

Modern Greek for Beginners I

Dr Pappas
Handout 14

I don't know nothing. Although English does not allow for double negation, double negation is standard in Greek

Δεν ξέρω τίποτα
Δεν θέλω τίποτα

Ordinal Numbers are adjectives in Greek. Here are the first ten numbers

πρώτος, η, ο	first
δεύτερος, η, ο	second
τρίτος, η, ο	third
τέταρτος, η, ο	fourth
πέμπτος, η, ο	fifth
έκτος, η, ο	sixth
έβδομος, η, ο	seventh
όγδοος, η, ο	eighth
ένατος, η, ο	ninth
δέκατος, η, ο	tenth

The distinction between who and what

The word for who (when used in questions) is ποιος ποια ποιο and it behaves like any other adjective.

The word for what is τι and has no other forms

The following lists provide the forms for the Greek pronouns, the equivalent of words like I, you, he, etc. As you can see, the pronouns have full and reduced forms. The reduced forms are the ones used most commonly whereas the full forms are used for emphasis.

Nom Gen Acc Voc	εγώ ---- μου εμένα με	εσύ ---- σου εσένα σε	αυτός αυτού του αυτό το	αυτή αυτής της αυτή τη	αυτό αυτού του αυτό το
Nom Gen Acc Voc	εμείς ---- μας εμάς μας	εσείς ---- σας εσάς σας	αυτοί αυτών τους αυτούς τους	αυτές αυτών τους αυτές τις	αυτά αυτών τους αυτά τα

Full pronouns can come before or after the verb. Reduced pronouns come before the verb (99% of the time). The genitive when it is used as a possessive pronoun comes after the noun.

Ξέρει εμένα
Με ξέρει
Το βιβλίο μου

Practice

You were buying a book
You were buying it
We used to see George and Helen
We used to see them
I want the ice cream
I want it
I don't want them
Do you and your friend like Greece?
My mother does not know her
How do they call you?
Who are you?
Whom do you see?

Phrases of the day

τη βρίσκω	I find her	I am enjoying myself
τα έχω φτύσει	I have spit them	I am exhausted
τα έχεις παίξει;	Have you played them?	Are you nuts?

Culture

Today is Τσικνοπέμπτη. The word means "Thursday that smells like meat" because people have a huge party and eat lots of meat since on Monday Greek Orthodox lent Σαρακοστή begins, and they will fast. Monday March 10, the first day of Σαρακοστή is called Clean Monday Καθαρά Δευτέρα. This weekend is called Αποκριά "Carnival", as we give up meat. Next weekend is called Τυροφάγου, because only dairy is allowed. Both weekends there are carnival celebrations. The greatest celebration takes place in Patra a city on the west of Peloponisos. It's a three day party that resembles Mardi Grass in every possible aspect.

PS The Greek Orthodox Church does not always celebrate Easter on the same **date** as the Catholic and Protestant countries. The reason is that the Orthodox Church uses the Julian calendar when calculating Easter. This is case even in the churches that otherwise use the Gregorian calendar. When the Greek Orthodox Church in 1923 decided to change to the Gregorian calendar (or rather: a Revised Julian Calendar), they chose to use the astronomical full moon as seen along the meridian of Jerusalem as the basis for calculating Easter, rather than to use the "official" full moon.