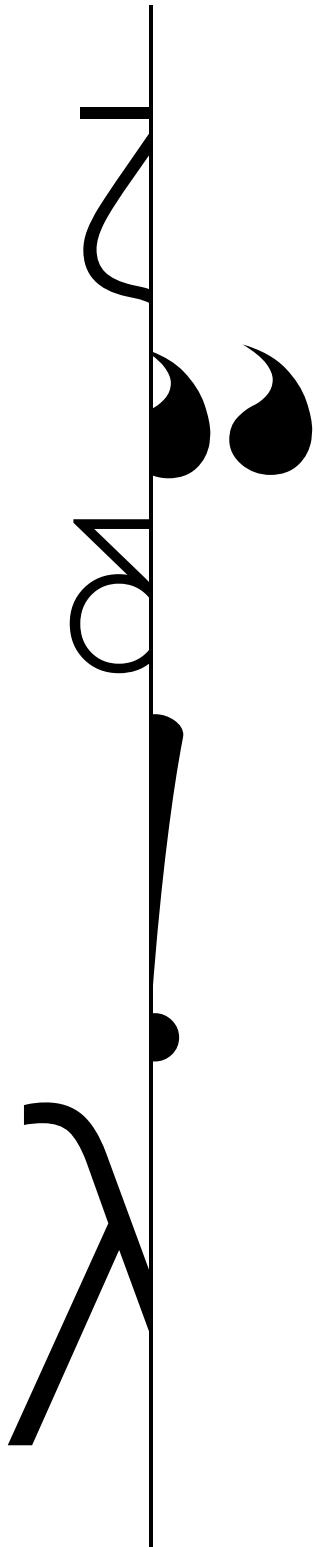


Greek Language Basics:

Your Essential Guide to Mastering the Fundamentals

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

AROUND THE CITY

TRANSLATION: **NADINA REGGINIOTI**

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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

Greetings & Goodbyes
Addressing people
Common Words & Phrases
Numbers
Time
Time words & expressions
Dates
Days
Months
Zodiac signs
Seasons
Weather
Question words

Common questions
Directions
It's all Greek to me
In an emergency
Wishes

BOOK STRUCTURE

There are 17 units in the book with helpful vocabulary and tips that cover 14 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?*** **[pɔ́ ó íne 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:*** **[káθe 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 είπατε; [tí ípes]











Abbreviations

<i>Abbreviation</i>	<i>Meaning</i>	<i>Abbreviation</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
<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 Begginers. 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 fooreign 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 αϊ, 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. [x̄] 4. [ñ]	<i>hit</i> <i>yes</i> <i>humor</i> <i>new</i>	⇒ ⇒ ⇒ ⇒	1. ιδέα 2. καρδιά 3. μάτια 4. μια**	[iḏéa] [karðjá] [mát̪xa] [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 αϊ, Αη αη, Οη οη, Όι όι

Upper case	Lower case	Phonetic symbol (IPA)	Pronunciation		Greek word example	Phonetic spelling	Translation
Aϊ	αϊ	[ai]	<i>ice</i>	⇒	γάιδαρος	[gáidaros]	<i>donkey</i>
Aη	αη	[ai]	<i>ice</i>	⇒	αηδόνι	[aiḏóni]	<i>nightingale</i>
Oη	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	[vázɔ]	vase
Γ	γ	1. [ɣ] 2. [j]	<u>a</u> miga (Spanish) <u>y</u> es	⇒	γάλα γέρος	[gála] [jéros]	milk old man
Δ	δ	[ð]	<u>t</u> his	⇒	δίνω	[ðino]	give
Ζ	ζ	[z]	<u>z</u> one	⇒	ζώνη	[zóni]	belt
Θ	θ	[θ]	<u>t</u> heater	⇒	θέατρο	[théatro]	theater
Κ	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
Μ	μ	[m]	<u>m</u> um	⇒	μαμά	[mamá]	mum
Ν	ν	1. [n] 2. [ñ] 3. [ŋ]	<u>n</u> ext <u>n</u> ew <u>a</u> nger	⇒	ναι πανιά άγχος	[né] [pañá] [ánchos]	yes sails anxiety
Ξ	ξ	[ks]	<u>T</u> exas	⇒	έξι	[éksi]	six
Π	π	[p]	<u>p</u> an	⇒	πόδι	[póði]	foot
Ρ	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
Τ	τ	[t]	<u>t</u> ea	⇒	τιμή	[timí]	price
Φ	φ	[f]	<u>f</u> ast	⇒	φως	[fós]	light
Χ	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	[psomí]	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]	mem <u>b</u> er	⇒	κολυμπώ	[kolimbó]	swim
		3. [mp]	im <u>p</u> erium	⇒	σαμπάνια	[sampáña]	champagne
ΝΤ	ντ	1. [d]	<u>d</u> ay	⇒	ντομάτα	[domáta]	tomato
		2. [nd]	e <u>n</u> d	⇒	πέντε	[pénde]	five
		3. [nt]	re <u>n</u> t	⇒	μέντα	[ménta]	mint
ΓΚ	γκ	1. [g]	<u>g</u> o	⇒	γκολφ	[gólf]	golf
		2. [ǰ]	ge <u>t</u>	⇒	γκέμι	[ǰémi]	bridle
		3. [nǰ]	an <u>g</u> er	⇒	έγκυος	[éǰgios]	pregnant
ΓΓ	γγ	1. [ŋg]	<u>English</u>	⇒	Αγγλία	[aŋglía]	England
		2. [ŋv]	<u>unused</u>	⇒	συγγραφέας	[siŋvraféas]	author
		3. [ŋj]	un <u>h</u> oped	⇒	εγγενής	[eŋjenís]	inherent
ΓΧ	γχ	1. [ŋx]	un <u>h</u> oped	⇒	άγχος	[áŋxos]	anxiety
		2. [nǰ]	un <u>h</u> ealthy	⇒	εγχείριση	[eŋǰírisi]	operation
ΤΖ	τζ	[dz]	<u>jeep</u>	⇒	τζάκι	[dzáki]	fireplace
ΤΣ	τσ	[ts]	<u>pizza</u>	⇒	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 50.



