GR

LANGUAGE COURSE

Greek Grammar 1

12 Chapters

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Generated with Claude

GREEK GRAMMAR 1

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🧩 How Greek Works — Πώς λειτουργεί η ελληνική γλώσσα

*You have already used a lot of Greek in the Alphabet and Basic courses. This course goes back over it **by rule**, so the pieces fit together. This first chapter is the map: what Greek does differently from English, why its words change their endings, and how to read the examples in the rest of the course. Every Greek word of two or more syllables carries its stress mark; there is no English respelling except where a sound is being taught and in vocabulary lists.*

THE RULE IN ONE BOX

Greek has **articles** (*ο, η, το* for "the"; *ένας, μία, ένα* for "a") and every noun has one of **three genders**: masculine, feminine or neuter. The article and the noun change their **endings** to show the word's job in the sentence. These endings come in four sets called **cases**: nominative, genitive, accusative and vocative. There is **no dative**: its jobs are done by the genitive or by *σε* + accusative. Because the endings show who does what to whom, the word order can be more flexible than in English.

Articles and three genders

Unlike Russian, Greek does have articles, and the article is the most reliable case signal there is. You learn each noun **with its article**, because the article shows the gender at once.

GENDER	"THE"	"A"	EXAMPLE
masculine	**ο**	**ένας**	**ο φίλος**, **ένας φίλος** (a male friend)
feminine	**η**	**μία** (also *μια*)	**η φίλη**, **μια φίλη** (a female friend)
neuter	**το**	**ένα**	**το παιδί**, **ένα παιδί** (a child)

Watch out: no plural "a"

> There is no plural of *ένας, μία, ένα*. "Friends" is simply *φίλοι*; "the friends" is *οι φίλοι*. The plural forms come in Chapters 4 to 6.

The present of *to be* is there

Where Russian leaves out *to be* in the present, Greek keeps it: the verb **είμαι** is used in full. Note that its past forms do **not** change for the speaker's gender (unlike Russian).

PERSON	PRESENT	PAST	FUTURE
I	**είμαι**	**ήμουν**	**θα είμαι**
you (singular, informal)	**είσαι**	**ήσουν**	**θα είσαι**
he / she / it	**είναι**	**ήταν**	**θα είναι**
we	**είμαστε**	**ήμασταν**	**θα είμαστε**
you (plural or formal)	**είστε**	**ήσασταν**	**θα είστε**
they	**είναι**	**ήταν**	**θα είναι**

GREEK	ENGLISH
Είμαι φοιτητής.	I am a student. (a man speaking)
Είμαι φοιτήτρια.	I am a student. (a woman speaking: the noun changes, not the verb)
Χθες ήμουν στο σπίτι.	Yesterday I was at home. (anyone speaking)
Αύριο θα είμαστε στην Αθήνα.	Tomorrow we will be in Athens.

Endings do the work: word order and cases

In English, *Kostas loves Maria* and *Maria loves Kostas* mean different things, and only the order tells you which. In Greek the **article and the ending** show who loves whom, so the order can change without changing the meaning.

GREEK	ENGLISH	WHAT SHOWS WHO IS WHO
Ο Κώστας αγαπάει τη Μαρία.	Kostas loves Maria.	*Ο* marks Kostas as the subject; *τη* marks Maria as the object.
Τη Μαρία αγαπάει ο Κώστας.	Kostas loves Maria. (the same meaning)	The order changed, the articles did not.
Η Μαρία αγαπάει τον Κώστα.	Maria loves Kostas.	Now *η* is the subject and *τον* marks the object.

Word order is not *completely* free. The usual order is subject, verb, object, and a speaker moves a word to the front to stress it or to the end to give new information. Where the article cannot tell subject from object (see below), the order matters again.

GREEK	ENGLISH	EFFECT
Το βιβλίο είναι στο τραπέζι.	The book is on the table.	The book is already known, so it comes first.
Στο τραπέζι είναι ένα βιβλίο.	On the table there is a book.	New information comes last.

The four cases at a glance

A **case** is a set of endings that shows a word's job in the sentence. Modern Greek has four. The course teaches them in this order: nominative and accusative first (Chapter 7), then genitive (Chapter 8) and vocative (Chapter 9). The highlighted part is the word or ending that carries the case; here the noun is **ο φίλος** ("the friend").

CASE	GREEK NAME	QUESTIONS	MAIN JOBS	EXAMPLE
Nominative	**ονομαστική**	ποιος; τι;	the subject; the dictionary form	**Ο φίλος μένει εδώ.** The friend lives here.
Genitive	**γενική**	ποιανού; τίνος;	"of"; possession; the person receiving	**Το σπίτι του φίλου.** The friend's house.
Accusative	**αιτιατική**	ποιον; τι;	direct object; after most prepositions	**Βλέπω τον φίλο.** I see the friend.
Vocative	**κλητική**	(calling someone)	addressing a person directly	**Γεια σου, φίλε!** Hello, my friend!

One noun of each gender in all four cases

The singular is shown here, with the article. The plural comes in the chapters that follow.

CASE	MASCULINE: Φ'ΙΛΟΣ	FEMININE: Φ'ΙΛΗ	NEUTER: ΠΑΙΔ'Ι
Nominative	**ο φίλος**	**η φίλη**	**το παιδί**
Genitive	**του φίλου**	**της φίλης**	**του παιδιού**
Accusative	**τον φίλο**	**τη(ν) φίλη**	**το παιδί**
Vocative	**φίλε**	**φίλη**	**παιδί**

Watch out: forms that look the same

In the **neuter**, the nominative and accusative are always identical (*το παιδί*), and in the **feminine** the nouns usually look the same in both cases too; only the article shows the difference (*η φίλη* against *τη φίλη*). The vocative is often the same as the nominative (*φίλη*, *παιδί*), with a special ending

for many masculine nouns (*φίλος → φίλε*). When the form does not tell you, the **article**, the **verb** or the **word order** does. That is why this course teaches each noun with its article.

A note on the final -ν

The accusative article *την* keeps its final *-ν* before a vowel and before *κ, π, τ* and a few other sounds (*την Κυριακή*), and drops it before other consonants (*τη Μαρία*). The masculine *τον* and *έναν* are normally written with the *-ν* every time (*τον Κώστα, τον φίλο*). This is why you see *τη* in some examples and *τον* in others. Chapter 3 gives the full rule; for now, just notice it.

Where did the dative go?

Ancient Greek had a dative, and some set expressions still remember it. In everyday Modern Greek its jobs are done in two ways, and you have already met both in the Basic courses.

JOB	HOW GREEK DOES IT	EXAMPLE
"to" a person or place	**σε** + accusative	**Δίνω το βιβλίο στον Κώστα.** (I give the book to Kostas.)
"to" with a weak pronoun	genitive pronoun	**Του δίνω το βιβλίο.** (I give him the book.)
"of", possession	genitive	**Το βιβλίο της Μαρίας.** (Maria's book.)

Here *στον* and *στη* are *σε* joined with *τον* and *την*, and *στο* is *σε* + *το*. Chapter 10 covers these joined forms.

What changes and what does not

WORD TYPE	CHANGES BY CASE?	EXAMPLE
articles	yes	**ο, του, τον**
nouns	yes	**φίλος, φίλου, φίλο, φίλε**

WORD TYPE	CHANGES BY CASE?	EXAMPLE
pronouns	yes	**εγώ, μου, με**
adjectives (they agree with the noun)	yes	Greek Grammar 2
numerals	some do (*ένας, τρεις* do; *δύο* does not)	Greek Grammar 2
verbs	no: they change by person, tense and voice	**διαβάζω, διαβάζεις** (Greek Grammar 3)
adverbs, conjunctions	no	**εδώ, καλά, και, αλλά**
prepositions	no, and most take the accusative	see below

Prepositions mostly take the accusative

This is much simpler than in Russian: the common prepositions are followed by the accusative. The genitive appears with a few written-style prepositions, taught later.

PREPOSITION	CASE	EXAMPLE
σε (to, in, at)	accusative	**στο σπίτι** (at home, to the house)
από (from, by)	accusative	**από τον Κώστα** (from Kostas)
με (with)	accusative	**με τη Μαρία** (with Maria)
για (for, about)	accusative	**για τον Πέτρο** (for Petros)
χωρίς (without)	accusative	**χωρίς ζάχαρη** (without sugar)

Where you have met cases already

The Basic courses taught many case forms inside situations: the articles in *στο σπίτι* and *στην Αθήνα*, the genitive of possession, the weak pronouns *μου, σου, του*, and the accusative after *για, με* and *από*. See Greek Basic Conversation 1, Greek Basic Conversation 2, Greek Basic

Conversation 3 and Greek Basic Conversation 4 for those dialogs; each chapter here covers the same forms by rule.

How this course writes its examples

WHAT YOU SEE	WHAT IT MEANS
σπίτι, φίλος	The stress mark (an acute accent) on every word of two or more syllables. In Modern Greek spelling it is part of the word.
και, με, ο	One-syllable words carry no mark (a few, such as *πού* and *πώς*, keep one to tell them from other words).
a **coloured** word or ending	The part that shows the case.
(English in brackets) or a second line	The meaning of the example.

