

Modern Greek Lesson 1


By poursa

Εισαγωγή (Introduction)



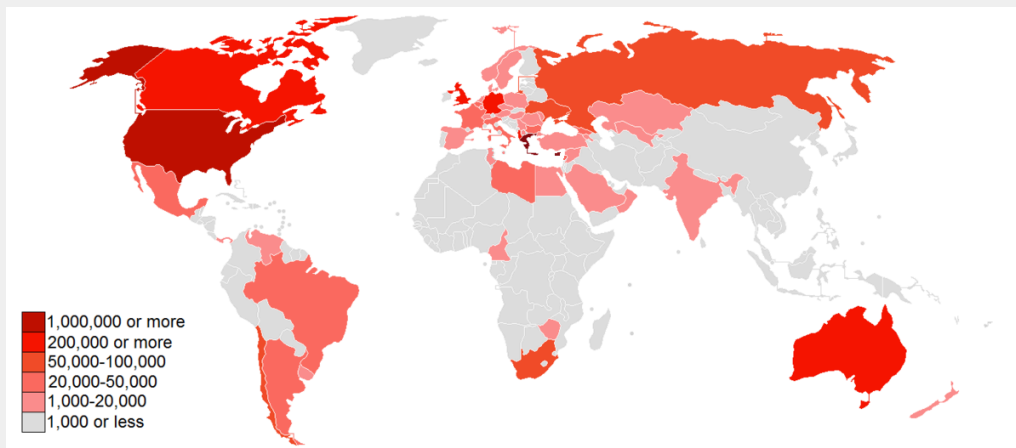
Native Speakers: ~12 million

It is part of the Indo-European language family, but belongs in its own branch.
Unlike English it doesn't have any major sister languages!

Official language in	
	Greece
	Cyprus
	European Union

Recognised minority language in		
 Albania	 Armenia	 Egypt
 Hungary	 Italy	 Romania
 Turkey	 Ukraine	 United States

Heritage Language in countries all over the world!



Dialects: All are declining with each having varying revitalization efforts.

Sidenote!: Modern Greek has been in a state of [Diglossia](#) since the creation of the Greek state up to the 1980's, so you will find various archaic looking phrases and constructions.

In the early level of your studies you may find some weird things going on, but worry not, since you can blame [Katharevousa](#) for most of them.

Το Ελληνικό Αλφάβητο (The Greek Alphabet)

Letters of the alphabet						
Letters	Pronunciation	Name		Letters	Pronunciation	Name
Α α	<u>/a/</u>	άλφα		Ν ν	/n/	νι
Β β	/v/	βήτα		Ξ ξ	/ks/	ξι
Γ γ	<u>/ɣ/</u> , <u>[j]</u> before e,i	γάμα		Ο ο	<u>/o/</u>	όμικρον
Δ δ	<u>/ð/</u>	δέλτα		Π π	/p/	πι
Ε ε	<u>/e/</u>	έψιλον		Ρ ρ	/r/	ρο
Ζ ζ	/z/	ζήτα		Σ σ ς	/s/	σίγμα
Η η	<u>/i/</u>	ήτα		Τ τ	/t/	ταυ
Θ θ	<u>/θ/</u>	θήτα		Υ υ	<u>/i/</u>	ύψιλον
Ι ι	<u>/i/</u>	γιώτα		Φ φ	/f/	φι
Κ κ	/k/, <u>[c]</u> before e,i	κάπα		Χ χ	<u>/x/</u> , <u>[ç]</u> before e,i	χι
Λ λ	/l/	λάμδα		Ψ ψ	/ps/	ψι
Μ μ	/m/	μι		Ω ω	<u>/o/</u>	ωμέγα

Digraphs	
Digraph	Pronunciation
γγ	/g/ , <u>ɟ</u> before e,i* (1)
γκ	/g/ , <u>ɟ</u> before e,i
μπ	/b/
ντ	/d/
τζ	<u>/dz/</u>
γχ	/ŋx/
ευ	ef/ev depending on next consonant
αυ	af/av depending on next consonant
ει	<u>/i/</u>
οι	<u>/i/</u>
αι	<u>/e/</u>
ου	<u>/u/</u>

Rare Digraphs	
Digraph	Pronunciation
■	■
■	■

Stress

α ᾱ	ε Ί	ο ὀ	ω ῶ	ι ῖ	υ ῦ	η ῆ	ευ εὐ	αυ αὐ	ει εῖ	οι οῖ	αι αῖ	ου οὐ
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- Stress is marked with a little diagonal line above the vowel. It shows which vowel of the word is the loud one.
- All words must have a stress mark, unless they only have one syllable.
- To include it in a vowel press the ; key and then the vowel.
- Digraphs are stressed on their second part.