In the next unit you will learn **GREETINGS AND GOODBYES**.

If you want to say:

- Hello!	- Fine, thank you.	- Have a nice day.
- Good morning.	- Not so good.	- Have a nice afternoon.
- Good evening.	- How about you?	- Have a nice evening.
- How are you?	- Goodbye.	- Good night.

Greetings and Responses

Hello!	[já sas] (honorific plural)	Γεια σας!
	[já su] (informal, sing.)	Γεια σου!

 The word **[já]** which means “hello” derives from the Greek word «υγεία» **[ijía]** which means “health”. There are four other meanings of the word **[já]**:



1. **[já]** which means “goodbye” (when leaving)
2. **[me já]** (when buying something new)
3. **[stin ijá mas]** which means “cheers” (when drinking)
4. **[jítses]** which means “bless you” (when sneezing)

Good morning. (morning hours)	[kaliméra]	Καλημέρα.
Good evening. (afternoon and evening)	[kalispéra]	Καλησπέρα.
How are you?	[tí kánete?] (honorific plural) [tí kánis?] (informal, sing.)	Τι κάνετε; Τι κάνεις;
Fine, thank you.	[kalá efxaristó]	Καλά, ευχαριστώ.
Not so good.	[óxi polí kalá]	Όχι πολύ καλά.
How about you?	[esís?] (honorific plural) [esí?] (informal, sing.)	Εσείς; Εσύ;



The word **[já]** can be used for both “hello” and “goodbye” any time during the day.

Farewells

Goodbye.	[adíó]	Αντίο.
Have a nice day. (from dawn till 12 noon)	[kaliméra]	Καλημέρα.
Have a nice afternoon. (from 12 noon till 15.00)	[kaló mesiméri]	Καλό μεσημέρι.
Have a nice afternoon. (from 15.00 till sunset)	[kaló apójevma]	Καλό απόγευμα.
Have a nice evening. (from sunset till midnight)	[kaló vráði]	Καλό βράδυ.
Good night.	[kaliníxta]	Καληνύχτα.

EXAMPLES

Hi, how are you today?	[já pós íse símera?]
I have a bad cold and I haven't been feeling well at all.	[éxo éna ásχimo kríoma ke ðén esθánome καθόλου καλά]
What have you been up to?	[tí kánis aftó ton geró?]
Working a lot.	[ðulévo polí]
Long time no see...	[xroña ke zamáña]
Goodnight! Sweet dreams!	[kaliníxta] [ónira yliká]



You can find more words and phrases on **Greetings and Goodbyes** in the Glossary, on page 51 through 52. In the next unit you will learn **HOW TO ADDRESS PEOPLE IN GREEK**

If you want to say: - Sir or Mr

- Ms or Mrs

- Miss

If you want to address an adult man, you say:

[kíríe]

Κύριε



To get someone's attention you can say:
"Excuse me, Sir" [sinynómi kíríe] or
"Excuse me Ms" [sinynómi kíría]

If you want to address an adult woman, you say:

[kíría]

Κυρία



In Greek we use the words [kíríe], [kíría] before someone's first name or someone's last name when we want: a) to address them kindly, b) if they are older than us or c) because we want to show respect. When we address a friend, we use their first name only.

