



Μάθημα πρώτο 1

Το αλφάβητο

In this lesson:

- ▶ The letters α, β, ε, η, ι, κ, λ, μ, ν, ο, σ, ζ, τ, υ, χ, ω
- ▶ The double vowel ει
- ▶ Punctuation marks
- ▶ The auxiliary verb έχω (singular number)
- ▶ The accent ´
- ▶ The definite articles ο, η, το
- ▶ The indefinite articles ένας, μία, ένα

Το αλφάβητο – The alphabet

Φωνήεντα

The Greek alphabet has twenty-four letters. Seven of these are vowels (φωνήεντα):

Α α	pronounced as the letter <i>a</i> in <i>father</i> but shorter
Ε ε	pronounced as the letter <i>e</i> in <i>men, sell, get</i>
Η η Ι ι Υ υ	all three pronounced as the letter <i>i</i> in <i>machine, police</i>
Ο ο Ω ω	both pronounced as the letter <i>o</i> in <i>fortune, not, lot</i>

Σύμφωνα

Seventeen letters are consonants (σύμφωνα):

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

Note: Greek is a phonetic language. This means that words are spelled as they are pronounced. This is much simpler than in English where the spelling of such words as *height, tough, weigh, and dough* cause much difficulty for foreigners. When you see the letter α in γάλα, θάλασσα, καλά, μάνα, you know that it is pronounced like the *a* in *father* because the Greek α is always pronounced that way.



Additional material
and resources:

- ▶ Workbook
- ▶ Text Audio
- ▶ Papaloizos Website:
<http://www.greek123.com>

Προφορά

Pronunciation of the letters χ, τ, κ, σ:

- ♦ X χ is pronounced as the letter *h* in *hat, hit*.

χα χε χι χη χο χφ χω

- ♦ T τ as the letter *t* in *to, it, Tom, top*.

το τι τε τη τα τυ τω

- ♦ K κ as the letter *c* or *k* in the words *cake, cook, king*.

κα κο κι κε κω κη



Alphabet introduction
reinforced
with Audio Program



Simple letter
pronunciation reinforced
with Audio Program



Simple letter
pronunciation reinforced
with Audio Program

When to use
double vowels

Using proper
pronunciation

♦ Σ σ ζ pronounced as the letter *s* in the words *this, us, soon, mouse*.

This σ is used at the beginning and in the middle of words:

σα σο σι σε σω ση

This ζ is used only at the end of the words:

ας ος ις ες ως ης ις

Capital Σ is used in all positions: σεισμός, ΣΕΙΣΜΟΣ.

Δίψηφα φωνήεντα - ει

A *double vowel* is a combination of two vowels pronounced as one.

ει is one of the double vowels. It is a combination of the two vowels *ε* and *ι*. It is pronounced as the letter *i* in the words *machine, police*. (Same pronunciation as the other three: *ι, η, υ*.)

Σημεία στίξης

Some of the Greek *punctuation marks* are similar to English punctuation, and some are different. The comma, period, and exclamation mark are written as in English. The question mark is written as the English semi-colon: ;

	GREEK	ENGLISH
κόμμα	,	,
τελεία	.	.
θαυμαστικό	!	!
ερωτηματικό	;	?

Έχω

The verb *I have*, singular number, present tense.

I HAVE	
έχω	<i>I have</i>
έχεις	<i>you have</i>
έχει	<i>he, she, it has</i>

Note: To form the question of a verb use the question mark after the verb and change the tone of your voice.

Έχω;	<i>Do I have?</i>
Έχεις;	<i>Do you have?</i>
Έχει;	<i>Does he/she/it have?</i>

Τι;
έχω
κάτι

What?
I have
something

Τι έχω;
Έχω κάτι.

What do I have?
I have something.

Ο τόνος

The accented syllable receives a mark ' called acute (*accent - τόνος*). Words starting with a capital letter take the accent on the side and near the top of the letter: Έχω.

Monosyllabic words (words of one syllable) do not receive an accent. There are a few exceptions which you will learn later in this course.

Verb introduction
and practice

Ανάγνωση

Practice reading these words:



ε-κει	εκεί	there	κα-κό	κακό	bad
τύ-χη	τύχη	fortune	κά-τω	κάτω	down
τό-τε	τότε	then	κό-τα	κότα	chicken
σά-κα	σάκα	book bag	σύ-κο	σύκο	fig

Τα γράμματα - β, λ, μ, ν

Pronunciation of the letters β, λ, μ, ν.

♦ **Β β** as the letter *v* in *victory, voice, vase*.

βα	βε	βι	βο	βη	βει	βω	βυ
Βα	Βε	Βι	Βο	Βη	Βει	Βω	Βυ

♦ **Λ λ** as the letter *l* in *lemon*.

λο	λε	λει	λα	λι	λω	λη	λυ
Λο	Λε	Λει	Λα	Λι	Λω	Λη	Λυ

♦ **Μ μ** as the letter *m* in *mother, me*.

μο	μι	μά	με	μη	μει	μω	μυ
Μο	Μι	Μα	Με	Μη	Μει	Μω	Μυ

♦ **Ν ν** as the letter *n* in *now, new, none*.

νο	ον	ιν	νι	αν	να	εν	νε
Νο	Ον	Ιν	Νι	Αν	Να	Εν	Νε

Ανάγνωση

Practice reading these words:



λε-μό-νι	λεμόνι	lemon	βι-βλί-ο	βιβλίο	book
μή-νας	μήνας	month	Νί-κος	Νίκος	Nick
μό-νος	μόνος	alone	Νί-κη	Νίκη	Niki
μο-λύ-βι	μολύβι	pencil	Άν-να	Άννα	Ann, Anna
μα-μά	μαμά	mother			

Γραμματική – Grammar

1. The genders

Greek has three genders: **αρσενικό** (masculine), **θηλυκό** (feminine), and **ουδέτερο** (neuter). Gender can be natural (male or female) or grammatical (based on the article, definite or indefinite) which accompanies the word.

