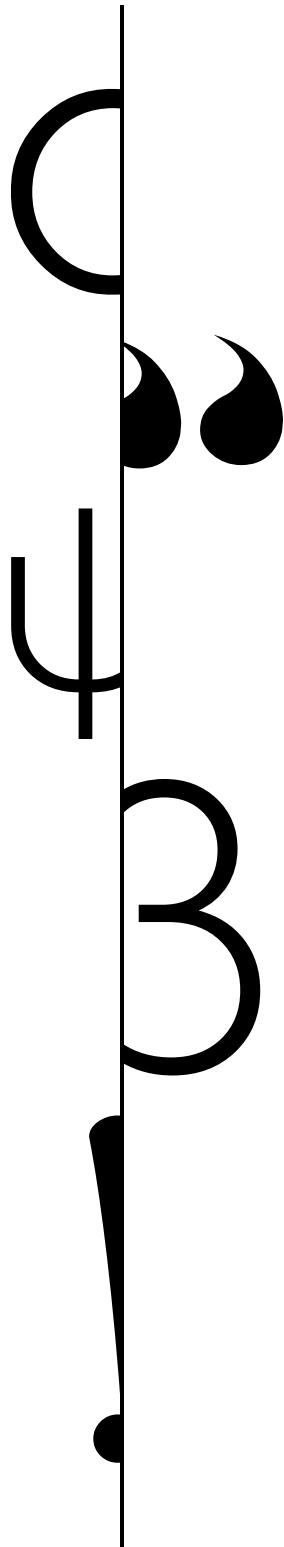


Introducing Yourself:

Master the Art of
Personal Connections
in Greek

Irene J. Karageorgou

Everything You Need to
Discover the Heart and
Soul of Greece through
Language Learning!



**TO ALL FOREIGN VISITORS WHO
REALLY WANT TO GET TO KNOW**

**MY COUNTRY,
GREECE.**



IRENE J. KARAGEORGOY

INTRODUCING YOURSELF

TRANSLATION: **TINA KARAGIANNI**

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

IRENE J. KARAGEORGOU IS A PASSIONATE TUTOR AND LIFELONG LEARNER DEDICATED TO TEACHING GREEK AS A SECOND OR FOREIGN LANGUAGE. WITH EXTENSIVE ACADEMIC STUDIES IN GREEK PHILOLOGY, INTERCULTURAL EDUCATION, ICT IN EDUCATION, AND SPECIAL EDUCATION, SHE COMBINES A WEALTH OF KNOWLEDGE WITH A GENUINE LOVE FOR SHARING THE RICHNESS OF THE GREEK LANGUAGE AND CULTURE.

AS THE FOUNDER OF GREEK TALK, THE INNOVATIVE PLATFORM THAT MERGES LANGUAGE LEARNING WITH CULTURAL EXPLORATION, IRENE ENVISIONS MAKING GREEK ACCESSIBLE TO EVERYONE. HER APPROACH EMPHASIZES AUTHENTIC COMMUNICATION, EFFECTIVE TEACHING METHODS, AND A DEEP CONNECTION WITH GREEK HERITAGE.

THIS BOOK IS NOT JUST A TOOL FOR LEARNING GREEK BUT A BRIDGE TO UNDERSTANDING THE HEART OF GREECE. THROUGH HER WORK, IRENE INVITES YOU ON A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY, WHERE LANGUAGE BECOMES THE KEY TO NEW PERSPECTIVES AND MEANINGFUL CONNECTIONS.

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BOOK DESCRIPTION

The book you are holding is a starting point for those who want to gain command of the Greek language, understand the Greek soul and be initiated into the Greek culture. It is a groundbreaking travel guide to Greece and at the same time it is a communication and pronunciation guide, an understanding-the-Greek-culture guide and a guide that offers practical tips for every chaday life in Greece.

It is a **communication guide** because it includes useful words and phrases as well as extra Greek vocabulary that can be used by foreign language speaking visitors in Greece to cover basic communication needs such as speaking and understanding Greek. This will help them deal with everyday language challenges successfully and with confidence while in Greece.

It is a **pronunciation guide** as all words are presented in both their written form and pronunciation. International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA)*symbols are used so that words are pronounced as accurately as possible. This will help speakers be precise and avoid misunderstandings due to errors in pronunciation. Anyothertranscriptionofphoneticsymbolsisarbitrary.

