *noun* **L19 Greek** The practice of self-discipline. **Ataraxia** *noun* **M19 Greek** (= impassiveness, from *a-*, not + *tarassein*, to disturb) Imperturbability; ataraxy. **Benthos** *noun*

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**L19 Greek** (= depth of the sea) The flora and fauna of the bottom of the sea (or of a lake). **Calliope** *noun* **M19 Greek** (literally, *beautiful-voiced*; Kalliope, the Muse of epic poetry) A set of steam-whistles producing musical notes, played by a keyboard like that of an organ. Also *steam calliope*. **Chi-rho** *noun* **M19 Greek** A monogram representing the first two letters of Greek Khristos, *Christ*. The *chi-rho* was adopted in AD by the Byzantine emperor Constantine the Great as a device for his military banners, following on a vision in which he was told 'By this sign you shall conquer'. During the following centuries the *chi-rho* became ubiquitous in Christian art. **Chiton** *noun* **E19 Greek 1** E19 A mollusc of the class Polyplacophora, characterized by a broad oval foot and a symmetrical dorsal shell composed of a series of eight overlapping plates. **2** M19 A long woolen tunic worn in ancient Greece. **Chroma** *noun* **L19 Greek** Purity or intensity as a colour quality, especially in television. **Daimon** *noun* **M19 Greek** An attendant or indwelling spirit, one's genius. **Diaspora** *noun* **L19 Greek** (from *diaspeirein*, to disperse, scatter) the dispersion of Jews among the Gentile nations; all those Jews who live outside the biblical land of Israel; the situation of any body of people living outside their traditional homeland. **Dromos** *noun* plural **dromoi** **M19 Greek** *Greek Antiquities* An avenue or entrance-passage to an ancient temple, tomb, etc., often between rows of columns or statues. **Dysphoria** *noun* **M19 Greek** (*dusphoria*, discomfort, from *dusphoros*, hard to bear, from *dus-* + *pherein*, to bear) A state of unease or discomfort; *especially* an unpleasant state of mind marked by malaise, depression, or anxiety. Opposed to *euphoria*. **Epyllion** *noun* plural **epyllia** **L19 Greek** A narrative poem resembling an epic in style or matter but of shorter extent. **Ethos** *noun* **M19** (*ethos*, nature, disposition) The characteristic spirit of a culture, era, community, institution, etc., as manifested in its attitudes, aspirations, customs, etc.; the character of an individual as represented by his or her values and beliefs; the prevalent tone of a literary work in this respect. **Eunomia** *noun* **M19 Greek** (from *eu-*, good + *nomia*, state of law) A political condition of good law well administered. **Hetaera** *noun* **E19 Greek** (*hetaira*, feminine of *hetairos*, companion) Especially in ancient Greece: a mistress, a concubine, a courtesan, a prostitute. **Hubris** *noun* (also **hybris**) **L19 Greek** Presumption, insolence; pride, excessive self-confidence. **Koine** *noun* **L19 Greek** (*koine*, feminine singular of *koinos*, common, ordinary) **1** L19 The common literary language of the Greeks from the close of classical Attic to the Byzantine era. **2** L19 *Linguistics* and *Philology* A language or dialect common to a wide area in which different languages or dialects are, or

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were, used locally; a lingua franca. **3** E20 A set of cultural or other attributes common to various groups. **Macron** *noun* **M19 Greek** (*macron*, neuter of *makros*, long) A straight horizontal line written or printed over a vowel to indicate length or stress. **Melisma** *noun* plural **melismata, melismas** **L19 Greek** (literally, *song*) *Music* Originally a melodic tune, melodic music. Now, in singing, the prolongation of one syllable over a number of notes. **Metanoia** *noun* **L19 Greek** (from *metanoein*, to change one's mind, repent) Penitence; reorientation of one's way of life, spiritual conversion. **Odeon** *noun* **M19 Greek 1** M19 An odeum, a building for the performance of vocal and instrumental music. **2** M20 Any of a chain of large, lavish cinamas in a chain built by Oscar Deutsch in the 1930s; *generally* a luxurious cinema. **Phi Beta Kappa** *noun phrase* **M19 Greek** (from the initial letters *phi*, *beta*, *kappa*, of *philosophia biou kubernetes*, philosophy the guide of life) A member of an intercollegiate society to which distinguished (usually undergraduate) scholars may be elected as an honour. Frequently *attributive*. **Pneuma** *noun* **L19 Greek** (= wind, breath, spirit, that which is blown or breathed, from *pneein*, to blow, breathe). The spirit of a person, as opposed to the soul; the breath of life. In Stoic and Epicurean philosophy the *pneuma* was a person's vital force or energy, but modern usage takes its cue from the New Testament distinction between the spirit and the soul. **Pou sto** *noun* **M19 Greek** (*pou sto*, where I may stand) A place to stand on, a standing-place; *figuratively* a basis of operation. **Psychopompos** *noun* (also in English form **psychopomp**) **M19 Greek** A mythical conductor of souls to the place of the dead. Also, the spiritual guide of a (living) person's soul.