Words in this chapter

GREEK	SAY IT	ENGLISH
ο φίλος	FEE-lohs	friend (male)
η φίλη	FEE-lee	friend (female)
το παιδί	peh-DEE	child
ο αδελφός	ah-dehl-FOHS	brother
η αδελφή	ah-dehl-FEE	sister
η μαμά	mah-MAH	mum
το βιβλίο	vee-VLEE-oh	book
το σπίτι	SPEE-tee	house, home

GREEK	SAY IT	ENGLISH
ο γιατρός	yah-TROHS	doctor
ο φοιτητής	fee-tee-TEES	student (male)
η φοιτήτρια	fee-TEE-tree-ah	student (female)
το πανεπιστήμιο	pah-neh-pee-STEE-mee-oh	university
η πρωτεύουσα	proh-TEH-voo-sah	capital city

🗣️ In Use — Στην πράξη

Read the exchanges aloud. Notice that είμαι is used in the present, and that the articles show who is who.

① Who is this?

A: Ποιος είναι αυτός;
Who is he?

B: Είναι ο αδελφός μου. Είναι φοιτητής.
He is my brother. He is a student.

A: Και αυτή;
And who is she?

B: Είναι η αδελφή μου. Είναι γιατρός.
She is my sister. She is a doctor.

② Where, and what about?

A: Πού είσαι;
Where are you?

B: Είμαι στο σπίτι. Διαβάζω ένα βιβλίο για την Ελλάδα.
I am at home. I am reading a book about Greece.

A: Είναι ενδιαφέρον;
Is it interesting?

B: Ναι, πολύ.
Yes, very.

③ Yesterday

A: Πού ήσουν χθες;
Where were you yesterday?

B: Ήμουν στο πανεπιστήμιο. Κι εσύ;

I was at the university. And you?

A: Ήμουν στο σπίτι.

I was at home.

📋 Quick Reference — Σύνοψη

TOPIC	SUMMARY
articles	definite *ο, η, το*; indefinite *ένας, μία, ένα*; no plural of "a"
gender	masculine, feminine, neuter; learn each noun with its article
present of *to be*	used: *είμαι, είσαι, είναι, είμαστε, είστε, είναι*; past *ήμουν, ήσουν, ήταν* …; future *θα είμαι* …
word order	usually subject, verb, object; articles and endings let it change; new information tends to come last
cases	four: nominative, genitive, accusative, vocative; no dative
dative jobs	*σε* + accusative, or the genitive
what changes	articles, nouns, pronouns, adjectives, some numerals
what does not	verbs (they conjugate), adverbs, conjunctions, prepositions
prepositions	the common ones take the accusative
forms that look the same	neuter nominative = accusative; the article shows the case
stress	marked on every word of two or more syllables

🖍️ Try It Yourself — Ασκήσεις

Say or write the answer first, then click to check.

1. In *Ο Κώστας αγαπάει τη Μαρία*, which word is the subject, and how do you know?

▼ Show answer

Κώστας: it has the nominative article *ο*. *Μαρία* has *τη*, the accusative article, so it is the object.

2. Translate *Είμαι φοιτήτρια*. Does the verb tell you the speaker's gender?

▼ Show answer

"I am a student." No: the verb *είμαι* is the same for everyone. The noun *φοιτήτρια* (feminine) shows a woman is speaking.

3. Say "I was at home." Is there a different form for a man and a woman?

▼ Show answer

Ήμουν στο σπίτι. No, the form is the same for both.

4. Say "Tomorrow I will be at home."

▼ Show answer

Αύριο θα είμαι στο σπίτι.

5. Give the article and the form of *φίλος* for "I see the friend."

▼ Show answer

Βλέπω τον φίλο. (accusative: *τον φίλο*)

6. Which case is *της Μαρίας* in *Το βιβλίο της Μαρίας*?

▼ Show answer

Genitive (possession): "Maria's book".

7. Modern Greek has no dative. How would you say "I give the book to Maria"?

▼ Show answer

Δίνω το βιβλίο στη Μαρία. (σε + accusative, joined as στη)

8. Why can *το παιδί* be a subject or an object, and how do you tell?

▼ Show answer

Neuter nouns look the same in the nominative and the accusative. The verb, the context and the word order show the job.

9. What is the vocative of *φίλος* in *Γεια σου, ...!*?

▼ Show answer

φίλε: *Γεια σου, φίλε!*

10. Which case follows *με* in *με τη Μαρία*?

▼ Show answer

The accusative (*τη Μαρία*). The common prepositions take the accusative.

Not Yet Verified

Checked (one web search on 2026-11-20): that Modern Greek has four cases (nominative, genitive, accusative, vocative) and no morphological dative; that the genitive (and in some northern dialects the accusative) takes over the dative's jobs; that neuter nouns have the same nominative and accusative; that many feminine nouns look the same in the two cases, so the article shows the difference; and the singular article paradigm ο/του/τον, η/της/την, το/του/το (sources: universaldependencies.org: Greek case, elon.io: Greek cases overview, polyglotclub.com: the cases in Modern Greek, from search results only, the pages themselves were not read in full).
Not checked, from general knowledge: the present, past and future of *είμαι*; the plural-less *ένας, μία, ένα*; the declension of *φίλος, φίλη, παιδί* and the vocative forms; the final *-ν* rule and the joined forms *στον, στη, στο*; which prepositions take the accusative; every stress mark; the example sentences and dialogs, which were written for this course. No dictionary or grammar book was consulted. Check a Greek dictionary or a native speaker before relying on them.

Coming up in Chapter 2: Stress and Spelling. The accent mark and where it can fall; vowel pairs and diphthongs; double consonants; and the spelling patterns behind the endings.

abc Stress and Spelling — Τόνος και ορθογραφία

Greek spelling is not as simple as the alphabet suggests. Several different letters give the same sound, and the endings you learn in this course are spelled with exactly those letters. This chapter explains the stress mark and the main spelling patterns, so that endings such as -ος, -η, -οι, -ει make sense. You met the letters in Greek Alphabet 1 and Greek Alphabet 2; here the focus is on how they behave inside words. Respelling appears only in the vocabulary list and where a sound is being taught.

THE RULE IN ONE BOX

Modern Greek uses **one accent mark**, the acute *τόνος* (ά, έ, ή, ί, ό, ύ, ώ), on the **stressed vowel** of every word of **two or more syllables**. Stress normally falls on one of the **last three syllables**, and it can move when an ending is added. Several sounds have more than one spelling (the "ee" sound alone has six), so the correct spelling of an ending has to be learned with the word and its article.

The stress mark

The accent shows where to put the stress. Every word of two or more syllables has one; one-syllable words usually have none.

STRESS FALLS ON	NAME	EXAMPLE	SAY IT
the last syllable	**οξύτονο**	**γιατρ**ός, **μαμ**ά	yah-TROHS, mah-MAH
the second from the end	**παροξύτονο**	**φ**ίλος, **σπ**ίτι	FEE-lohs, SPEE-tee
the third from the end	**προπαροξύτονο**	**ά**νθρωπος, **π**άντοτε	AHN-throh-pohs, PAHN-doh-teh

One-syllable words

One-syllable words carry no mark (*και, με, το, ο, η*). A few keep one so that they can be told apart from other words that sound the same:

WITH THE MARK	WITHOUT IT
ή or: **τσάι ή γάλα;** (tea or milk?)	**η** the (feminine): **η φίλη**
πού; where?: **Πού μένεις;**	**που** who, that: **ο φίλος που μένει εδώ**
πώς; how?: **Πώς είσαι;**	**πως** that: **Ξέρω πως είσαι εδώ.**

When the stress moves

Stress can stand no further back than the third syllable from the end. When an ending adds a syllable, the stress sometimes has to move, and nouns are a place where you see this. The same noun can therefore carry the mark on different vowels:

SINGULAR	PLURAL	GENITIVE PLURAL
ο άνθρωπος (the person)	**οι άνθρωποι**	**των ανθρώπων**
το αγόρι (the boy)	**τα αγόρια**	**των αγοριών**

> **Watch out: the mark is part of the spelling**
>
> Leaving the accent off, or putting it on the wrong vowel, is a spelling mistake. Always learn a word with its stress. This course writes the mark on every word of two or more syllables, and the examples in later chapters show you where it moves.

> **A note on exceptions**
>
> The “last three syllables” rule has exceptions in longer phrases: a word followed by *μου, σου, του* and similar short words can take a second accent (*ο άνθρωπός μου*). You will meet this with the weak pronouns in Chapter 11.

Vowel sounds and the letters that spell them

Greek has five vowel sounds, but several spellings for some of them. This table shows why endings that sound the same are written differently.

SOUND	SPELLINGS	EXAMPLES
a	**α**	**μαμά, Ελλάδα**
e (as in "bed")	**ε, αι**	**θέλω** (THEH-loh), **παιδί** (peh-DEE)
i (as in "machine")	**ι, η, υ, ει, οι, υι**	**σπίτι, φίλη, μύτη, είναι, οι φίλοι, υιός** (son)
o	**ο, ω**	**φίλος, γιατρός, ευχαριστώ**
u (as in "moon")	**ου**	**του φίλου, μου, σου**

> **Watch out: six ways to write "ee"**
>
> This is the main reason for the ending patterns later in the course. *η φίλη* (the female friend), *οι φίλοι* (the friends), *το παιδί* (the child), *είναι* (is) and *πόλη* (city) all end in or contain an "ee" sound written differently. There is no way to hear which spelling is correct, so learn the ending that belongs to each gender, case and number.

The pairs *αυ* and *ευ*

These two are read *av* and *ev* before a voiced sound (a vowel or *β, γ, δ, ζ, λ, μ, ν, ρ*) and *af* and *ef* before a voiceless one (*θ, κ, ξ, π, σ, τ, φ, χ, ψ*).