It is a **guide in the Greek culture** because it provides information about the customs and traditions, the mentality and everyday life routines of modern Greeks helping visitors to get accustomed to, understand and decode the Greek way of life and behaviour.

Finally, it is a **practical guide** as it offers a wide array of additional useful tips about everyday life that complete what one needs to know before and during their visit to Greece, in order to experience a pleasant stay.

Learners can also find extra practice exercises for every Unit in order to test themselves and see what they have learned.

** The IPA is a system of phonetic notation. It was devised by the International Phonetic Association as a standardized system of speech sounds and is based mainly on Latin and partially Greek script. The IPA symbols can be used to present the pronunciation of each word in any language. In this book the IPA symbols are used to explain the pronunciation ofGreek words with accuracy.The IPA symbols that you will learn in Units 1, 2 and 3 of the book are a one-to-one correspondence between the symbols and the sounds found in the Greek language.*

THEMATIC UNITS

| |
|---|
| Personal details |
| Contact information |
| Where are you from? |
| Countries & nationalities of Asia |
| Countries & nationalities of America |
| Countries & nationalities of Africa |
| Countries & nationalities of Europe |
| Countries & nationalities of Oceania |
| Cities & islands in Greece |
| Jobs & occupations |
| Hobbies & pastimes |

BOOK STRUCTURE

There are 13 units in the book with helpful vocabulary and tips that cover 10 different situations in which you may find yourself during your stay in Greece. In the **first part** you can find useful words and phrases, information about the Greek culture and practical tips that follow the theme of each unit. The **second part** offers extra vocabulary while in the **third part** you can find practice exercises to check your knowledge.

UNIT STRUCTURE

Each unit is independent; it is not connected with the previous or the following unit and can be studied separately. At the beginning of each unit (orange board) you can find a **summary** of the unit which is then followed by a **detailed presentation** (vocabulary, phrases, sentences). At the end of the unit (purple board) you can find comprehensive **examples**. Rich cultural **information** and useful **tips** along with relevant icons complete the theme of each unit.

HOW TO READ THE BOOK

The bold blue IPA symbols in brackets represent the pronunciation of the Greek words, modified to suit the needs of the book.

e.g. [kaliméra]

The bold red italics are used for the English words, phrases and sentences that are translated into Greek and the Greek pronunciation is given.

e.g. *Good morning.* [kaliméra]

The black fonts are used for the translated words, phrases and sentences into Greek.

e.g. *Good morning.* [kaliméra] Καλημέρα.

Notes

- For borrowed words, the pronunciation closest to the original was selected.
e.g. For the word *champagne* the transcription is [sɑmpáña]
- For English words used with the original pronunciation, the spelling used in brackets is also in English.
e.g. *What is your e-mail address?* [pɔ́o ine to e-mail su?]
- The parentheses in italic black font inside the brackets include:
 - The number symbol of the preceding number word.
e.g. *every 5 minutes*: [káthe pénde (5) leptá]
 - Symbols with different pronunciation from the written word.
e.g. "*I don't know.*" is written «Δεν ξέρω.» in Greek but pronounced: [ðé(n)gzéro]

Accent mark

The accent mark is placed over the stressed vowel. One-syllable words which do not carry an accent mark according to Greek grammar rules, are transcribed with an accent mark when the vowel is stressed in pronunciation.

e.g. *Τι είπες;* [tí ípes]











Abbreviations

| Abbreviation | Meaning | Abbreviation | Meaning |
|-------------------|---------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| <i>sing.</i> | singular | <i>informal, sing.</i> | informal, singular |
| <i>pl.</i> | plural | <i>n.</i> | neutral |
| <i>sing. form</i> | singular form | <i>m.</i> | male |
| <i>pl. form</i> | plural form | <i>f.</i> | female |

WHO IS THE BOOK FOR

This book is for those who love Greece and want to become acquainted with the country itself, as well as its language, history and culture. For those who want to live the experience of travelling around Greece and enjoy a cultural “adventure”. For those who want to be able to have satisfactory day-to-day communication during their stay in Greece. For those who want to communicate more effectively with their Greek friends, relatives or business associates.