If you want to address a young lady or an unmarried woman, you say:

[ðespinís]

Δεσποινίς



Ms, Mrs	[kíría]	Sir	[kíríe]
Miss	[ðespinís]	Mr	[kíríe]

For example:

Nick Pappas, 60 years old, businessman

1. First name

We call him [níko] (Niko is his first name), if we are friends or almost the same age.

EXAMPLE

Hi Nick!

[já su níko]

2. Mr + first name

We call him [kíríe níko], if we respect him and we are acquainted to him.

EXAMPLE

Hello Mr Nick!

[já sas kíríe níko]

3. Mr + last name

We call him [kíríe papá] (Pappa is his last name), if we want to show that we respect him or we want to show formality.

EXAMPLE

Hello Mr Papa!

[já sas kíríe papá]

Maria Pappa, 50 years old, teacher

1. First name

We call her [maría] (Maria is her first name), if we are friends or almost the same age.

EXAMPLE

Hi Maria!

[já su maría]

2. Ms + first name

We call her [kíría maría], if we respect her and we are acquainted to her.

EXAMPLE

Hello Ms Maria!

[já sas kíría maría]

3. Ms + last name

We call her [kíría papá] (Pappa is her last name), if we want to show that we respect her or we want to show formality.

EXAMPLE

Hello Ms Papa!

[já sas kíría papá]

EXAMPLES

Excuse me, Sir. Do you know what the time is?

[sinynómi kíríe] [ksérete tí óra íne?]

Mr. John, will you come to our home for lunch?

[kíríe John θa érθete sto spíti mas ja fajitó?]

Excuse me Ms, may I ask you something?

[sinynómi kíría boró ná sas rotíso káti?]

Can I talk to Ms Papa?

[boró ná milíso me tiη giría papá?]

I would like to introduce miss Helen to you.

[θa íθela ná sas sistíso ti ðespiníða Helen]

Can I call you by your first name?

[boró ná sas miláo ston enikó?]

Yes, call by my first name!

[né fisiká mílisé mu ston enikó]

Maria, where are you going tonight?

[pú θa pás to vráði María?]



You can find more words and phrases on **How to address people** in the Glossary, on page 52 through 53. In the next unit you will learn **COMMON WORDS AND PHRASES** in Greek.

If you want to say:

- yes	- I don't know.	- Sorry.	- It doesn't matter.	- You're welcome.
- no	- We'll see.	- Excuse me.	- Don't worry.	- Here you go.
- maybe	- I am sorry.	- No problem.	- Please.	- Thank you.

If you want to say:

yes	[né]	ναι
no	[óxi]	όχι
maybe	[ísos]	ίσως
I don't know.	[ðé(n) gzéro]	Δεν ξέρω.
We'll see.	[θα δύμε]	Θα δούμε.
I am sorry.	[lipáme]	Λυπάμαι.
Sorry.	[siɣnómi]	Συγγνώμη.
Excuse me.	[me siɣoríte] (honorific plural) [me siɣorís] (informal, sing.) (a. to get someone's attention b. to get past someone who is in your way c. to say you are sorry d. to ask someone to repeat what was said)	Με συγχωρείτε. Με συγχωρείς.
No problem.	[kanéna próvlima]	Κανένα πρόβλημα.
It doesn't matter.	[ðé(m) birázi]	Δεν πειράζει.
Don't worry.	[min anisiχíte] (honorific plural) [min anisiχís] (informal, sing.)	Μην ανησυχείτε. Μην ανησυχείς.
Please.	[parakaló]	Παρακαλώ.
You're welcome.	[parakaló]	Παρακαλώ.
Here you go.	[oríste]	Ορίστε.
Thank you.	[efxaristó]	Ευχαριστώ.



[efxaristó] vs. [efxaristúme]

If you're not alone, use [efxaristúme] which means "We thank you!". If you're alone use [efxaristó] which means "I thank you!".



The word [parakaló] which means "You're welcome" is used as a response to [efxaristó] which means "Thank you". Another way to respond to [efxaristó], is the expression [ná ste kalá] which means "Be in good health!".



In some cases when you say [efxaristó] you might hear someone respond with [egó efxaristó] which means "I thank you!".