GREEK	SAY IT	ENGLISH
αύριο	AHV-ree-oh	tomorrow
ευχαριστώ	ef-hah-ree-STOH	thank you

The dots: *ϊ* and *ϋ*

Two dots (the diaeresis) on *ι* or *υ* tell you the letter is **not** part of a pair but is read on its own: **παϊδάκια** (pah-ee-DAH-kya, lamb chops) against **παιδί** (peh-DEE, child).

Consonant pairs and double letters

SPELLING	SOUND	EXAMPLE
μπ	b (at the start of a word); often mb in the middle	**μπαμπάς** (bah-BAHS, dad)
ντ	d (at the start of a word); often nd in the middle	**ντομάτα** (doh-MAH-tah, tomato)
γκ	g (at the start of a word)	**γκρι** (gree, grey)
τσ	ts, as in "cats"	**τσάι** (TSAH-ee, tea)
τζ	dz, as in "adze"	**τζάμι** (DZAH-mee, windowpane)
σσ, λλ, ππ, ττ	said as **one** sound: a doubled letter is not a longer sound	**θάλασσα** (THAH-lah-sah, sea), **Ελλάδα** (eh-LAH-dah, Greece)

The final sigma

The letter *σ* is written **ς** at the end of a word: **φίλος, της, μπαμπάς**. Inside a word it stays *σ*: **σπίτι, θάλασσα**. It matters here because many endings are only a final *ς*: *-ος, -ης, -ας*.

Sounds alike, spelled differently

Because of the spelling variety above, some grammatical forms sound identical and are told apart only in writing. Meet them now, because they come back in every chapter.

SOUNDS LIKE	SPELLING A	SPELLING B
ee	**η φίλη** (the female friend: article *η*)	**οι φίλοι** (the friends: article *οι*)
tis	**της φίλης** (of the female friend: genitive singular)	**τις φίλες** (the female friends: accusative plural)

Watch out: spell with the article

When you write a noun, write the article first and let it guide the ending. *η φίλη* and *τη φίλη* tell you it is feminine; *της φίλης* and *τις φίλες* look alike when spoken, but only one of them is correct for the sentence.

Words in this chapter

GREEK	SAY IT	ENGLISH
ο άνθρωπος	AHN-throh-pohs	person, human being
η θάλασσα	THAH-lah-sah	sea
η Ελλάδα	eh-LAH-dah	Greece
ο μπαμπάς	bah-BAHS	dad
η ντομάτα	doh-MAH-tah	tomato
το τσάι	TSAH-ee	tea
το τζάμι	DZAH-mee	windowpane
το αγόρι	ah-GOH-ree	boy
το κορίτσι	koh-REE-tsee	girl
το γάλα	GAH-lah	milk
ευχαριστώ	ef-hah-ree-STOH	thank you
αύριο	AHV-ree-oh	tomorrow

🗣️ In Use — Στην πράξη

Read the exchanges aloud, putting the stress where the mark shows.

① Tea or milk?

A: Τι θέλεις;
What would you like?

B: Ένα τσάι, παρακαλώ. Κι εσύ;
A tea, please. And you?

A: Ένα γάλα.
A milk.

② Meeting a friend

A: Γεια σου, Νίκο! Πώς είσαι;
Hello, Nikos! How are you?

B: Καλά, ευχαριστώ. Κι εσύ, Άννα;
Fine, thank you. And you, Anna?

A: Πολύ καλά. Τα λέμε αύριο!
Very well. See you tomorrow!

③ Where does he live?

A: Πού μένει ο φίλος σου;
Where does your friend live?

B: Μένει στην Αθήνα, κοντά στη θάλασσα.
He lives in Athens, near the sea.

A: Είναι μακριά;
Is that far?

B: Όχι, δεν είναι μακριά.
No, it isn't far.

📋 Quick Reference — Σύνοψη

TOPIC	SUMMARY
accent mark	one acute *τόνος* on the stressed vowel of every word of two or more syllables
stress position	on one of the last three syllables; it can move when an ending is added (*άνθρωπος, ανθρώπων*)
one-syllable words	no mark, except *ή, πού, πώς* (against *η, που, πως*)

TOPIC	SUMMARY
vowel sounds	5 sounds; *e* = *ε, αι*; *i* = *ι, η, υ, ει, οι, υι*; *o* = *ο, ω*; *u* = *ου*
αυ, ευ	*av, ev* before voiced sounds; *af, ef* before voiceless ones
diaeresis	*ϊ, ϋ*: the letter is read alone (*παϊδάκια*)
consonant pairs	*μπ, ντ, γκ, τσ, τζ*
double letters	said as one sound (*θάλασσα, Ελλάδα*)
final sigma	*ς* at the end of a word, *σ* inside it
same sound, different forms	*η / οι*; *της / τις*: spell with the article

🖍️ Try It Yourself — Ασκήσεις

Say or write the answer first, then click to check.

1. On which syllables can the stress of a Greek word fall?

▼ Show answer

On one of the last three syllables: the last, the second from the end or the third from the end.

2. Why is the singular *άνθρωπος* but the genitive plural *ανθρώπων*?

▼ Show answer

The stress cannot stand further back than the third syllable from the end. The ending *-ων* is longer, so the stress moves forward by one syllable.

3. How is *παιδί* said, and why is there no separate *i* before the last syllable?

▼ Show answer

peh-DEE. *αι* is read as *e*, and the final *ι* is the *ee*.

4. List the six spellings of the *ee* sound.

▼ Show answer

ι, η, υ, ει, οι, υι

5. How would you say *ντομάτα* and *μπαμπάς* at the start of a word?

▼ Show answer

doh-MAH-tah and bah-BAHS: *ντ* at the start of a word is a *d*, and *μπ* is a *b*.

6. How many *s* sounds do you say in *θάλασσα*?

▼ Show answer

One. A double letter is said as a single sound: THAH-lah-sah.

7. What is the difference between *πού* and *που*?

▼ Show answer

πού with the mark means "where?"; *που* without it means "who, that" (as in *ο φίλος που μένει εδώ*).

8. Where is ς used instead of *σ*?

▼ Show answer

At the end of a word: *φίλος, της, μπαμπάς*.

9. *της φίλης* and *τις φίλες* sound alike. How do you tell them apart in writing, and in meaning?

▼ Show answer

της φίλης is the genitive singular ("of the female friend"); *τις φίλες* is the accusative plural ("the female friends"). The article and the noun ending must match in case and number.

10. Add the missing stress mark: *ευχαριστω, αυριο*.

▼ Show answer

ευχαριστώ (stress on the last syllable) and *αύριο* (stress on the first).

Not Yet Verified

Checked (one web search on 2026-11-20): that Modern Greek stress falls on one of the last three syllables of a word (with a few exceptions); that monotonic spelling uses only the acute accent and the diaeresis; and that one-syllable words normally carry no accent, with *ή / η*, *πού / που* and *πώς / πως* as the usual exceptions (sources: Wikipedia: Greek diacritics, Wikipedia: Greek orthography, elon.io: stress and the tonos, from search results only, the pages themselves were not read in full).

Not checked, from general knowledge: the sound values of *αι, ει, οι, υι, ου, αυ* and *ευ* and the voiced/voiceless rule; the sounds of *μπ, ντ, γκ, τσ, τζ* (the search results said nothing on them); the stress moving in *άνθρωπος, ανθρώπων* and *αγόρι, αγοριών*; the second accent before *μου*; the example dialogs and every stress mark, which were written for this course. No dictionary or grammar book was consulted. Check a Greek dictionary or a native speaker before relying on them.

Coming up in Chapter 3: Gender and the Definite Article. How to tell masculine, feminine and neuter from the ending; the definite article in the nominative; the common exceptions; and the indefinite article *ένας, μία, ένα*.

⚖️ Gender and Articles — Γένος και άρθρα

Every Greek noun is masculine, feminine or neuter, and the article in front of it shows which. This chapter teaches you to guess the gender from the ending, gives the full set of definite articles, and explains the small -ν that comes and goes. The nouns themselves are declined in Chapters 4 to 6; here we only sort them into genders and learn the articles that go with them.

THE RULE IN ONE BOX

The ending of a noun in the nominative usually shows its gender: **-ος, -ης, -ας** are mostly masculine; **-α, -η** mostly feminine; **-ο, -ι, -μα** neuter. The definite article **ο, η, το** comes before the noun and changes with case and number (full table below). The indefinite article **ένας, μία, ένα** also changes by case. Gender is a grammar category, not a meaning: *το κορίτσι* (girl) is neuter.

Gender from the ending

GENDER	TYPICAL ENDINGS	EXAMPLES
masculine ο	**-ος, -ης, -ας**, also **-ές, -ούς**	**ο δρόμος** (road), **ο μαθητής** (pupil), **ο πατέρας** (father), **ο καφές** (coffee), **ο παππούς** (grandfather)
feminine η	**-α, -η**	**η μητέρα** (mother), **η γιαγιά** (grandmother), **η φίλη** (friend), **η πόλη** (city)
neuter το	**-ο, -ι, -μα**, also **-ος**	**το βιβλίο** (book), **το σπίτι** (house), **το όνομα** (name), **το πρόβλημα** (problem), **το μέρος** (place)

Exceptions that matter

PATTERN	WHAT TO REMEMBER	EXAMPLES
feminine in *-ος*	a small group of nouns look masculine but take *η*	**η οδός** (street)
neuter in *-ος*	look masculine but take *το*; learn the article	**το μέρος** (place)
people	grammatical gender need not match natural gender	**το αγόρι** (boy), **το κορίτσι** (girl), **το παιδί** (child): all neuter
jobs	many have one form for men and women; the article shows which	**ο γιατρός** (male doctor), **η γιατρός** (female doctor)
pairs with a feminine form	some jobs have a separate feminine noun	**ο μαθητής → η μαθήτρια**, **ο φοιτητής → η φοιτήτρια**

> **Watch out: the ending is a guide, not a guarantee**
>
> The endings give the right answer most of the time, but not always, so the habit from Chapter 1 stands: learn every noun **with its article**. Searches also showed that sources disagree on some details (for instance which gender some *-ης* nouns take), so check unfamiliar words in a dictionary.