ICONS USED IN THE BOOK

| | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
|  | extra vocabulary |
|  | useful information |
|  | useful tips |
|  | word origin, word etymology, meaning |
|  | traditions and customs |
|  | idioms |
|  | grammar and pronunciation rules |
|  | see glossary |
|  | emergency phone numbers |
|  | unit change |

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Irene Karageorgou is considered an expert in teaching Greek as a foreign language. Her educational courses “**Greek for Beginners. The Complete Method. Level 1 Part 1,2,3**” are bestsellers and have been bought by thousands of learners. She has been teaching Greek to foreign and native speakers for more than 15 years. She is married and she has a son.

Greek pronunciation guide Part 1 (vowels, diphthongs, combinations)

Vowels: Α α, Ε ε, Η η, Ι ι, Υ υ, Ο ο, Ω ω

Vowel digraphs: ΟΥ ου, ΑΙ αι, ΕΙ ει, ΟΙ οι, ΥΙ υι

Diphthongs: Αϊ αι, ΑΗ αη, ΟΗ οη, Όι όι

Combinations: ΑΥ αυ, ΕΥ ευ

Vowels: Α α, Ε ε, Η η, Ι ι, Υ υ, Ο ο, Ω ω

| Upper case | Lower case | Phonetic symbol (IPA) | Pronunciation | | Greek word example | Phonetic spelling | Translation |
|------------|------------|--|--|------------------|--|---|--|
| A | α | [a] | <i>almond</i> | ⇒ | αλάτι | [aláti] | <i>salt</i> |
| E | ε | [e]* | <i>ten</i> | ⇒ | τέσσερα | [tésera] | <i>four</i> |
| H | η | [i]* | <i>hit</i> | ⇒ | μήλο | [mílo] | <i>apple</i> |
| I | ι | 1. [i]* 2. [j] 3. [x̣] 4. [ñ] | <i>hit</i> <i>yes</i> <i>humor</i> <i>new</i> | ⇒ ⇒ ⇒ ⇒ | 1. ιδέα 2. καρδιά 3. μάτια 4. μια** | [iðéa] [karðjá] [máṭxa] [mñá] | <i>idea</i> <i>heart</i> <i>eyes</i> <i>one</i> |
| Y | υ | [i]* | <i>hit</i> | ⇒ | κύμα | [kíma] | <i>wave</i> |
| O | ο | [o]* | <i>on</i> | ⇒ | όνομα | [ónoma] | <i>name</i> |
| Ω | ω | [o]* | <i>on</i> | ⇒ | ώρα | [óra] | <i>time</i> |



**The cardinal number one (1) has three genders in Greek. In this case the word «μία» is the female gender.

Vowel digraphs (two vowels pronounced as one): ΟΥ ου, ΑΙ αι, ΕΙ ει, ΟΙ οι, ΥΙ υι

| Upper case | Lower case | Phonetic symbol (IPA) | Pronunciation | | Greek word example | Phonetic spelling | Translation |
|------------|------------|-----------------------|---------------|---|--------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| OY | ου | [u] | <i>put</i> | ⇒ | κούπα | [kúpa] | <i>cup</i> |
| AI | αι | [e]* | <i>ten</i> | ⇒ | και | [ké] | <i>and</i> |
| EI | ει | [i]* | <i>hit</i> | ⇒ | είκοσι | [íkosi] | <i>twenty</i> |
| OI | οι | [i]* | <i>hit</i> | ⇒ | οικονομία | [ikonomía] | <i>economy</i> |
| YI | υι | [i]* | <i>hit</i> | ⇒ | υιός | [iós] | <i>son</i> |



- ✓ ***[e]** is represented by two Greek graphemes: ε, αι
- ✓ ***[i]** is represented by six Greek graphemes: η, ι, υ, ει, οι, υι
- ✓ ***[o]** is represented by two Greek graphemes: ο, ω

