

# Greek language

And some beautiful greek words

MARIA MYRILLA 21 NOE 2018 19:39

MARIA MYRILLA 30 NOE 2018 07:55

## Greek at a glance

- **Native name:** ελληνικά (elinika)
- **Linguistic affiliation:** Indo-European, Hellenic
- **Number of speakers:** c. 13 million
- **Spoken in:** Mostly in Greece and Cyprus
- **First written:** 1500 BC
- **Writing systems:** Linear B, Cypriot syllabary, Greek alphabet
- **Status:** official language of Greece, an official language of Cyprus, officially recognized as a minority language in parts of Italy, and in Albania, Armenia, Romania and Ukraine.

MARIA MYRILLA 30 NOE 2018 07:43

## The Greek alphabet

Α α	Β β	Γ γ	Δ δ	Ε ε	Ζ ζ	Η η	Θ θ
άλφα	βήτα	γάμμα	δέλτα	έψιλον	ζήτα	ήτα	θήτα
alpha	beta	gamma	delta	epsilon	zeta	eta	theta
a	b	g/y	d	ē	z	ē	th
[a]	[v]	[ɣ~j/ŋ~ɲ]	[ð]	[e]	[z]	[i]	[θ]
Ι ι	Κ κ	Λ λ	Μ μ	Ν ν	Ξ ξ	Ο ο	Π π
ιώτα	κάππα	λάμδα	μυ	νυ	ξι	όμικρον	πι
iota	kappa	lambda	mu	nu	xi	omikron	pi
i	k	l	m	n	ks/x	o	p
[i/j/ɲ]	[k~c]	[l]	[m]	[n]	[ks]	[o]	[p]
Ρ ρ	Σ σ/ς	Τ τ	Υ υ	Φ φ	Χ χ	Ψ ψ	Ω ω
ρώ	σίγμα	ταυ	ύψιλον	φι	χι	ψι	ωμέγα
rho	sigma	tau	upsilon	phi	hi	psi	omega
r/rh	s	t	u/y	ph	kh/ch	ps	ō
[r]	[s~z]	[t]	[i]	[f]	[x~ç]	[ps]	[o]

MARIA MYRILLA 30 NOE 2018 07:24

## μεράκι (me-ra-kee) / passion or absolute devotion

One of the hardest words to translate, to do something with *meraki* means to put “a part of your soul” into what you’re doing. The root of this word is *merak*, a Turkish word borrowed from Arabic, which has various meanings, including “intense love and care for something, especially an activity”.

MARIA MYRILLA 30 NOE 2018 07:30

## αγάπη (a-ga-pee) / love

In ancient Greek, there are many different words for love. *Agapi* is considered to be the love a husband and a wife have for one another, or the love that unites parents and their children, or even Christians to God. The modern Greek word *έρωτας* (*erotas*) usually means intimate love, which has a romantic or sexual nature, whereas *φιλία* (*filia*) refers to affection and friendship.

MARIA MYRILLA 30 NOE 2018 07:31

## φιλότιμο (fi-lo-tee-mo) / self-sacrifice

One of the hardest to translate Greek words, *filotimo* is the concept of putting others (or the greater good) before yourself. It involves a sense of courage, self-sacrifice, and honor. In short, doing something with *filotimo* means you are doing something right and honorable even if it is against your own interests.

MARIA MYRILLA 30 NOE 2018 07:31

## ψυχή (psee-hee) / soul

The word *psyhi*, which gave the English word *psyche*, comes from the ancient Greek verb *ψύχω* (*psycho*, to blow) and means spirit. It is connected to *Psyche*, the heroine of the myth *Eros and Psyche*, a love story where the two lovers have to overcome a series of obstacles standing in the way of their union. The story has often been interpreted as an allegory for the soul redeeming itself through love.

MARIA MYRILLA 30 NOE 2018 07:31

## νοσταλγία (nos-tal-gee-a) / nostalgia, homesickness

The word *nostalgia* which gives *nostalgia* or *nostalgic* in English is a compound word. It is the combination of the ancient Greek word *nostos*, which means return home or homecoming and the word *algos*, a Homeric Greek (a literary language) word which means ache, pain. *Algos* serves as the root for the English word *analgesic*, which is formed with the *an-* (without) + *algos* (pain).

MARIA MYRILLA 30 NOE 2018 07:31

## αιώνια (e-o-nia) / eternity

This word comes from the ancient Greek word *aion*, which means epoch. In English, it has give us the word eon, which means an indefinite or long period of time, or which designates one of the largest division of geologic time. In astronomy, eon is the equivalent of one billion years.

MARIA MYRILLA 30 NOE 2018 07:31

## ευτυχία (ef-tee-hee-a) / happiness

This word is composed of the root eu-, which means good and τύχη (*tyhi*) meaning luck or good fortune. The word also translates to mean contentment, which some might say is the truest form of happiness.

MARIA MYRILLA 30 NOE 2018 07:31

## ίριδα (ee-ree-da) / iris

The modern Greek word *irida* comes from Iris, the goddess of the rainbow which connects heaven to earth. It is said that she had beautiful wings and a coat of many colors, which would leave a trace when she would carry a message from the gods of Mount Olympus to earth. Her name later gave the meaning to the word rainbow in ancient Greek, from which the English word iridescent derives.

MARIA MYRILLA 30 NOE 2018 07:31

## υγεία (ee-yee-a) / health

The Greek word *ygeia* is connected to Hygieia or Hygeia, the goddess of good health, cleanliness, and sanitation. The word has given us the word hygiene, which is connected to the concept of cleanliness, health and medicine. The greeting formula used in modern Greek “Geia sou/geia sas” literally means “Your health” and was used as a way to wish someone well before it became a colloquial form of greeting.

MARIA MYRILLA 30 NOE 2018 07:31

## χαρμολύπη (char-mo-lee-pee) / joyful mourning, sweet sorrow

Charmolipi is actually a compound word. Composed of the word joy and sorrow or sadness, it is one of the tough Greek

words that cannot be translated literally, but it conveys the idea of having mixed feelings about something.

MARIA MYRILLA 30 NOE 2018 07:31

## ελπίδα (el-pee-da) / hope

*Elpida* comes from the ancient Greek *ἐλπίς* (*elpis*), which, in Greek mythology, was the personification of hope, often depicted as a young woman. Nowadays, Elpida, just like Hope, is a common name for women.

MARIA MYRILLA 30 NOE 2018 09:18

## Useful words...

GREEK	ENGLISH	MEANING
ναι	né	yes
όχι	ohi	no
ευχαριστώ	efharisto	thank you
παρακαλώ	parakalo	please / you are welcome
καλημέρα	kalimera	good morning
καλησπέρα	kalispera	good evening
καληνύχτα	kalinihta	good night
γεια σου	yiassou	hello and goodbye (to one person / informal)
γεια σας	yiassass	hello and goodbye (to many people / formal)
αντίο	adjo	goodbye
μπύρα	bjira	beer
κρασί	krassi	wine
νερό	nero	water
φαγητό	fagito	food
γεια μας	yiamaas	cheers! (= to our health)
τουαλέτα / μπάνιο	toualeta / banio	toilet
χαρτί	harti	toilet paper
παραλία	paralia	beach
θάλασσα	thalassa	sea
φαρμακείο	farmakio	pharmacy

\*\*\*\*\*