The definite article in full

The definite article changes in gender, case and number. Learn this table as a block: it is the quickest way to see a noun's case, because the article often changes even when the noun does not.

CASE	SINGULAR			PLURAL		
	MASC.	FEM.	NEUT.	MASC.	FEM.	NEUT.
Nominative	**ο**	**η**	**το**	**οι**	**οι**	**τα**
Genitive	**του**	**της**	**του**	**των**	**των**	**των**
Accusative	**τον**	**την**	**το**	**τους**	**τις**	**τα**

Patterns to spot

Neuter nominative = accusative in both numbers (*το, τα*). **The genitive plural is *των* for all three genders.** The genitive singular masculine and neuter are the same (*του*). There is no article for the vocative: you simply say the noun (*φίλε!*).

The article with names

Greek normally puts the article before a person's name when talking *about* someone: **ο Κώστας, η Μαρία, ο Νίκος**. When you call or address them you drop it: **Νίκο!**

The final *-ν*

A few small words end in *-ν* that is sometimes written and sometimes left off. Chapter 1 mentioned it; here is the rule. The words that follow it are **την, τον, έναν, δεν, μην**.

NEXT WORD BEGINS WITH	THE *N* IS	EXAMPLE
a vowel	kept	την Ελλάδα, δεν ξέρω
κ, π, τ, ξ, ψ	kept	την Κυριακή, την πόλη, δεν τρώω
μπ, ντ, γκ, τσ, τζ	kept	την ντομάτα, την τσάντα
any other consonant	dropped	τη Μαρία, τη θάλασσα, δε βλέπω

Watch out: masculine *τον* and *έναν*

In practice the masculine forms *τον* and *έναν* are usually written with the *ν* every time (*τον φίλο, έναν καφέ*), partly so that they cannot be confused with the neuter *το* and *ένα*. The drop rule is applied most reliably to *την, δεν, μην*. The examples in this course follow that convention.

The indefinite article *ένας, μία, ένα*

"A, an" is the number *one*, and it changes like the definite article. It has no plural: "some friends" is just *φίλοι*.

CASE	MASCULINE	FEMININE	NEUTER
Nominative	**ένας φίλος**	**μία φίλη**	**ένα παιδί**
Genitive	**ενός φίλου**	**μιας φίλης**	**ενός παιδιού**
Accusative	**έναν φίλο**	**μία φίλη**	**ένα παιδί**

The feminine nominative can be written *μία* or *μια*; both are correct. With the two together, the definite and the indefinite articles show the difference between “the” and “a”:

GREEK	ENGLISH
Θέλω έναν καφέ.	I would like a coffee.
Ο καφές είναι ζεστός.	The coffee is hot.
Βλέπω μια φίλη.	I see a (female) friend.
Βλέπω τη φίλη μου.	I see my (female) friend.

Words in this chapter

GREEK	SAY IT	ENGLISH
ο δρόμος	DROH-mohs	road, street
η οδός	oh-THOHS	street (formal, addresses)
ο καφές	kah-FEHS	coffee
η μητέρα	mee-TEH-rah	mother
ο πατέρας	pah-TEH-rahs	father
το όνομα	OH-noh-mah	name
το πρόβλημα	PROH-vlee-mah	problem

GREEK	SAY IT	ENGLISH
το μέρος	MEH-rohs	place
ο μαθητής	mah-thee-TEES	pupil (male)
η μαθήτρια	mah-THEE-tree-ah	pupil (female)
ο παππούς	pah-POOS	grandfather
η γιαγιά	yah-YAH	grandmother

🗣️ In Use — Στην πράξη

Read the exchanges aloud and notice which article goes with which noun.

① The family

A: Ποιος είναι αυτός;
Who is that?

B: Είναι ο πατέρας μου. Και αυτή είναι η μητέρα μου.
He is my father. And she is my mother.

A: Και ο παππούς και η γιαγιά;
And the grandfather and grandmother?

B: Είναι στην Αθήνα.
They are in Athens.

② What's your name?

A: Πώς σε λένε;
What is your name?

B: Με λένε Νίκο. Κι εσένα;
My name is Nikos. And yours?

A: Με λένε Άννα. Ωραίο όνομα!
My name is Anna. A nice name!

③ In the café

A: Έναν καφέ, παρακαλώ.
A coffee, please.

B: Ναι, αμέσως. Κάτι άλλο;
Yes, right away. Anything else?

A: Ένα τσάι για τη φίλη μου.
A tea for my friend.

📋 Quick Reference — Σύνοψη

TOPIC	SUMMARY
masculine endings	*-ος, -ης, -ας* (also *-ές, -ούς*)
feminine endings	*-α, -η* (a few in *-ος*: *η οδός*)
neuter endings	*-ο, -ι, -μα* (also *-ος*: *το μέρος*)
definite article, singular	*ο, του, τον / η, της, την / το, του, το*
definite article, plural	*οι, των, τους / οι, των, τις / τα, των, τα*
indefinite article	*ένας, ενός, έναν / μία, μιας, μία / ένα, ενός, ένα*; no plural
final *-ν*	kept before vowels and *κ π τ ξ ψ μπ ντ γκ τσ τζ*; dropped before other consonants; *τον, έναν* usually kept
names	article in speech about people (*ο Κώστας*), none when addressing them

🖍️ Try It Yourself — Ασκήσεις

Say or write the answer first, then click to check.

1. Give the gender and article of *δρόμος, πόλη, όνομα*.

▼ Show answer

ο δρόμος (masculine), *η πόλη* (feminine), *το όνομα* (neuter).

2. *Κορίτσι* means “girl”. Which article does it take, and why is that surprising?

▼ Show answer

το κορίτσι: it is neuter. Surprising because the person is female; grammatical gender is not always natural gender.

3. Say "the street" for *οδός* and "the place" for *μέρος*. Both end in *-ος*.

▼ Show answer

η οδός (feminine) and *το μέρος* (neuter): the ending *-ος* alone does not give the gender.

4. Give the genitive singular article for all three genders.

▼ Show answer

του (masc.), *της* (fem.), *του* (neut.).

5. What do the definite articles *οι, των, τα* have in common?

▼ Show answer

They are plural. *οι* is the masculine and feminine nominative plural, *των* the genitive plural for all genders, and *τα* the neuter plural nominative and accusative.

6. Which articles are the same in the nominative and the accusative?

▼ Show answer

The neuter ones (*το* and *τα*).

7. Write *την* or *τη*: ___ Μαρία, ___ Ελλάδα, ___ θάλασσα.

▼ Show answer

τη Μαρία (μ: drop), *την Ελλάδα* (vowel: keep), *τη θάλασσα* (θ: drop).

8. Say "I would like a coffee" and "I see a friend" (feminine).

▼ Show answer

Θέλω έναν καφέ. / Βλέπω μια φίλη.

9. Give *ένα παιδί* in the genitive.

▼ Show answer

ενός παιδιού

10. When do you drop the article before a name?

▼ Show answer

When you call or address the person (*Νίκο!*). When you speak about the person, the article stays (*ο Νίκος*).

Not Yet Verified

Checked (one web search on 2026-11-20): that the final *-ν* of *την, τον, έναν* is kept before vowels and before *κ, π, τ, ξ, ψ, μπ, ντ, γκ, τσ, τζ* and dropped before other consonants; that sources note masculine *τον* and *έναν* are usually written with the *ν* to keep them distinct from neuter *το* and *ένα*; and that masculine nouns typically end in *-ος* or *-ας*, neuter in *-ο* or *-ι*, and feminine in *-α* or *-η*. The sources disagree on some details of the *-ης* gender and said nothing on *-μα* (sources: elon.io: the final-ν rule, Transparent Language: the final n, polyglotclub.com: nouns and gender, elon.io: definite article forms, from search results only, the pages themselves were not read in full).
Not checked, from general knowledge: the full definite and indefinite article tables; the neuter *-μα* and *-ος* groups; *η οδός* as a feminine *-ος* noun; *η γιατρός*; the article with names; every stress mark; the example dialogs, which were written for this course. No dictionary or grammar book was consulted. Check a Greek dictionary or a native speaker before relying on them.

Coming up in Chapter 4: Masculine Nouns. The *-ος, -ης, -ας* types in the nominative, genitive, accusative and vocative, singular and plural.

👨 Masculine Nouns — Αρσενικά ουσιαστικά

*Now the nouns themselves. Masculine nouns come in three main types, named after their nominative ending: **-ος**, **-ης** and **-ας**. Each is declined in four cases, singular and plural. The tables look long, but the three types share most of their endings, and a few shortcuts cover nearly everything. This chapter teaches all four cases in form; the jobs of each case are taught in Chapters 7 to 9.*

THE RULE IN ONE BOX

In the singular, the **accusative** is the nominative **without the final ς** (*φίλος → φίλο, μαθητής → μαθητή, πατέρας → πατέρα*). In the **-ης and -ας** types the genitive, accusative and vocative singular are all the same. In the plural, **-ος** nouns end in *-οι, -ων, -ους*; **-ης and -ας** nouns end in *-ες, -ων, -ες*. The article, as always, shows the case.

Type 1: nouns in -ος

This is the biggest masculine group. Example: **ο φίλος** (friend) and **ο άνθρωπος** (person), whose stress moves (see Chapter 2).