Diphthongs (two vowels pronounced as one syllable): Αϊ αι, ΑΗ αη, ΟΗ οη, Όι όι

| Upper case | Lower case | Phonetic symbol (IPA) | Pronunciation | | Greek word example | Phonetic spelling | Translation |
|------------|------------|-----------------------|---------------|---|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Aï | αϊ | [ai] | <i>ice</i> | ⇒ | γάιδαρος | [gáidaros] | <i>donkey</i> |
| AH | αη | [ai] | <i>ice</i> | ⇒ | αηδόνι | [aidóni] | <i>nightingale</i> |
| OH | οη | [oi] | <i>oil</i> | ⇒ | βόηθα | [vóitha] | <i>help</i> |
| Όι | όι | [oi] | <i>oil</i> | ⇒ | ρόιδι | [róidi] | <i>pomegranate</i> |

Combinations: ΑΥ αυ, ΕΥ ευ (are pronounced in two different ways)

| Upper case | Lower case | Phonetic symbol (IPA) | Pronunciation | | Greek word example | Phonetic spelling | Translation |
|------------|------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|--------|---------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| AY | αυ | 1. [av] 2. [af] | <i>avant-garde</i> <i>after</i> | ⇒ ⇒ | αύριο αυτή | [ávrio] [aftí] | <i>tomorrow</i> <i>she</i> |
| EY | ευ | 1. [ev] 2. [ef] | <i>ever</i> <i>effect</i> | ⇒ ⇒ | Ευρώπη ευχαριστώ | [evrópi] [efxaristó] | <i>Europe</i> <i>thanks</i> |



In the next unit you will learn the **GREEK CONSONANTS** and **HOW TO ACCENT GREEK WORDS**.

Greek pronunciation guide Part 2 (Consonants, How to accent Greek words)

Consonants: Β β, Γ γ, Δ δ, Ζ ζ, Θ θ, Κ κ, Λ λ, Μ μ, Ν ν, Ξ ξ, Π π, Ρ ρ, Σ σ ς, Τ τ, Φ φ, Χ χ, Ψ ψ
How to accent Greek words

Consonants: Β β, Γ γ, Δ δ, Ζ ζ, Θ θ, Κ κ, Λ λ, Μ μ, Ν ν, Ξ ξ, Π π, Ρ ρ, Σ σ ς, Τ τ, Φ φ, Χ χ, Ψ ψ

| Upper case | Lower case | Phonetic symbol (IPA) | Pronunciation | | Greek word example | Phonetic spelling | Translation |
|------------|------------|----------------------------|---|---|---------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| B | β | [v] | <u>v</u> ase | ⇒ | βάζο | [vázo] | vase |
| Γ | γ | 1. [ɣ] 2. [j] | <u>a</u> miga (Spanish) <u>y</u> es | ⇒ | γάλα γέρος | [γάλα] [jéros] | milk old man |
| Δ | δ | [ð] | <u>t</u> his | ⇒ | δίνω | [ðino] | give |
| Z | ζ | [z] | <u>z</u> one | ⇒ | ζώνη | [zóni] | belt |
| Θ | θ | [θ] | <u>t</u> heater | ⇒ | θέατρο | [théatro] | theater |
| K | κ | 1. [k] 2. [k̃] | <u>c</u> ar <u>c</u> ute | ⇒ | καλός και | [kalós] [ké] | good and |
| Λ | λ | 1. [l] 2. [l̃] | <u>l</u> ogic <u>t</u> agliatelle | ⇒ | λογική ελιά | [lojiki] [elía] | logic olive |
| M | μ | [m] | <u>m</u> um | ⇒ | μαμά | [mamá] | mum |
| N | ν | 1. [n] 2. [ñ] 3. [ŋ] | <u>n</u> ext <u>n</u> ew <u>a</u> nger | ⇒ | ναι πανιά άγχος | [né] [pañá] [áŋchos] | yes sails anxiety |
| Ξ | ξ | [ks] | <u>T</u> exas | ⇒ | έξι | [éksi] | six |
| Π | π | [p] | <u>p</u> an | ⇒ | πόδι | [pódi] | foot |
| P | ρ | [r] | <u>r</u> ed | ⇒ | Ρώμη | [rómi] | Rome |
| Σ* | σ ς | 1. [s] 2. [s] 3. [z] | <u>s</u> un <u>s</u> un <u>b</u> ismuth | ⇒ | σήμερα καλός κόσμος | [símera] [kalós] [kózmos] | today good world |
| T | τ | [t] | <u>t</u> ea | ⇒ | τιμή | [timi] | price |
| Φ | φ | [f] | <u>f</u> ast | ⇒ | φως | [fós] | light |
| X | χ | 1. [x] 2. [x̃] | <u>l</u> och (Scottish) <u>h</u> uge | ⇒ | χορός όχι | [xorós] [óxi] | dance no |
| Ψ | ψ | [ps] | <u>l</u> ips | ⇒ | ψωμί | [psomi] | bread |