EXAMPLES

Please, can you help me?	[sas parakaló boríte ná me voiθísete?]
Yes, what would you like?	[né tí θα θέlate?]
Excuse me! Could I ask you something?	[siɣnómi boró na sas káno mía erótisi?]
Excuse me, can you let me through?	[siɣnómi boró ná peráso?]
I am sorry for being late.	[me siɣoríte pu árjisa]
It's ok, don't worry.	[ðé(m) birázi min anisiχíte]
Thank you very much.	[sas exaristó polí]
You're welcome.	[parakaló]



You can find more words and phrases on **Common words and phrases** in the Glossary, on page 53 through 59. **In the next unit you will learn the NUMBERS.**

Cardinal Numbers: 0 - 19
Cardinal Numbers: 20 - 190

Cardinal Numbers: 200 - 900
Cardinal Numbers: 1,000 - 1,000,000,000

Ordinal Numbers
Fractions



Greeks follow the international numeric system, with the symbols 1,2,3,4 etc.



Both ordinal and cardinal numbers are adjectives and as such, have 3 genders. But not all of them have a different type. Only numbers one, three and four have a different type.

Cardinal Numbers: 0 - 19

0	zero	[miðén] (for all 3 genders)	μηδέν
1	one	[éna] (n.), [énas] (m.) [mía] (f.)	ένα, ένας, μία
2	two	[ðío] (for all 3 genders)	δύο
3	three	[tría] (n.), [trís] (m., f.)	τρία, τρεις
4	four	[tésera] (n.), [téseris] (m., f.)	τέσσερα, τέσσερις
5	five	[pénde] (for all 3 genders)	πέντε
6	six	[éksi] (for all 3 genders)	έξι
7	seven	[eptá] (for all 3 genders)	επτά
8	eight	[októ] (for all 3 genders)	οκτώ
9	nine	[enéa] (for all 3 genders)	εννέα
10	ten	[ðéka] (for all 3 genders)	δέκα
11	eleven	[éndeka] (for all 3 genders)	έντεκα
12	twelve	[ðóðeka] (for all 3 genders)	δώδεκα



Numbers 13 to 19 are compound words, formed by the numeral word “ten” (10) plus the word representing the second digit. For instance, number “thirteen” (13) in Greek is [ðekatría], a compound word formed by the numeral word “ten” (10) [ðéka] and the numeral word “three” (3) [tría].

13	thirteen	[ðekatría] (n.), [ðekatrís] (m., f.)	δεκατρία, δεκατρείς
14	fourteen	[ðekatésera] (n.) [ðekatéseris] (m., f.)	δεκατέσσερα δεκατέσσερις
15	fifteen	[ðekapénde] (for all 3 genders)	δεκαπέντε
16	sixteen	[ðekaéksi] (for all 3 genders)	δεκαέξι
17	seventeen	[ðekaeptá] (for all 3 genders)	δεκαεπτά
18	eighteen	[ðekaoktó] (for all 3 genders)	δεκαοκτώ
19	nineteen	[ðekaenéa] (for all 3 genders)	δεκαεννέα

Cardinal Numbers: 20 - 190

20	twenty	[íkosi]	είκοσι
21	twenty-one	[íkosi éna] (n.), [íkosi énas] (m.) [íkosi mía] (f.)	είκοσι ένα, είκοσι ένας, είκοσι μία
22	twenty-two	[íkosi ðío] (for all 3 genders)	είκοσι δύο
30	thirty	[triánda] (for all 3 genders)	τριάντα
40	forty	[saránda] (for all 3 genders)	σαράντα
50	fifty	[penínda] (for all 3 genders)	πενήντα
60	sixty	[eksínda] (for all 3 genders)	εξήντα
70	seventy	[evðomínda] (for all 3 genders)	εβδομήντα
80	eighty	[ogðónða] (for all 3 genders)	ογδόντα
90	ninety	[enenínda] (for all 3 genders)	ενενήντα
100	one hundred	[ekató] (for all 3 genders)	εκατό
101	a hundred and one	[ekatón éna] (n.), [ekatón énas] (m.), [ekatón mía] (f.)	εκατόν ένα, εκατόν ένας, εκατόν μία

111	<i>a hundred and eleven</i>	[ekatón éndeka]	εκατόν έντεκα
120	<i>a hundred and twenty</i>	[ekatón íkosi]	εκατόν είκοσι
130	<i>a hundred and thirty</i>	[ekatón triánda]	εκατόν τριάντα
190	<i>a hundred and ninety</i>	[ekatón enenínda]	εκατόν ενενήντα



The word for “one hundred” is [ekató] but every number between 101 and 199 uses the form [ekatón], with an extra [n] at the end.