CASE	SINGULAR		PLURAL	
	ΦΊΛΟΣ	ΆΝΘΡΩΠΟΣ	ΦΊΛΟΙ	ΆΝΘΡΩΠΟΙ
Nominative	ο φίλ**ος**	ο άνθρωπ**ος**	οι φίλ**οι**	οι άνθρωπ**οι**
Genitive	του φίλ**ου**	του ανθρώπ**ου**	των φίλ**ων**	των ανθρώπ**ων**
Accusative	τον φίλ**ο**	τον άνθρωπ**ο**	τους φίλ**ους**	τους ανθρώπ**ους**
Vocative	φίλ**ε**	άνθρωπ**ε**	φίλ**οι**	άνθρωπ**οι**

Watch out: the stress in *άνθρωπος*

In the singular nominative and accusative the stress is on the first syllable (*ἄνθρωπος, ἄνθρωπο*); in the genitive it moves forward (*ανθρώπου, ανθρώπων*). Many *-ος* nouns of three or more syllables do this. Learn the shape of each word, as Chapter 2 suggested.

Type 2: nouns in -ης

This type has two common stress patterns. With the stress on the **last** syllable, as in **ο μαθητής** (pupil), the forms are:

CASE	SINGULAR		PLURAL	
	ΜΑΘΗΤΉΣ	ΠΟΛΊΤΗΣ	ΜΑΘΗΤΈΣ	ΠΟΛΊΤΕΣ
Nominative	ο μαθητ**ής**	ο πολίτ**ης**	οι μαθητ**ές**	οι πολίτ**ες**
Genitive	του μαθητ**ή**	του πολίτ**η**	των μαθητ**ών**	των πολιτ**ών**
Accusative	τον μαθητ**ή**	τον πολίτ**η**	τους μαθητ**ές**	τους πολίτ**ες**
Vocative	μαθητ**ή**	πολίτ**η**	μαθητ**ές**	πολίτ**ες**

In the singular, the **genitive, accusative and vocative are the same form**; the article (*του / τον*) is the only thing that separates the genitive from the accusative. In the plural, the nominative, accusative and vocative are the same; only the genitive (*-ών*) differs.

Watch out: the genitive plural stress

In *-ης* and *-ας* nouns the genitive plural often carries the stress on the last syllable: *μαθητών, πολιτών, αντρών*. Where a noun's stress is on the first syllable in the other forms, it moves to the final syllable of *-ών* here.

Type 3: nouns in -ας

Example: **ο πατέρας** (father) with the stress inside the word, and **ο άντρας** (man), whose genitive plural again shifts the stress.

CASE	SINGULAR		PLURAL	
	ΠΑΤΈΡΑΣ	ΆΝΤΡΑΣ	ΠΑΤΈΡΕΣ	ΆΝΤΡΕΣ
Nominative	ο πατέρ**ας**	ο άντρ**ας**	οι πατέρ**ες**	οι άντρ**ες**
Genitive	του πατέρ**α**	του άντρ**α**	των πατέρ**ων**	των αντρ**ών**
Accusative	τον πατέρ**α**	τον άντρ**α**	τους πατέρ**ες**	τους άντρ**ες**
Vocative	πατέρ**α**	άντρ**α**	πατέρ**ες**	άντρ**ες**

Other shapes you will meet

A few common masculine nouns have the stress on the last syllable in the nominative and add a little extra in the plural. The extra consonant shows up only in the plural.

NOUN	SINGULAR (NOM., GEN./ACC.)	PLURAL (NOM., GEN.)
ο ψαράς (fisherman)	ο ψαράς, του ψαρά	οι ψαράδες, των ψαράδων
ο μπαμπάς (dad)	ο μπαμπάς, του μπαμπά	οι μπαμπάδες, των μπαμπάδων
ο καφές (coffee)	ο καφές, του καφέ	οι καφέδες, των καφέδων
ο παππούς (grandfather)	ο παππούς, του παππού	οι παππούδες, των παππούδων

Quick summary of the endings

CASE	-ΟΣ	-ΗΣ	-ΑΣ
Nom. sg.	-ος	-ης	-ας
Gen. sg.	-ου	-η (*-ή* if stressed)	-α
Acc. sg.	-ο	-η	-α
Voc. sg.	-ε	-η	-α

CASE	-ΟΣ	-ΗΣ	-ΑΣ
Nom. pl.	-οι	-ες	-ες
Gen. pl.	-ων	-ων	-ων
Acc. pl.	-ους	-ες	-ες
Voc. pl.	-οι	-ες	-ες

The nouns in sentences

Look at how the case shows the job. The four cases are taught properly in Chapters 7 to 9; these examples just show the forms at work.

CASE	GREEK	ENGLISH
nominative sg.	**Ο πατέρας διαβάζει.**	The father is reading.
accusative sg.	**Βλέπω τον πατέρα.**	I see the father.
genitive sg.	**Το σπίτι του πατέρα.**	The father's house.
vocative sg.	**Πατέρα, έλα!**	Father, come!
nominative pl.	**Οι φίλοι μένουν εδώ.**	The friends live here.
accusative pl.	**Βλέπω τους φίλους.**	I see the friends.
genitive pl.	**Τα σπίτια των φίλων.**	The friends' houses.

> **Watch out: names and the vocative**
>
> With common nouns the vocative of an *-ος* noun ends in *-ε* (*φίλε!, δάσκαλε!*). For first names in *-ος*, everyday speech normally uses the shorter form without ς (*Νίκο!, Γιώργο!*), as Chapter 2 used. Both ways of addressing someone are common; the *-ε* form is used a great deal with *φίλε* and titles.

Words in this chapter

GREEK	SAY IT	ENGLISH
ο γιος	YOHS	son
ο άντρας	AHN-drahs	man
ο δάσκαλος	THAH-skah-lohs	teacher (primary school)
ο καθηγητής	kah-thee-yee-TEES	teacher, professor
ο πολίτης	poh-LEE-tees	citizen
ο τουρίστας	too-REE-stahs	tourist
ο ψαράς	psah-RAHS	fisherman
ο γείτονας	YEE-toh-nahs	neighbour
ο υπάλληλος	ee-PAH-lee-lohs	employee, clerk
ο μάγειρας	MAH-yee-rahs	cook
ο ήλιος	EE-lee-ohs	sun
ο κόσμος	KOZ-mohs	world; people (a crowd)

In Use — Στην πράξη

Read the exchanges aloud and notice the endings.

① The neighbour

A: Ποιος είναι ο άντρας εκεί;
Who is the man over there?

B: Είναι ο γείτονας του Κώστα.
He is Kostas's neighbour.

A: Και ο γιος του;
And his son?

② The tourists

A: Πού είναι οι τουρίστες;
Where are the tourists?

B: Είναι στη θάλασσα με τους ψαράδες.
They are at the sea with the fishermen.

A: Και ο κόσμος;
And everybody else?

B: Ο γιος του είναι μαθητής.

His son is a pupil.

B: Όλοι είναι εκεί.

Everyone is there.

③ At school

A: Δάσκαλε, καλημέρα!

Good morning, teacher!

B: Καλημέρα, Νίκο! Πώς είσαι;

Good morning, Nikos! How are you?

A: Καλά, ευχαριστώ.

Fine, thank you.

📋 Quick Reference — Σύνοψη

TOPIC	SUMMARY
-ος nouns	sg. *-ος, -ου, -ο, -ε*; pl. *-οι, -ων, -ους, -οι*
-ης nouns	sg. *-ης, -η, -η, -η*; pl. *-ες, -ων, -ες, -ες*
-ας nouns	sg. *-ας, -α, -α, -α*; pl. *-ες, -ων, -ες, -ες*
shortcut	accusative singular = nominative without ς
-ης / -ας singular	genitive = accusative = vocative
genitive plural	*-ων* for all three types; stress may move (*μαθητών, αντρών, ανθρώπων*)
stressed *-άς, -ές, -ούς*	extra *δ* in the plural for many (*ψαράδες, καφέδες, παππούδες*)
vocative	*-ε* for *-ος* nouns (*φίλε!*); first names in *-ος* often use *-ο* (*Νίκο!*)

🖍️ Try It Yourself — Ασκήσεις

Say or write the answer first, then click to check.

1. Give the accusative singular, with article, of *φίλος, μαθητής, πατέρας*.

▼ Show answer

τον φίλο, τον μαθητή, τον πατέρα

2. Give the genitive singular, with article, of the same three nouns.

▼ Show answer

του φίλου, του μαθητή, του πατέρα

3. Give the nominative plural, with article, of the same three nouns.

▼ Show answer

οι φίλοι, οι μαθητές, οι πατέρες

4. Give the genitive plural of *άνθρωπος* and *πολίτης*. What happens to the stress?

▼ Show answer

των ανθρώπων and *των πολιτών*. The stress moves forward to the second-last syllable for *ανθρώπων*, and to the last syllable for *πολιτών*.

5. Say "I see the tourists" and "I see the neighbours".

▼ Show answer

Βλέπω τους τουρίστες. / *Βλέπω τους γείτονες.*

6. Which three singular cases of *ο μαθητής* look the same?

▼ Show answer

Genitive, accusative and vocative (*μαθητή*); the article (*του* against *τον*) tells genitive from accusative.

7. Say "the fishermen's boats" with "boats" as *τα καΐκια* (use the genitive plural of *ψαράς*).

▼ Show answer

τα καΐκια των ψαράδων

8. How do you call a friend, and how do you call a man named Γιώργος?

▼ Show answer

Φίλε! and *Γιώργο!* (the first-name vocative in everyday speech).

