

Modern Greek
Beginners I

Dr. Pappas

Lecture 1

Greetings

-Καλημέρα.

Good morning

Kalimera

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Good morning

Kalimera

-Πώς σε λένε;

What is your name? (literally, what do they call you?)

Pos se lene?

-Με λένε Παναγιώτη.

My name is Panayiotis (they call me Panayioti)

Me lene Panayioti

-Από που είσαι;

Where are you from?

Apo pu ise?

-Είμαι από τη Θάσο.

I am from Thasos

Ime apo ti Thaso

Other Greeting words and phrases

καλησπέρα

kalispera

good evening

καλό μεσημέρι

kalo mesimeri

good afternoon

γεια σου

gia su

hello

γεια χαρά

gia khara

hi (very casual)

Idiom of the day

Έχω κέφι.

Exo kefi I am in good spirits

Δεν έχω κέφι.

Dhen exo kefi. I am feeling blue

Notes

Pronunciation Characteristics of Greek vowels and consonants

Consonants (bold = voicing)			
	lips	teeth	top of mouth
no air	p- b	t- d	k- g
air	f- v	th- dh	kh- gh
whistling		s- z	
nasal	m	n	
side of tongue		l	
tip of tongue		r	
combinations	ps	ts- tz	ks

Vowels

i

u

e

o

a

**Although Greek vowels are fewer in number than English ones there are more than one ways to write each vowel. This makes Greek spelling tricky.

The Accent. The Greek accent lets us know which syllable to stress. For the most part words that have one syllable do not receive an accent. The accent is a crucial part of Greek spelling and must not be omitted, or placed incorrectly. The accent can only be placed over a vowel letter, and if the vowel is represented by two letters on the second letter in the combination. Capital letters are only accentuated at the beginning of a word, never if something is written in 'all-caps.'

Correct	Wrong	Correct	Wrong	Correct	Wrong
Θάσος	Θασός	παίζω	πάιζω	Έχω	ΕΧΩ