*The letter «Σ, σ» has three different forms compared to the rest of the letters of the Greek alphabet which have two. These forms are:

1. «Σ» (upper case)
2. «σ» (lower case – inside a word)
3. «ς» (lower case – at the end of a word)



The Greek letter «Β, β» is pronounced [v] NOT [b]

The Greek letter «Ρ, ρ» is pronounced [r] NOT [p]

The Greek letter «Χ, χ» is pronounced [x], [x̃] NOT [ks]

How to accent Greek words

When you see a letter carrying this mark (´), you should pronounce this letter louder. This mark is called **[tónos]** in Greek and “accent mark” in English. Stressing Greek words is very important. If you stress a word in a wrong way its meaning will change.

For example, the Greek word «πότε» **[póte]**:

- ✓ If you stress the letter [o] «πότε» **[póte]** it means “when” **BUT**
- ✓ If you stress the letter [e] «ποτέ» **[poté]** it means “never”.



In the next unit you will learn the **CONSONANT DIGRAPHS** and the **DOUBLE CONSONANTS**.

Greek pronunciation guide Part 3 (Consonant Digraphs, double Consonants)

Consonant digraphs: ΜΠ μπ, ΝΤ ντ, ΓΚ γκ, ΓΓ γγ, ΓΧ γχ, ΤΖ τζ, ΤΣ τσ

Double consonants: ΒΒ ββ, ΚΚ κκ, ΛΛ λλ, ΜΜ μμ, ΝΝ νν, ΠΠ ππ, ΡΡ ρρ, ΣΣ σσ, ΤΤ ττ

Consonant digraphs (two consonants pronounced as one): ΜΠ μπ, ΝΤ ντ, ΓΚ γκ, ΓΓ γγ, ΓΧ γχ, ΤΖ τζ, ΤΣ τσ

| Upper case | Lower case | Phonetic symbol (IPA) | Pronunciation | | Greek word example | Phonetic spelling | Translation |
|------------|------------|-----------------------|----------------------|---|--------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| ΜΠ | μπ | 1. [b] | <u>b</u> ox | ⇒ | μπάλα | [bála] | ball |
| | | 2. [mb] | member | ⇒ | κολυμπώ | [kolimbó] | swim |
| | | 3. [mp] | imperium | ⇒ | σαμπάνια | [sampáña] | champagne |
| ΝΤ | ντ | 1. [d] | <u>d</u> ay | ⇒ | ντομάτα | [domáta] | tomato |
| | | 2. [nd] | end | ⇒ | πέντε | [pénde] | five |
| | | 3. [nt] | rent | ⇒ | μέντα | [ménta] | mint |
| ΓΚ | γκ | 1. [g] | <u>g</u> o | ⇒ | γκολφ | [gólf] | golf |
| | | 2. [ǵ] | get | ⇒ | γκέμι | [ǵémi] | bridle |
| | | 3. [nǵ] | anger | ⇒ | έγκυος | [éǵios] | pregnant |
| ΓΓ | γγ | 1. [ŋg] | English | ⇒ | Αγγλία | [aŋglía] | England |
| | | 2. [ŋɣ] | unused | ⇒ | συγγραφέας | [siŋɣraféas] | author |
| | | 3. [ŋj] | unhoped | ⇒ | εγγενής | [eŋjenís] | inherent |
| ΓΧ | γχ | 1. [ŋx] | unhealthy | ⇒ | άγχος | [áŋxos] | anxiety |
| | | 2. [nǰ] | | ⇒ | εγχείριση | [enǰírisi] | operation |
| ΤΖ | τζ | [dz] | <u>j</u> ee <u>p</u> | ⇒ | τζάκι | [dzáki] | fireplace |
| ΤΣ | τσ | [ts] | <u>p</u> izza | ⇒ | τσάι | [tsái] | tea |