**TWENTIETH CENTURY:** **Cathexis** *noun* **E20 Greek** (*cathexis*, holding, retention) *Psychoanalysis* The concentration or accumulation of libidinal energy on a particular object. **Esoterica** *noun plural* **E20 Greek** Items or publications intended only for the initiated or appropriate only to an inner circle; esoteric details. **Hegemon** *noun* **E20 Greek** A leading or paramount power; a dominant state or person. **Kairos** *noun* **M20 Greek** (= right or proper time) Fullness of time; the propitious moment, especially for decision or action. The word became current in English through the writings of the German-born American theologian Paul Tillich (1886-1965). **Koinonia** *noun* **E20 Greek** (*koinonia*, communion, fellowship) *Theology* Christian fellowship or communion, with God or, more commonly, with fellow Christians. **Kore** *noun* **E20 Greek** (*kore*, maiden) *Greek Antiquities* A statue of a clothed young woman. **Kouros** *noun* **E20 Greek** (Ionic form of *koros*, boy) *Greek Antiquities* A sculptured representation of a naked

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youth. **Lekane** *noun* **E20 Greek** *Greek Antiquities* A shallow bowl, usually with handles and a cover. **Lexis** *noun* **E20 Greek** (= word, phrase) **1** M20 The diction or wording, in contrast to other elements, of a piece of writing. **2** M20 *Linguistics* Items of lexical, as opposed to grammatical, meaning; the total word-stock of a language. Also, the branch of knowledge that deals with words as lexical items. **Migma** *noun* **E20 Greek** (= mixture) *Geology* Magma containing solid material. **Moron** *noun* **E20 Greek 1** E20 *Medicine* An adult with a mental age of between about eight and twelve. **2** E20 A stupid or slow-witted person; a fool. **Mythopoeia** *noun* **M20 Greek** The creation of a myth or myths. **Noema** *noun* **E20 Greek** plural **noemata** *Philosophy* An object of perception or thought, as opposed to a process or aspect of perceiving or thinking. **Nomos** *noun* **E20 Greek** (= usage, custom, law) *Theology* The law; the law of life. **Paideia** *noun* **E20 Greek** *Greek History* Education, upbringing; the ideal result of this; a society's culture. **Philia** *noun* **M20 Greek** Amity, friendship, liking. **Polloi** *noun* **M20 Greek** (= many) A crowd, a mob. Slang, shortened from **hoi polloi**. **Skandalon** *noun* **M20 Greek** *Theology* A stumbling-block; a cause of offence; a scandal. **Tephra** *noun* **M20 Greek** (= ashes) *Geology* Dust and rock fragments that have been ejected into the air by a volcanic eruption. **Topos** *noun* plural **topoi M20 Greek** A traditional theme in a literary composition; a rhetorical or literary formula.

**MODERN GREEK:** **Ouzo** *noun* plural **ouzos L19 Modern Greek** (A glass of) an aniseed-flavoured spirit from Greece. **Bouzouki** *noun* **M20 Modern Greek** In Greece, a form of long-necked lute much used in traditional folk music. **Feta** *noun* (also **fetta**) **M20 Modern Greek** A white salty ewe's milk cheese originally made in Greece. **Filo** *noun* **M20 Modern Greek** Dough that can be stretched into very thin sheets and layered; pastry made from this dough and used in sweet and savoury pastries. **Gyro** *noun* plural **gyros L20 Modern Greek** (*guros*, turning) A sandwich of pitta bread filled with slices of spiced meat cooked on a spit, tomatoes, onions, etc. **Katharevousa** *noun* **E20 Modern Greek** (from *katharos*, pure) The purist form of modern Greek. **Keftedes** *noun plural* **E20 Modern Greek** In Greek cookery, small meatballs made with herbs and onions. **Mastika** *noun* **E20 Modern Greek** A liquor flavoured with mastic gum. **Mavrodaphne** *noun* **E20 Modern Greek** (from late Greek *mauros*, dark + *daphne*, laurel) a dark-red sweet Greek wine; the grape from which this is made. **Pitta** *noun* (also **pita**) **M20 Modern Greek** A flat unleavened bread of Mediterranean and Arab countries, which can be cut open to receive a filling. **Retsina** *noun* **E20 Modern Greek** (from *retsini*, pine resin) A Greek white

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wine flavoured with resin. **Saganaki** *noun* **M20 Modern Greek** (= small two-handled frying-pan, traditionally used to prepare the dish) A Greek dish consisting of breaded or floured cheese fried in butter, often with lemon juice, served as an appetiser. **Souvlaki** *noun* plural **souvlakia M20 Modern Greek** (*soublaki*, from *soubla*, skewer) A Greek dish of small pieces of meat grilled on a skewer. **Stifado** *noun* **M20 Modern Greek** (*stiphado*, probably from Italian *stufato*) A Greek dish of meat stewed with onions and sometimes tomatoes. **Taverna** *noun* **E20 Modern Greek** (from Latin taberna, tavern) A Greek eating-house. **Tsipouro** *noun* **M20 Modern Greek** A rough Greek liquor resembling raki, sometimes flavoured with mastic gum. **Tzatziki** *noun* **M20 Modern Greek** A Greek side dish made with yoghurt, cucumber, garlic, and usually mint.

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