Ανάγνωση(Reading):

νερό - water

παιδί - kid

παμπάς - dad

μαμά - mum

ναι - yes

όχι - no

βιβλίο - book

είμαι - (I) am

αυτό - this

Ευρώπη - Europe

θάλασσα - sea

Επιπλέον λεπτομέρειες(Additional Information):

- 1) Sometimes in compound words the digraph γγ is used to represent the /ny/ sound instead of /g/. For example in the word έγγραφο. So in this case the second gamma keeps the original pronunciation from the Alphabet /γ/, while the first gamma becomes this back n sound like at the end of the word “sing”.
- 2) You can break digraphs by adding a diaeresis above the second letter. For example to say /ai/ you have to write αῖ. You can do this by pressing shift+; and the vowel of your choice.

There are thus a few things you can do with digraphs that I will summarize here.

- **Normal digraphs pronounced as shown in the table:**

i) Not stressed: αι, ευ etc

ii) Stressed (always on the second letter): αῖ, εὖ etc.

- **Broken digraphs:**

i) Not stressed: αῖ, οῖ etc:

ii) Stressed broken digraphs can be stressed in the first or second letter.

If stressed on the first letter¹: ἀῖ, εῦ etc.

If stressed on the second letter²: αῖ, εῦ etc.

3) The consonants /d/ /b/ and /g/ may variably be pronounced with a bit of an n or m before them. So you may occasionally hear /nd/ instead of /d/ , /mb/ instead of /b/ and /ŋg/ instead of /g/

4) Summarized the Vowels are:

/a/ - α

/e/ - ε αι

/i/ - ι η υ ει οι

/o/ - ο ω

/u/ - ου

Απλές Φράσεις(Basic Phrases)

Greek-Ελληνικά	English-Αγγλικά
Γεια	Hello/Bye(informal)
Γεια σου	
Γεια σας	Hello/Bye(formal or plural)
Ευχαριστώ	Thank you

¹ You don't need to write the diaeresis since there is no way it can be a normal digraph to begin with, as they only ever take stress on the second part

² The diaeresis here is added along the stress mark (to do this press Alt Gr+; and the vowel)

Σε ευχαριστώ	Thank you(mildly polite)
Σας ευχαριστώ	Thank you(formal or plural)
Παρακαλώ	You're welcome
Γεια μας	Cheers(toast when drinking)
Καλωσήρθες	Welcome(when welcoming one home)
Καλωσήρθατε	Welcome(formal or plural)
Καλώς σας βρήκα	^ Answer to the above ^
Τι κάνεις;	How are you?
Τι κάνετε;	How are you(plural or formal)
Πώς σε λένε;	What's your name?
Με λένε	My name is...
Από πού είσαι;	Where are you from?
Είμαι από	I am from...
Καλημέρα	Good morning
Καλησπέρα	Good evening/afternoon
Καληνύχτα	Good night
Συγγνώμη (often written Συγγνώμη)	Sorry
Σ' αγαπάω	I love you
Βοήθεια!	Help!

Ασκήσεις(Exercises)

1)Γράψε το όνομά σου στα ελληνικά. - Write your name in Greek

2)Διάβασε τα παρακάτω - Read the following:

Τι κάνεις; Εγώ είμαι πολύ καλά.	How are you? I am very good.
Ο θείος μου είναι στρατιώτης.	My uncle is a soldier.
Είναι πολύ μεγάλη.	She is very big.
Πότε θα έρθεις;	When will you come?
Θέλω να σου δείξω το σπίτι μου.	I want to show you my house.
Αγόρασα μία καινούργια καρέκλα.	I bought a new chair.
Απέναντι είναι ο φούρνος.	The bakery is across the street.
Αφήνω χρήματα πάνω στο γραφείο μου.	I leave money on my desk.

Πηγές(Resources)

Learning Modern Greek discord server's resources channel: <https://discordapp.com/invite/nZQu3f5>

Random papers and books on Modern Greek:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/13dipp3rEuQSEHEYmeGM5Z5awwm5FqF17?usp=sharing>