9. What is the plural of *ο καφές*?

▼ Show answer

οι καφέδες: this stressed type adds a *δ* in the plural.

10. Which cases of the plural of *ο άντρας* have the same form?

▼ Show answer

Nominative, accusative and vocative (*άντρες*); only the genitive (*αντρών*) differs.

Not Yet Verified

Checked (one web search on 2026-11-20): that *-ος* nouns end in *-οι, -ων* in the plural and *-ου* in the genitive singular; that the vocative of *φίλος* is *φίλε*; that *-ας* nouns have genitive *-α* and plural *-ες, -ων* (*πατέρα, πατέρες, πατέρων*), with *αντρών* as the genitive plural of *άντρας*; and that *-ης* nouns have plural *-ες, -ων* and genitive singular *-η* (*μαθητή*). The sources noted that some *-ας* plurals have alternative endings (sources: foundalis.com: masculine noun patterns, oocities.org: masculine declensions, projectrazon.github.io: Modern Greek nouns, from search results only, the pages themselves were not read in full).
Not checked, from general knowledge: the forms of *μπαμπάς, ψαράς, καφές, παππούς* in the plural (the search found nothing on *μπαμπάς*); *πολίτης → πολιτών*; the stress shifts in *άνθρωπος*; the first-name vocative *Νίκο!*; every stress mark and the example dialogs, which were written for this course. No dictionary or grammar book was consulted. Check a Greek dictionary or a native speaker before relying on them.

Coming up in Chapter 5: Feminine Nouns. The *-α* and *-η* types, *-ος* feminines, the full singular and plural, and stress shifts.

👩 Feminine Nouns — Θηλυκά ουσιαστικά

*Feminine nouns are the most regular group in Greek. Almost all of them end in **-α** or **-η**, and those two types share the same endings apart from one letter. A third small group (πόλη, απόφαση) has its own plural. This chapter gives all four cases in the singular and plural. The jobs of each case are taught in Chapters 7 to 9.*

THE RULE IN ONE BOX

In the **singular** of *-α* and *-η* nouns, the nominative, accusative and vocative are the **same form**; only the **genitive** adds *-ς* (*θάλασσα → θάλασσας, φίλη → φίλης*). In the **plural**, the nominative, accusative and vocative are all **-ες** and the genitive is **-ων**. The article shows the rest: *η, της, την* and *οι, των, τις*.

Type 1: nouns in -α and -η

Examples: **η μητέρα** (mother), **η θάλασσα** (sea) and **η φίλη** (female friend).

CASE	SINGULAR			PLURAL		
	ΜΗΤΈΡΑ	ΘΆΛΑΣΣΑ	ΦΊΛΗ	ΜΗΤΈΡΕΣ	ΘΆΛΑΣΣΕΣ	ΦΊΛΕΣ
Nominative	η μητέρ**α**	η θάλασσ**α**	η φίλ**η**	οι μητέρ**ες**	οι θάλασσ**ες**	οι φίλ**ες**
Genitive	της μητέρ**ας**	της θάλασσ**ας**	της φίλ**ης**	των μητέρ**ων**	των θαλασσ**ών**	των φίλ**ων**
Accusative	τη μητέρ**α**	τη θάλασσ**α**	τη φίλ**η**	τις μητέρ**ες**	τις θάλασσ**ες**	τις φίλ**ες**
Vocative	μητέρ**α**	θάλασσ**α**	φίλ**η**	μητέρ**ες**	θάλασσ**ες**	φίλ**ες**

Watch out: the genitive plural stress

In many feminine nouns the stress stays where it was (*μητέρων, φίλων*), but in others it moves to the final syllable of *-ών* (*θαλασσών*). The word is learned with its stress pattern, as in Chapter 2. When in doubt, check a dictionary entry for the genitive plural.

Which letter: -α or -η?

Both types behave the same; the only difference is whether the ending is *α* or *η*, and that cannot be heard from the other forms of the word. There is no simple rule that decides it, so learn the article and the ending together with every noun: **η μητέρα**, **η ώρα**, **η γλώσσα**, **η φίλη**, **η κόρη**. Nouns in *-ια* (**η παραλία**, plural *παραλίες*) always end in *-α*.

Type 2: stressed -ά and -ή nouns

Some feminine nouns have the stress on the last syllable in the nominative: **η μαμά** (mum), **η γιαγιά** (grandmother), **η δουλειά** (work), **η αδελφή** (sister). The singular behaves exactly like Type 1. In the plural, nouns in **-ά** take **-άδες** if they name a family member or person (the extra *δ* as in Chapter 4), and **-ές** otherwise.

NOUN	SINGULAR (NOM., GEN., ACC.)	PLURAL (NOM., GEN.)
η μαμά (mum)	η μαμά, της μαμάς, τη μαμά	οι μαμάδες, των μαμάδων
η γιαγιά (grandmother)	η γιαγιά, της γιαγιάς, τη γιαγιά	οι γιαγιάδες, των γιαγιάδων
η δουλειά (work, job)	η δουλειά, της δουλειάς, τη δουλειά	οι δουλειές, των δουλειών
η αδελφή (sister)	η αδελφή, της αδελφής, την αδελφή	οι αδελφές, των αδελφών

Type 3: nouns like *πόλη* and *απόφαση*

A third group has a singular like Type 1 but a **different plural**: **-εις** in the nominative, accusative and vocative, and **-εων** in the genitive. It includes **η πόλη** (city), **η απόφαση** (decision), **η κρίση** (crisis) and many abstract nouns in *-ση*.

CASE	SINGULAR		PLURAL	
	ΠΌΛΗ	ΑΠΌΦΑΣΗ	ΠΌΛΕΙΣ	ΑΠΟΦΆΣΕΙΣ
Nominative	η πόλ**η**	η απόφασ**η**	οι πόλ**εις**	οι αποφάσ**εις**
Genitive	της πόλ**ης**	της απόφασ**ης**	των πόλ**εων**	των αποφάσ**εων**
Accusative	την πόλ**η**	την απόφασ**η**	τις πόλ**εις**	τις αποφάσ**εις**
Vocative	πόλ**η**	απόφασ**η**	πόλ**εις**	αποφάσ**εις**

> **Watch out: older genitive forms**
>
> You may see the genitive singular written *της πόλεως, της αποφάσεως* in official or formal text. These are older forms; in everyday Greek the shorter *της πόλης* and *της απόφασης* are normal. Note also that the stress moves in *απόφαση → αποφάσεις*.

Quick summary of the endings

CASE	-Α / -Η NOUNS	ΠΌΛΗ TYPE
Nom. sg.	-α / -η	-η
Gen. sg.	-ας / -ης	-ης
Acc. sg.	-α / -η	-η
Voc. sg.	-α / -η	-η
Nom. pl.	-ες	-εις
Gen. pl.	-ων	-εων
Acc. pl.	-ες	-εις

CASE	-Α / -Η NOUNS	ΠΌΛΗ TYPE
Voc. pl.	-ες	-εις

The nouns in sentences

CASE	GREEK	ENGLISH
nominative sg.	**Η μητέρα μένει στην Αθήνα.**	The mother lives in Athens.
accusative sg.	**Βλέπω τη θάλασσα.**	I see the sea.
genitive sg.	**Το όνομα της φίλης.**	The (female) friend's name.
vocative sg.	**Μαμά, έλα εδώ!**	Mum, come here!
nominative pl.	**Οι φίλες μου μένουν εδώ.**	My (female) friends live here.
accusative pl.	**Βλέπω τις αδελφές μου.**	I see my sisters.
genitive pl.	**Τα σπίτια των φίλων μου.**	My friends' houses.

Words in this chapter

GREEK	SAY IT	ENGLISH
η ώρα	OH-rah	hour; time
η γλώσσα	GHLOH-sah	language; tongue
η παραλία	pah-rah-LEE-ah	beach
η δουλειά	thoo-LYAH	work, job
η πόλη	POH-lee	city
η απόφαση	ah-POH-fah-see	decision

GREEK	SAY IT	ENGLISH
η κρίση	KREE-see	crisis
η χώρα	HOH-rah	country
η μέρα	MEH-rah	day
η νύχτα	NEEH-tah	night
η θεία	THEE-ah	aunt
η κόρη	KOH-ree	daughter

In Use — Στην πράξη

Read the exchanges aloud and notice the endings.

① The family

A: Πού μένει η θεία σου;
Where does your aunt live?

B: Μένει στην πόλη, κοντά στη θάλασσα.
She lives in the city, near the sea.

A: Και η κόρη της;
And her daughter?

B: Η κόρη της είναι φοιτήτρια.
Her daughter is a student.

② A new language

A: Μιλάς πολλές γλώσσες;
Do you speak many languages?

B: Μιλάω δύο γλώσσες. Μαθαίνω τα ελληνικά.
I speak two languages. I am learning Greek.

A: Μπράβο!
Well done!

③ Plans for the day

A: Τι ώρα είναι;
What time is it?

B: Είναι τρεις η ώρα. Έχουμε δουλειά αύριο.

It is three o'clock. We have work tomorrow.

A: Ναι, και μετά πάμε στην παραλία.

Yes, and then we go to the beach.