Cardinal numbers 1-20 are single-word nouns.

Cardinal Numbers: 200 - 900

200	<i>two hundred</i>	[ðjakósxa] (n.) [ðjakósi] (m.) [ðjakósxes] (f.)	διακόσια διακόσιοι διακόσιες
300	<i>three hundred</i>	[triakósxa] (n.) [triakósi] (m.) [triakósxes] (f.)	τριακόσια τριακόσιοι τριακόσιες
400	<i>four hundred</i>	[tetrakósxa] (n.) [tetrakósi] (m.) [tetrakósxes] (f.)	τετρακόσια τετρακόσιοι τετρακόσιες
500	<i>five hundred</i>	[pendakósxa] (n.) [pendakósi] (m.) [pendakósxes] (f.)	πεντακόσια πεντακόσιοι πεντακόσιες
600	<i>six hundred</i>	[eksakósxa] (n.) [eksakósi] (m.) [eksakósxes] (f.)	εξακόσια εξακόσιοι εξακόσιες
700	<i>seven hundred</i>	[eptakósxa] (n.) [eptakósi] (m.) [eptakósxes] (f.)	επτακόσια επτακόσιοι επτακόσιες
800	<i>eight hundred</i>	[oktakósxa] (n.) [oktakósi] (m.) [oktakósxes] (f.)	οκτακόσια οκτακόσιοι οκτακόσιες
900	<i>nine hundred</i>	[eñakósxa] (n.) [eñakósi] (m.) [eñakósxes] (f.)	εννιακόσια εννιακόσιοι εννιακόσιες

Cardinal Numbers: 1,000 - 1,000,000,000

1,000	<i>one thousand</i>	[xífa] (n.) [xíli] (m.) [xílies] (f.)	χίλια χίλιοι χίλιες
2,000	<i>two thousand</i>	[ðío xilíades]	δύο χιλιάδες
10,000	<i>ten thousand</i>	[ðéka xilíades]	δέκα χιλιάδες
20,000	<i>twenty thousand</i>	[íkosi xilíades]	είκοσι χιλιάδες
100,000	<i>one hundred thousand</i>	[ekató xilíades]	εκατό χιλιάδες
1,000,000	<i>one million</i>	[éna ekatomírio]	ένα εκατομμύριο
2,000,000	<i>two million</i>	[ðío ekatomíria]	δύο εκατομμύρια
1,000,000,000	<i>one billion</i>	[éna ðisekatomírio]	ένα δισεκατομμύριο



A dot is used to divide large numbers into groups of three figures; thus Greek 1.234.567 corresponds to British and US 1,234,567. A comma is used to separate an integer from a decimal whereas English uses a dot (decimal point); thus Greek 34,45 corresponds to British and American 34.45.


A dot is used to separate the figures of multi digit numbers into groups of three starting from the right. We do not use a dot with four-digit numbers or dates.



If you want to read a decimal number, you should pronounce the word “comma” [kóma] between the two parts of the number. For example: “1.2” is [éna kóma ðío] in Greek and is written «1,2».

Ordinal Numbers

1 st	[prótos] (m.), [próti] (f.), [próto] (n.)	1 ^{ος}	πρώτος, πρώτη, πρώτο
2 nd	[dēfteros] (m.), [dēfteri] (f.), [dēftero] (n.)	2 ^{ος}	δεύτερος, δεύτερη, δεύτερο
3 rd	[trítos] (m.), [tríti] (f.), [tríto] (n.)	3 ^{ος}	τρίτος, τρίτη, τρίτο
4 th	[tétartos] (m.), [tétarti] (f.), [tétarto] (n.)	4 ^{ος}	τέταρτος, τέταρτη, τέταρτο
5 th	[pémptos] (m.), [pémpti] (f.), [pémpto] (n.)	5 ^{ος}	πέμπτος, πέμπτη, πέμπτο
6 th	[éktos] (m.), [ékhti] (f.), [ékto] (n.)	6 ^{ος}	έκτος, έκτη, έκτο
7 th	[évdomos] (m.), [évdomi] (f.), [évdomo] (n.)	7 ^{ος}	έβδομος, έβδομη, έβδομο
8 th	[ógdoos] * (m.), [ógdoi] (f.), [ógdoos] (n.)	8 ^{ος}	όγδοος, όγδοη, όγδοο
9 th	[énatos] (m.), [énati] (f.), [énato] (n.)	9 ^{ος}	ένατος, ένατη, ένατο
10 th	[dékatos] (m.), [dékati] (f.), [dékato] (n.)	10 ^{ος}	δέκατος, δέκατη, δέκατο
11 th	[endékatos] (m.), [endékati] (f.), [endékato] (n.)	11 ^{ος}	εντέκατος, εντέκατη, εντέκατο
12 th	[doδέkatos] (m.), [doδέkati] (f.), [doδέkato] (n.)	12 ^{ος}	δωδέκατος, δωδέκατη, δεωδέκατο
13 th	[dékatos trítos] (m.), [dékati tríti] (f.), [dékato tríto] (n.)	13 ^{ος}	δέκατος τρίτος, δέκατη τρίτη, δέκατο τρίτο
20 th	[ikostós] (m.), [ikostí] (f.), [ikostó] (n.)	20 ^{ος}	εικοστός, εικοστή, εικοστό
30 th	[triakostós] (m.), [triakostí] (f.), [triakostó] (n.)	30 ^{ος}	τριακοστός, τριακοστή, τριακοστό