2. The articles

DEFINITE ARTICLES		INDEFINITE ARTICLES	
masculine	ο - the	masculine	ένας - a, an, one
feminine	η - the	feminine	μία - a, an, one
neuter	το - the	neuter	ένα - a, an, one

Note: **ένας, μία, ένα** are also numeral adjectives for *one*.

Lesson reading and translations using only letters learned

Grammar study

Simple letter pronunciation reinforced with Audio Program

Grammar explanation

- ♦ Names of *males* and of *ivers, winds* and *months* are masculine.

ο άντρας	man	masculine
ο Νείλος	Nile	river (masculine)
ο Ζέφυρος	Zephyr	wind (m.)
ο Ιανουάριος	January	month (m.)

- ♦ Names of *females* and of *countries, towns, trees* and *islands* and most nouns denoting *qualities* or *conditions* are feminine.

η γυναίκα	woman	feminine
η Ελλάδα	Greece	country (feminine)
η Αθήνα	Athens	city (f.)
η μηλιά	apple tree	name of tree (f.)
η Κρήτη	Crete	name of island (f.)
η καλωσύνη	kindness	indicates quality (f.)
η ευτυχία	happiness	indicates condition (f.)

- ♦ Things can be of any gender: masculine, feminine and neuter.

ο ουρανός	sky	masculine
η θάλασσα	sea	feminine
το βιβλίο	book	neuter
το κορίτσι	girl	neuter

Note: Proper nouns are preceded by the corresponding article:

ο Νίκος	Nick	η Νίκη	Niki
η Άννα	Ann	ο Τάσος	Tasos

Ανάγνωση

Practice reading:

Έχω ένα βιβλίο.
Έχω το βιβλίο.
Έχεις ένα μολύβι;
Έχεις το μολύβι;
Έχει ένα βιβλίο.
Έχει το βιβλίο.

Ο Νίκος έχει το μολύβι.
Η Άννα έχει το βιβλίο.
Τι έχει ο Νίκος;

I have a (one) book.
I have the book.
Do you have a pencil?
Do you have the pencil?
He/she has a book.
He/she has the book.

Nick has the pencil.
Ann has the book.
What does Nick have?

Ο Νίκος έχει ένα μολύβι.
Τι έχει η Άννα;
Η Άννα έχει ένα βιβλίο.



Ο Νίκος έχει ένα μολύβι.

Nick has a pencil.
What does Ann have?
Ann has a book.



Η Άννα έχει ένα βιβλίο και ένα μολύβι.

Ασκήσεις – Exercises

- 1.1 **Μεταφράστε.** Give the Greek translation.

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| 1. he has | 3. you have |
| 2. she has | 4. I have |

- 1.2 **Τα άρθρα.** Give the three definite articles and a word with each of the articles.

- 1.3 **Αναγνωρίστε.** Identify in Greek the people and as many objects as you can.



Lesson reading using
only letters and words
already taught



Τώρα στην Ελλάδα:

Greece

Greece (Ελλάδα) is a small country with a land mass of 51,000 square miles (132,000 square kilometers) and a population of about 12 million. It has a parliamentary republic government, and has been part of the European Union since 1981. The country's capital is Athens, its currency is the Euro, and the official

theast Europe borders Albania, ria to the north, to the east. It is Aegean Sea in and the Ionian country boasts 000 miles long, 0 islands through- out both seas (although only 200 are actually inhabited). It is no surprise, therefore, that maritime industry is an important aspect of the Greek capitalist economy.

The Greek terrain is mountainous: 80 percent of the land is covered by mountains. There are few valleys, plains or rivers. The *climate* (κλίμα) is mild; most of the time, the sky is clear blue and the view of the sea is enchanting.

Considered the cradle of Western civilization, Greece is the birthplace of not only democracy, but also Western philosophy, Western literature, political science and drama. The *Olympic Games* (Ολυμπιακοί αγώνες) also originated in Ancient Greece.

Greece is visited by tourists from all over the world. *People* (άνθρωποι) travel to Greece for the breathtaking landscapes and the historical sites. One of the most famous Greek tourist attractions is the Acropolis, which is home to the legendary Parthenon.

In Greece people say *Καλωσορίσατε στην Ελλάδα* - Welcome to Greece!



Ένας μικρός διάλογος



Πώς σε λένε;

What do they call you?

Με λένε ...

They call me ...

➤ Νίκο, Γιάννη, Ελένη, Άννα.

➤ *Nick, John, Helen, Anna.*

Πώς είσαι;

How are you?

Είμαι καλά, ευχαριστώ.

I am well, thank you.

At the present time, you will not be able to read the dialogues in Lessons 1 to 5. You can practice reading them with the audio or video.



Watch a video of this dialogue

➤ Papaloizos Website: <http://www.greek123.com>



Ασκήσεις – Exercises

1.4 Πώς σε λένε; Walk around the classroom to meet your classmates. Introduce yourself and then ask them what their names are.

Example

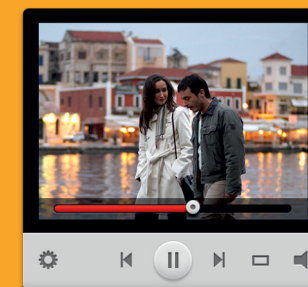
Με λένε Στάυρο. Πώς σε λένε; (you say)

➤ Με λένε Γιάννη. (your classmate answers)

Speaking practice with everyday dialogues



Speaking section is also live action video filmed in Greece!



Speaking practice

Experience the Greek Heritage™ through culture sections in every lesson