📋 Quick Reference — Σύνοψη

TOPIC	SUMMARY
articles	sg. *η, της, την*; pl. *οι, των, τις*
-α / -η nouns	sg. *-α/-η, -ας/-ης, -α/-η, -α/-η*; pl. *-ες, -ων, -ες, -ες*
singular shortcut	nominative = accusative = vocative; only the genitive adds -ς
plural shortcut	nominative = accusative = vocative = *-ες*; genitive *-ων*
stressed *-ά* nouns	family and person nouns add *δ* in the plural (*μαμάδες*); others take *-ές* (*δουλειές*)
πόλη type	pl. *-εις, -εων, -εις, -εις*; formal genitive *-εως* is older
genitive plural stress	stays or moves to the last syllable: learn per noun (*μητέρων* but *θαλασσών*)

📝 Try It Yourself — Ασκήσεις

Say or write the answer first, then click to check.

1. Give the genitive singular, with article, of *μητέρα* and *φίλη*.

▼ Show answer

της μητέρας, της φίλης

2. Give the accusative plural, with article, of *θάλασσα* and *φίλη*.

▼ Show answer

τις θάλασσες, τις φίλες

3. Which three singular cases of *η φίλη* are identical?

▼ Show answer

Nominative, accusative and vocative (*φίλη*). Only the genitive (*φίλης*) differs; the article shows nominative or accusative.

4. What is the genitive plural of *γιαγιά* and of *δουλειά*?

▼ Show answer

των γιαγιάδων and *των δουλειών*

5. Say “the cities” and “of the cities”.

▼ Show answer

οι πόλεις and *των πόλεων*

6. Say “I see the decision” and “I see the decisions”.

▼ Show answer

Βλέπω την απόφαση. / Βλέπω τις αποφάσεις.

7. How do you call your mum and your sisters?

▼ Show answer

Μαμά! and *Αδελφές!*

8. Why is the article important in *της φίλης* against *τις φίλες*?

▼ Show answer

They sound alike (Chapter 2). The article and noun together show genitive singular (*της φίλης*) against accusative plural (*τις φίλες*).

9. Say “the beaches of Greece”. (Use *οι παραλίες* for the beaches and the genitive of *Ελλάδα*.)

▼ Show answer

οι παραλίες της Ελλάδας

10. Which type has the plural ending *-εις*, and give one example.

▼ Show answer

The *πόλη* type: *οι πόλεις, οι αποφάσεις, οι κρίσεις*.

Not Yet Verified

Checked (one web search on 2026-11-20): only that Modern Greek nouns are sorted into declension groups by their endings, that feminine nouns in *-α* belong to the first declension, and that feminine nouns generally keep their stress on the same syllable as in the nominative singular (with feminine nouns in *-ος* as an exception). The results did not give full tables for *θάλασσα, φίλη, πόλη* or *γιαγιά*; the closest sources were foundalis.com: feminine noun patterns, oocities.org: feminine declensions and ilearngreek.com: feminine declension, from search results only, the pages themselves were not read in full.

Not checked, from general knowledge: every table and form on this page, including the paradigms of *μητέρα, θάλασσα, φίλη, μαμά, γιαγιά, δουλειά, αδελφή, πόλη, απόφαση*; the *δ* plural of stressed *-ά* nouns; the genitive plural stress (*θαλασσών* against *μητέρων*); the claim that *-ια* nouns are always *-α*; every stress mark and the example dialogs, which were written for this course. No dictionary or grammar book was consulted, and the stress claims in particular are the weakest. Check a Greek dictionary or a native speaker before relying on them.

Coming up in Chapter 6: Neuter Nouns. The *-ο, -ι, -μα* types, the neuter rule (nominative = accusative), and the plurals.

Neuter Nouns — Ουδέτερα ουσιαστικά

Neuter nouns are the easiest group in one way: ***the nominative, accusative and vocative are always the same****, in the singular and in the plural. Only the genitive is different. There are four main types, named after the nominative ending:* ***-ο, -ι, -μα*** *and* ***-ος****. This chapter gives all four cases of each. The jobs of the cases are taught in Chapters 7 to 9.*

THE RULE IN ONE BOX

For every neuter noun: **nominative = accusative = vocative**, in both numbers. The articles are *το, του, το* (singular) and *τα, των, τα* (plural), so the article too is the same in the nominative and accusative. Only the **genitive** changes the noun, and in the plural it always ends in **-ων**. Because the form of the subject and the object are identical, **word order and context** show which is which.

Type 1: nouns in -ο

Examples: **το δέντρο** (tree) and **το βιβλίο** (book), which ends in *-ιο*. Both follow the same pattern.

CASE	SINGULAR		PLURAL	
	Δ'ΕΝΤΡΟ	ΒΙΒΛΊΟ	Δ'ΕΝΤΡΑ	ΒΙΒΛΊΑ
Nominative	το δέντρ**ο**	το βιβλί**ο**	τα δέντρ**α**	τα βιβλί**α**
Genitive	του δέντρ**ου**	του βιβλί**ου**	των δέντρ**ων**	των βιβλί**ων**
Accusative	το δέντρ**ο**	το βιβλί**ο**	τα δέντρ**α**	τα βιβλί**α**
Vocative	δέντρ**ο**	βιβλί**ο**	δέντρ**α**	βιβλί**α**

Type 2: nouns in -ι

This is a very large group in everyday Greek, and it has two stress patterns. If the stress is on the **last** syllable (**το παιδί**, child), the plural is **-ιά**. If the stress is **earlier** in the word (**το σπίτι**, house), the plural is **-ια** and the genitive moves the stress to the ending.

CASE	SINGULAR		PLURAL	
	ΠΑΙΔΊ	ΣΠΊΤΙ	ΠΑΙΔΙΆ	ΣΠΊΤΙΑ
Nominative	το παιδ**ί**	το σπίτ**ι**	τα παιδ**ιά**	τα σπίτ**ια**
Genitive	του παιδ**ιού**	του σπιτ**ιού**	των παιδ**ιών**	των σπιτ**ιών**
Accusative	το παιδ**ί**	το σπίτ**ι**	τα παιδ**ιά**	τα σπίτ**ια**
Vocative	παιδ**ί**	σπίτ**ι**	παιδ**ιά**	σπίτ**ια**

The same patterns cover **το αγόρι** (*αγοριού, αγόρια, αγοριών*), **το κορίτσι** (*κοριτσιού, κορίτσια, κοριτσιών*), **το νησί** (*νησιού, νησιά, νησιών*) and **το ψωμί** (*ψωμιού, ψωμιά, ψωμιών*).

> **Watch out: *-ιά* against *-ια***
>
> The only difference between the plural of *παιδί* (*παιδιά*) and of *σπίτι* (*σπίτια*) is where the stress falls. That is the point of the stress mark: it tells you which plural to use, so *παιδιά* and *σπίτια* are both written correctly only with the mark on the right vowel.

Type 3: nouns in -μα

Examples: **το όνομα** (name) and **το πρόβλημα** (problem). In every form except the singular nominative, accusative and vocative, these nouns insert **-τ-** before the ending (*ονόματος, ονόματα*), and the stress shifts accordingly.

CASE	SINGULAR		PLURAL	
	ΌΝΟΜΑ	ΠΡΌΒΛΗΜΑ	ΟΝΌΜΑΤΑ	ΠΡΟΒΛΉΜΑΤΑ
Nominative	το όνομα	το πρόβλημα	τα ονόματα	τα προβλήματα
Genitive	του ονόματος	του προβλήματος	των ονομάτων	των προβλημάτων
Accusative	το όνομα	το πρόβλημα	τα ονόματα	τα προβλήματα
Vocative	όνομα	πρόβλημα	ονόματα	προβλήματα

The same pattern covers **το μάθημα** (lesson: *μαθήματος, μαθήματα, μαθημάτων*) and **το γράμμα** (letter: *γράμματος, γράμματα, γραμμάτων*).

Type 4: nouns in -ος

A neuter noun in *-ος* looks masculine, but the article *το* gives it away. Examples: **το μέρος** (place), **το λάθος** (mistake) and **το έθνος** (nation).

CASE	SINGULAR		PLURAL	
	ΜΈΡΟΣ	ΛΆΘΟΣ	ΜΈΡΗ	ΛΆΘΗ
Nominative	το μέρος	το λάθος	τα μέρη	τα λάθη
Genitive	του μέρους	του λάθους	των μερών	των λαθών
Accusative	το μέρος	το λάθος	τα μέρη	τα λάθη
Vocative	μέρος	λάθος	μέρη	λάθη

Here the genitive plural has the stress on the ending (*μερών, λαθών*), and **το έθνος** (*έθνους, έθνη, εθνών*) does the same.

Quick summary of the endings

CASE	-Ο	-Ι	-ΜΑ	-ΟΣ
Nom. = acc. = voc. sg.	-ο	-ι / -ί	-μα	-ος
Gen. sg.	-ου	-ιού	-ματος	-ους
Nom. = acc. = voc. pl.	-α	-ια / -ιά	-ματα	-η
Gen. pl.	-ων	-ιών	-μάτων	-ών

The nouns in sentences

Because the subject and the object look alike, the verb and the word order do the work. Compare the same noun in two jobs:

CASE	GREEK	ENGLISH
nominative sg.	**Το παιδί παίζει.**	The child is playing.
accusative sg.	**Βλέπω το παιδί.**	I see the child.
genitive sg.	**Το όνομα του παιδιού.**	The child's name.
vocative sg.	**Παιδί, έλα εδώ!**	Child, come here!
nominative pl.	**Τα παιδιά παίζουν.**	The children are playing.
accusative pl.	**Βλέπω τα παιδιά.**	I see the children.
genitive pl.	**Το σχολείο των παιδιών.**	The children's school.

Watch out: who does what?

In *Το παιδί βλέπει το σκυλί* ("The child sees the dog") both nouns are neuter and look identical in either job. Greek normally puts the subject first, so this means the child sees the dog. Where the sentence could be read two ways, the context or a different noun settles it.