 number	[aríthmós]	over	[páno]
numbers	[aríthmí]	under	[káto]
once	[mía forá]	more than	[perisótero apó]
twice	[díio forés]	less than	[liyótero apó]



* Both [o]s are pronounced.

Fractions

½	a half	[misó]	μισό
⅓	a third	[éna tríto]	ένα τρίτο
¼	a quarter	[éna tétarto]	ένα τέταρτο
⅔	two thirds	[díio tríta]	δύο τρίτα
¾	three quarters	[tría tétarta]	τρία τέταρτα
1½	one and a half	[éna kē misó]	ένα και μισό

 plus (+)	[sín]	multiplied by (x)	[epí]
minus (-)	[plín]	divided by (:)	[diá]
equals (=)	[íson]	percent (%)	[epí tis ekató]

EXAMPLES

1,250 (one thousand, two hundred and fifty)	[xíla djakósxa penínda (1250)]
This is my first time in Greece.	[íne i próti (1st) forá pú érxome stin eláða]
There are about five thousand people.	[ipárxun perípu pénde xiládes (5000) ánthropi]
I've seen this movie four times.	[éxo dí aftí ti(n) denía téseris (4) forés]
It's November the twelfth.	[íne doδέka (12) noemvríu]
He finished first in the race.	[termátise prótos (1st) ston agóna]
Temperature today will drop to minus 10.	[símera i thermokrasía tha pési stuz míon dēka (-10)]
We will have fifty per cent discount tomorrow.	[ávrio tha éxume ékptosi penínda tis ekató (50%)]
A four-month-old baby.	[éna moró tesáron (4) minón]



You can find more words and phrases on **Numbers** in the Glossary, on page 59 through 60. In the next unit you will learn **HOW TO TELL THE TIME**.

Words: hour(s), minute(s), second(s), past, το, ο' clock, half past, quarter past, quarter to.

If you want to ask or say:

- What time is it?	- It's quarter to one	- It's twenty past three	- It's twenty to four
- It's one o'clock	- It's five past three	- It's twenty-five past three	- It's quarter to four
- It's quarter past one	- It's ten past three	- It's half past three	- It's ten to four
- It's half past one	- It's quarter past three	- It's twenty-five to four	- It's five to four

If you want to say:

hour(s)	[óra] (sing.), [óres] (pl.)	ώρα, ώρες
minute(s)	[leptó] (sing.), [leptá] (pl.)	λεπτό, λεπτά
second	[ðefterólepto] (sing.)	δευτερόλεπτο
seconds	[ðefterólepta] (pl.)	δευτερόλεπτα
past	[kí] [ké]	και
to	[pará]	παρά
o' clock	[akrivós]	ακριβώς
half past	[kí misí]	και μισή
quarter past	[kí tétarto]	και τέταρτο
quarter to	[pará tétarto]	παρά τέταρτο

If you want to ask "What time is it?" you say:

[tí óra íne?]

Τι ώρα είναι;

info

Quiet hours

1st April to 30 September: 15:00-17:30 and 23:00-07:00.

1st October to 31st March: 15:30-17:30 and 22:00-07:30.

info

If you want to find the current local time in Greece, you can go to the [webpage time.is/Greece](http://www.time.is/Greece) or you can dial **14814** from any landline or mobile phone in Greece to get the time, the day of the week and the date.

info

Greece is 7 hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time, 2 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time and 1 hour ahead of Central European Time.