Double consonants (one consonant used written twice and pronounced as one with the exception of «γγ»): ΒΒ ββ, ΚΚ κκ, ΛΛ λλ, ΜΜ μμ, ΝΝ νν, ΠΠ ππ, ΡΡ ρρ, ΣΣ σσ, ΤΤ ττ

| Upper case | Lower case | Phonetic symbol (IPA) | Pronunciation | | Greek word example | Phonetic spelling | Translation |
|------------|------------|-----------------------|---------------|---|--------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| ΒΒ | ββ | [v] | <u>v</u> ase | ⇒ | Σάββατο | [sávato] | Saturday |
| ΚΚ | κκ | [k], [k̄] | <u>c</u> ar | ⇒ | κόκκινο | [kók̄ino] | red |
| ΛΛ | λλ | [l] | <u>l</u> ogic | ⇒ | Ελλάδα | [eláda] | Greece |
| ΜΜ | μμ | [m] | <u>m</u> ap | ⇒ | άμμος | [ámos] | sand |
| ΝΝ | νν | [n] | <u>n</u> ext | ⇒ | Άννα | [ána] | Ann |
| ΠΠ | ππ | [p] | <u>p</u> an | ⇒ | παππούς | [papús] | grandfather |
| ΡΡ | ρρ | [r] | <u>r</u> ed | ⇒ | άρρωστος | [árostos] | sick |
| ΣΣ | σσ | [s] | <u>s</u> un | ⇒ | τέσσερα | [tésera] | four |
| ΤΤ | ττ | [t] | <u>t</u> ea | ⇒ | περιττός | [peritós] | unnecessary |



When you study and understand the correspondence of IPA spelling to the pronunciation of Greek letters fully, you will be able to study this book, learn to pronounce Greek words correctly and speak Greek fluently.



You can find the letters of the Greek alphabet and their names in the Glossary, page 38.



In the next unit you will learn **HOW TO ASK AND HOW TO GIVE YOUR PERSONAL DETAILS AND CONTACT INFORMATION.**

Personal details and Contact information

Words and phrases: *identity card, ID card number, passport(s), passport number, full name, first name, last name, age(s), male, female, date of birth, phone number, mobile phone number(s), landline number(s), house telephone number, work telephone number, home address, work address, zip code.*

If you want to ask or say:

- | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| - Who are you? | - What is your last name? | - What is your phone number? |
| - I am... . | - My last name is... . | - My phone number is... . |
| - What is your name? | - I would like you to meet... . | - What is your e-mail address? |
| - My name is... . | - Pleased to meet you. | - My e-mail address is... . |
| - What is your first name? | - How old are you? | - What is your address? |
| - My first name is... . | - I am...years old. | - My address is... . |

If you want to say:

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| identity card | [taftótita] | ταυτότητα |
| ID card number | [aríthmós taftótítas] | αριθμός ταυτότητας |
| passport | [ðjavatírío] (sing.) | διαβατήριο |
| passports | [ðjavatíría] (pl.) | διαβατήρια |
| passport number | [aríthmós ðjavatiríu] | αριθμός διαβατηρίου |
| full name | [onomatepónimo] | ονοματεπώνυμο |
| first name | [mikró ónoma] | μικρό όνομα |
| last name | [epónimo] | επώνυμο |
| age, ages | [iliķía] (sing.), [iliķíes] (pl.) | ηλικία, ηλικίες |
| male | [arsenikó] | αρσενικό |
| female | [θilikó] | θηλυκό |
| date of birth | [imerominía jénisis] | ημερομηνία γέννησης |
| phone number | [aríthmós tiléfónu] | αριθμός τηλεφώνου |
| mobile phone number | [ķinitó tiléfono] (sing.) | κινητό τηλέφωνο |
| mobile phone numbers | [ķinitá tiléfona] (pl.) | κινητά τηλέφωνα |
| landline number | [staθeró tiléfono] (sing.) | σταθερό τηλέφωνο |
| landline numbers | [staθerá tiléfona] (pl.) | σταθερά τηλέφωνα |
| house telephone number | [tiléfono ikías] | τηλέφωνο οικίας |
| work telephone number | [tiléfono erasías] | τηλέφωνο εργασίας |
| home address | [ðiéθinsi katiķías] | διεύθυνση κατοικίας |
| work address | [ðiéθinsi erasías] | διεύθυνση εργασίας |
| zip code | [taķiðromikós kóðikas] | ταχυδρομικός κώδικας |