If you want to say "It's one o'clock", you say:

[íne mía akrivós]

Είναι μία ακριβώς

13:00



If you want to say "It's quarter past one", you say:

[íne mía kí tétarto]

Είναι μία και τέταρτο

13:15



If you want to say "It's half past one", you say:

[íne mía kí misí]

Είναι μία και μισή

13:30



If you want to say "It's quarter to one", you say:

[íne mía pará tétarto]

Είναι μία παρά τέταρτο

12:45



- ✓ When we use number "one" (1) [éna] to tell the time in Greek we say [mía] NOT [éna].
For example: It's one o'clock. [íne mía akrivós]
- ✓ When we use number "three" (3) [tría] to tell the time in Greek we say [trís] NOT [tría].
For example: It's three o'clock. [íne trís akrivós]
- ✓ When we use number "four" (4) [tésera] to tell the time in Greek we say [téseris] NOT [tésera].
For example: It's four o'clock. [íne téseris akrivós]

If you want to say "It's five past three", you say:

[íne trís kí pénde]

Είναι τρεις και πέντε

15:05



If you want to say "It's ten past three", you say:

[íne trís kí ðéka]

Είναι τρεις και δέκα

15:10



If you want to say **“It’s quarter past three”**, you say:

[íne trís k̃é tétarto]

Είναι τρεις και τέταρτο

15:15



If you want to say **“It’s twenty past three”**, you say:

[íne trís k̃é íkosi]

Είναι τρεις και είκοσι

15:20



If you want to say **“It’s twenty-five past three”**, you say:

[íne trís k̃é íkosi pénde]

Είναι τρεις και είκοσι πέντε

15:25



If you want to say **“It’s half past three”**, you say:

[íne trís k̃é misí]

Είναι τρεις και μισή

15:30



If you want to say **“It’s twenty-five to four”**, you say:

[íne téseris pará íkosi pénde]

Είναι τέσσερις παρά είκοσι πέντε

15:35



If you want to say **“It’s twenty to four”**, you say:

[íne téseris pará íkosi]

Είναι τέσσερις παρά είκοσι

15:40



When we tell the time we use **[sti]** (for “one”) and **[stis]** (for other numbers) along with the feminine accusative of the cardinal numeral.

For example: “At one.” **[sti mia]** - “At six.” **[stis eksi]**



[pará]: used to tell the minutes before the hour specified (note that the word order is the opposite of that in English).

If you want to say **“It’s quarter to four”**, you say:

[íne téseris pará tétarto]

Είναι τέσσερις παρά τέταρτο

15:45



If you want to say **“It’s ten to four”**, you say:

[íne téseris pará dhéka]

Είναι τέσσερις παρά δέκα

15:50



If you want to say **“It’s five to four”**, you say:

[íne téseris pará pénde]

Είναι τέσσερις παρά πέντε

15:55



In order to determine the time of day we are talking about, we use:

[to prói] in the morning

[to vráði] in the evening

[to mesiméri] at noon

[to apójevma] in the afternoon



It’s twelve.

[íne dhódheka]

It’s twelve o’ clock.

[íne dhódheka akrivós]

It’s twelve noon.

[íne dhódheka to mesiméri]

It’s twelve midnight.

[íne dhódheka ta mesánixta]

It’s midnight.

[íne mesánixta]



a.m.

π. μ. [pró mesimvrías] (before noon)

p.m.

μ. μ. [metá mesimvrían] (after noon)

EXAMPLES

What time is it?

[tí óra íne?]

It’s close to midnight.

[kondévi mesánixta]

What time are we leaving?

[tí óra tha fíyume?]

Around seven.

[katá tis eptá]

I am leaving in half an hour.

[tha fíyo se misí óra]

How long until we get to Athens?

[sé pósi óra tha ftásume stin aθína?]

In 15 minutes.

[se ðekapénde leptá]

Wake me up at 8.

[ksípna me stis oxtó]



You can find more words and phrases on **Telling the time** in the Glossary, on page 60 through 64. In the next unit you will learn **TIME WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS**.

Words and Phrases: *when, never, rarely, always, now, immediately, soon, then, before, a little while ago, shortly, after, later, earlier, until, today, morning, noon, afternoon, evening, night, tonight, yesterday, the day before yesterday, tomorrow, the day after tomorrow, this year, last year, next year.*

If you want to say:

when	[póte], [ótan]	πότε, όταν
never	[poté]	ποτέ
rarely	[spánia]	σπάνια
always	[pánda]	πάντα
now	[tóra]	τώρα
immediately	[amésos]	αμέσως
soon	[síncoma]	σύντομα
then	[tóte]	τότε
before	[prín]	πριν
a little while ago	[prín apó líyo]	πριν από λίγο
shortly	[se líyo]	σε λίγο
after	[metá]	μετά
later	[aryótera]	αργότερα
earlier	[norítera]	νωρίτερα
until	[méchri]	μέχρι
today	[símera]	σήμερα
morning	[proí]	πρωί
noon	[mesiméri]	μεσημέρι
afternoon	[apójevma]	απόγευμα
evening	[vráði]	βράδυ
night	[níxta]	νύχτα
tonight	[apópse]	απόψε
yesterday	[xtés]	χτες
the day before yesterday	[proxtés]	προχτές
tomorrow	[ávrio]	αύριο
the day after tomorrow	[meθávrio]	μεθαύριο
this year	[fétos]	φέτος
last year	[périsi]	πέρυσι
next year	[tu xrónu]	του χρόνου

EXAMPLES

Shall we meet at noon tomorrow?	[na sinandiθúme ávrio stiz δóδεκα to mesiméri?]
Will I see you in the evening?	[θα se δó to vráði?]
I will go shopping in the morning.	[θα páo ja psóña to proí]
I work in the afternoon.	[θulévo to apójevma]
I will be there in a while.	[θα íme ékí se líyo]
Can we talk now?	[borúme ná milísume tóra?]
He left a while ago.	[éfije prín apó líyo]



You can find more words and phrases on **Time words and expressions** in the Glossary, on page 63 through 64. **In the next unit you will learn HOW TO DEFINE THE DATE.**

Words and phrases: AD, BC, date(s), year(s), this year, next year, last year, leap year, decade(s), century(-ies), March 22nd, Tuesday, May 22nd, on January 8, in 2020, in the 21st century, at the beginning of..., in mid-..., at the end of..., by the end of ...

If you want to ask or say: - What is the date today? - Today is... .

If you want to say:

AD	[metá xristú]	μ.Χ. (μετά Χριστού)
BC	[pró xristú]	π.Χ. (προ Χριστού)
date	[imerominía] (sing.)	ημερομηνία
dates	[imerominíes] (pl.)	ημερομηνίες
year(s)	[étos] (sing.), [éti] (pl.)	έτος, έτη
this year	[fétos]	φέτος
next year	[to epómeno étos]	το επόμενο έτος
last year	[to proiyúmeno étos]	το προηγούμενο έτος
leap year	[dísekto étos]	δίσεκτο έτος
decade(s)	[ðekaetía] (sing.), [ðekaetíes] (pl.)	δεκαετία, δεκαετίες
century(-ies)	[eónas] (sing.), [eónes] (pl.)	αιώνας, αιώνες
March 22nd	[íkosi ðío martíu]	είκοσι δύο Μαρτίου
Tuesday, May 22nd	[tríti íkosi ðío maíu]	Τρίτη, είκοσι δύο Μαΐου
On January 8.	[stis októ ianuariú]	Στις οκτώ Ιανουαρίου.
In 2020.	[to ðío xilíades íkosi]	Το δύο χιλιάδες είκοσι.
In the 21st century.	[ton ikostó próto eóna]	Τον εικοστό πρώτο (21 ^ο) αιώνα.
At the beginning of...	[stis arxés tu...]	Στις αρχές του...
In mid-...	[sta mésa tu...]	Στα μέσα του...
At the end of ...	[sta téli tu...]	Στα τέλη του...
By the end of ...	[mékri to télos tu...]	Μέχρι το τέλος του...

If you want to ask “What is the date today?” you say:

[tí imerominía éxume símera?]

Τι ημερομηνία έχουμε σήμερα;



The date in Greek is written in the form of day-month-year.

For example: March 22, 2058 is written 22/3/2058.

If you want to say “Today is... .”, you say:

[símera éxume...]

Σήμερα έχουμε... .

EXAMPLE

Today is the 3rd of December.

[símera éxume trís ðekemvríu]

EXAMPLES

What's the date today?	[tí imerominía éxume símera?]
Today is the 1 st of February.	[símera éxume próti fevruariú]
What was the date yesterday?	[póso íxame xtés?]
It was the 1 st of February yesterday.	[xtés íxame próti fevruariú]
When did you come to Greece?	[póte írthes stin eláða?]
I came to Greece in 2015.	[írtha stin eláða to ðío xilíades ðekapéndē]



You can find more words and phrases on **Dates** in the Glossary, on page 64 through 65. In the next unit you will learn **THE DAYS OF THE WEEK, THE MONTHS OF THE YEAR AND THE ZODIAC SIGNS.**