If you want to ask “Who are you?” you say:

| | | |
|-------------------------|---|--------------|
| honorific plural | [pǎós íste?] (when referring to a man) | Ποιος είστε; |
| informal, sing. | [pǎós íse?] | Ποιος είσαι; |
| honorific plural | [pǎá íste?] (when referring to a woman) | Ποια είστε; |
| informal, sing. | [pǎá íse?] | Ποια είσαι; |

If you want to say “I am...”, you say:

| | | |
|------------|------------------------|------------|
| [íme o...] | (when a man answers) | Είμαι ο... |
| [íme i...] | (when a woman answers) | Είμαι η... |

If you want to ask “What is your name?” you say:

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| honorific plural | [pós sas léne?] | Πώς σας λένε; |
| informal, sing. | [pós se léne?] | Πώς σε λένε; |

If you want to say “**My name is...** ”, you say:

[**me léne...**]

Με λένε... .



Most Greeks are named after a Saint of the Orthodox Church and celebrate this name day [**onomastikí jortí**] every year. They usually take the name of a grandmother or a grandfather. During this day their family and all their friends wish them [**xróña polá**] which means “Many years!”, a wish for good health and prosperity. Another common wish is [**ná xérese to ónomá su**] which means “May you rejoice your name!”.

If you want to ask “**What is your first name?**” you say:

honorific plural

[**pḗó íne to ónomá sas?**]

Ποιο είναι το όνομά σας;

informal, sing.

[**pḗó íne to ónomá su?**]

Ποιο είναι το όνομά σου;

If you want to say “**My first name is...** ”, you say:

[**to ónomá mu íne...**]

Το όνομά μου είναι... .

If you want to ask “**What is your last name?**” you say:

honorific plural

[**pḗó íne to epónimó sas?**]

Ποιο είναι το επώνυμό σας;

informal, sing.

[**pḗó íne to epónimó su?**]

Ποιο είναι το επώνυμό σου;

If you want to say “**My last name is...** ”, you say:

[**to epónimó mu íne...**]

Το επώνυμό μου είναι... .



Greek women’s surnames are based on the genitive form of their father’s or their husband’s surnames.

If you want to say “**I would like you to meet...** ”, you say:

honorific plural

[**θα ήθελα ná sas sistíso ton...**]

Θα ήθελα να σας συστήσω τον... .

informal, sing.

[**θα ήθελα ná su sistíso ton...**]

Θα ήθελα να σου συστήσω τον... .

(when referring to a man)

honorific plural

[**θα ήθελα ná sas sistíso tin...**]

Θα ήθελα να σας συστήσω την... .

informal, sing.

[**θα ήθελα ná su sistíso tin...**]

Θα ήθελα να σου συστήσω την... .

(when referring to a woman)

If you want to say “**Pleased to meet you.**”, you say:

[**xárika ja ti gñorimía**]

Χάρηκα για τη γνωριμία.



The answer could be:

“me too” [**kí egó to ídjo**].

If you want to ask “**How old are you?**” you say:

honorific plural

[**póso xronón íste?**]

Πόσο χρονών είστε;

informal, sing.

[**póso xronón íse?**]

Πόσο χρονών είσαι;

If you want to say “**I am ... years old.**”, you say:

[**íme...xronón**]

Είμαι...χρονών.



- When someone’s age ends with “1” we use the word «έτος» [**étos**] (year).

For example, «Είναι ενός έτους» [**íne enós étus**] (He is one year old).

- With the rest of the numbers we use the plural form «χρονών» [**xronón**] (years).

For example, «Είναι τριών χρονών» [**íne trión xronón**] (She is three years old).

- When we talk about infants between 0 and 12 months old, we use the word «μηνών» (months), as in the examples: «Είναι ενός μηνός» [**íne enós minós**] (He is one month old), «Είναι τριών μηνών» [**íne trión minón**] (She is three months old).



years

[xronón] [etón]

year

[étus]

month

[minós]

months

[minón]