Words in this chapter

GREEK	SAY IT	ENGLISH
το δέντρο	THEN-droh	tree
το σχολείο	skhoh-LEE-oh	school
το νερό	neh-ROH	water
το ψωμί	psoh-MEE	bread
το κρασί	krah-SEE	wine
το νησί	nee-SEE	island
το μάθημα	MAH-thee-mah	lesson, class
το γράμμα	GRAH-mah	letter
το λάθος	LAH-thohs	mistake
το έθνος	EHTH-nohs	nation
το δωμάτιο	thoh-MAH-tee-oh	room
το πρόσωπο	PROH-soh-poh	face; person

In Use — Στην πράξη

Read the exchanges aloud and notice the endings.

① At school

A: Πού είναι το παιδί;
Where is the child?

B: Είναι στο σχολείο.
He is at school.

② In the restaurant

A: Ένα νερό και ψωμί, παρακαλώ.
A water and some bread, please.

B: Και ένα κρασί;
And a glass of wine?

A: Έχει μάθημα;

Does he have a lesson?

B: Ναι, έχει μάθημα ελληνικών.

Yes, he has a Greek lesson.

A: Όχι, ευχαριστώ.

No, thank you.

③ A small mistake

A: Έχω ένα πρόβλημα.

I have a problem.

B: Τι πρόβλημα;

What problem?

A: Έκανα ένα λάθος στο γράμμα.

I made a mistake in the letter.

B: Δεν πειράζει!

Never mind!

📋 Quick Reference — Σύνοψη

TOPIC	SUMMARY
articles	sg. *το, του, το*; pl. *τα, των, τα*
main rule	nominative = accusative = vocative, singular and plural
-ο nouns	*-ο, -ου, -ο, -ο*; pl. *-α, -ων, -α, -α*
-ι nouns	stressed *-ί*: pl. *-ιά*; stress earlier: pl. *-ια*; genitive *-ιού, -ιών*
-μα nouns	add *-τ-*: gen. *-ματος*, pl. *-ματα*, gen. pl. *-μάτων*
-ος nouns	gen. *-ους*, pl. *-η*, gen. pl. *-ών*
genitive plural	*-ων* for all four types

🖍️ Try It Yourself — Ασκήσεις

Say or write the answer first, then click to check.

1. What is the rule that all neuter nouns share?

▼ Show answer

The nominative, accusative and vocative are the same, in the singular and in the plural.

2. Give the plural, with article, of *δέντρο, παιδί, σπίτι*.

▼ Show answer

τα δέντρα, τα παιδιά, τα σπίτια

3. Why is the plural of *παιδί* written *παιδιά* but that of *σπίτι* written *σπίτια*?

▼ Show answer

The stress is on the last syllable of *παιδί*, so the plural is *-ιά*; *σπίτι* is stressed earlier, so the plural is *-ια*.

4. Give the genitive singular and plural of *παιδί*.

▼ Show answer

του παιδιού and *των παιδιών*

5. Give the genitive singular of *όνομα* and of *πρόβλημα*.

▼ Show answer

του ονόματος and *του προβλήματος*

6. Give the plural, with article, of *μέρος* and *λάθος*, and say which gender they are.

▼ Show answer

τα μέρη, τα λάθη. Both are neuter, even though they end in *-ος*.

7. Say “the children’s school”.

▼ Show answer

το σχολείο των παιδιών

8. Say “I see the island” and “I see the islands”.

▼ Show answer

Βλέπω το νησί. / Βλέπω τα νησιά.

9. How do you tell the subject from the object in *Το παιδί βλέπει το σκυλί*?

▼ Show answer

Both nouns are neuter and look the same in either job, so the word order does it: the subject comes first (the child sees the dog).

10. Which ending do the genitive plurals of every neuter type share?

▼ Show answer

-ων (written *-ών* where the stress is on it): *δέντρων, παιδιών, ονομάτων, μερών*.

Not Yet Verified

Checked (one web search on 2026-11-20): that the nominative, accusative and vocative of all neuter nouns show the same endings in each number; that *παιδί* and *σπίτι* are neuter nouns in *-ι*, common in everyday Greek; and that neuter nouns in *-ος* stressed on the second-last syllable, like *μέρος*, keep the stress on the same syllable through some of the declension. The page did not give the genitive or plural of *παιδί / σπίτι* or any modern paradigm of *όνομα* (sources: oocities.org: neuter noun declensions, elon.io: neuter nouns in -ι, ilearngreek.com: neuter declension, foundalis.com: neuter noun patterns, from search results only, the pages themselves were not read in full).
Not checked, from general knowledge: every paradigm on this page, including the *-ιού, -ιών* genitives, the *-ιά / -ια* plurals, the *-ματος / -ματα / -μάτων* pattern, and *μερών, λαθών, εθνών*; the stress given in the genitive plural of every *-ος* noun (the search suggests it may stay in places); every stress mark and the example dialogs, which were written for this course. No dictionary or grammar book was consulted. Check a Greek dictionary or a native speaker before relying on them.

Coming up in Chapter 7: The Nominative and the Accusative. Subject and object; the

accusative after *σε, για, με, από*; and time and direction.

🎯 Nominative and Accusative — Ονομαστική και αιτιατική

*You now know the forms of all three genders in every case. The next three chapters teach what each case is for. This chapter covers the two you will use most: the **nominative** (who or what does the action, or is something) and the **accusative** (what the action is done to, where something goes, and when it happens).*

THE RULE IN ONE BOX

The **nominative** is the case of the **subject** and of the word after *είμαι* ("to be"). The **accusative** is the case of the **direct object**, of nouns after the common prepositions *σε, για, με, από, χωρίς*, and of many **time** and **direction** expressions. Ask *ποιος; τι;* ("who? what?") for the subject, and *ποιον; τι;* for the object.

The nominative

JOB	GREEK	ENGLISH
subject of a verb	**Ο φίλος** μένει στην Αθήνα.	The friend lives in Athens.
subject, plural	**Οι φίλες** έρχονται αύριο.	The (female) friends are coming tomorrow.
after *είμαι*	Ο Νίκος είναι **γιατρός**.	Nikos is a doctor.
after *είμαι*, plural	Τα παιδιά είναι **μαθητές**.	The children are pupils.

Watch out: the subject is often missing

The verb ending already shows the person, so Greek usually leaves out *εγώ, εσύ, αυτός* unless you want to stress them: **Μένω στην Αθήνα** ("I live in Athens"). You use the pronoun to contrast: **Εγώ μένω στην Αθήνα, εσύ μένεις στο Εδιμβούργο.** ("I live in Athens, you live in Edinburgh.")

The accusative: direct object

The direct object answers *ποιον; τι;* (“whom? what?”). Look at the article first: it changes in the masculine and feminine (*τον, την, τους, τις*) and stays the same in the neuter.

GENDER	GREEK	ENGLISH
masculine	Βλέπω **τον φίλο**.	I see the friend.
masculine pl.	Βλέπω **τους φίλους**.	I see the friends.
feminine	Αγαπάω **τη μητέρα** μου.	I love my mother.
feminine pl.	Αγαπάω **τις αδελφές** μου.	I love my sisters.
neuter	Διαβάζω **το βιβλίο**.	I am reading the book.
neuter pl.	Διαβάζω **τα γράμματα**.	I am reading the letters.

Verbs that take an object in Greek, not a preposition

Some Greek verbs take a direct object where English needs a little word like “for” or “to”. These are worth learning as pairs.

GREEK	ENGLISH	NOTE
Περιμένω τον φίλο μου.	I am waiting for my friend.	no preposition
Ακούω τη μουσική.	I am listening to the music.	no preposition
Ψάχνω το κλειδί.	I am looking for the key.	no preposition
Με λένε Νίκο.	My name is Nikos.	literally “they call me Nikos”; the name is accusative

The accusative after prepositions

The common prepositions are followed by the accusative. Chapter 10 treats them one by one; here is the pattern.

PREPOSITION	GREEK	ENGLISH
σε	Μένω **στην Αθήνα**.	I live in Athens.
για	Αυτό είναι **για τον Πέτρο**.	This is for Petros.
με	Πάω **με τη φίλη** μου.	I am going with my (female) friend.
από	Είμαι **από την Ελλάδα**.	I am from Greece.
χωρίς	Τσάι **χωρίς ζάχαρη**.	Tea without sugar.

Direction: where to?

After a verb of movement, *σε* + accusative gives the destination. The same *σε* + accusative gives the place where something is, so Greek does not separate “in” from “to” the way English does.

GREEK	ENGLISH
Πάω στην παραλία.	I am going to the beach.
Πάω στο σχολείο.	I am going to school.
Πάω στη δουλειά.	I am going to work.
Είμαι στο σχολείο.	I am at school. (the same *στο*)

Time: when, how long, how often

Many time expressions use the accusative, with or without a preposition.

USE	GREEK	ENGLISH
days: "on …"	**τη Δευτέρα, την Παρασκευή, το Σάββατο, την Κυριακή**	on Monday, on Friday, on Saturday, on Sunday
parts of the day	**το πρωί, το απόγευμα, το βράδυ**	in the morning, in the afternoon, in the evening
months	**τον Μάρτιο**	in March
every …	**κάθε μέρα, κάθε Κυριακή**	every day, every Sunday
how long (duration)	**Μένω εδώ δύο χρόνια.**	I have been living here for two years.
how long, with *για*	**Δουλεύω για δέκα ώρες.**	I work for ten hours.

> **Watch out: the article**
>
> Greek says *τη Δευτέρα* ("the Monday"), with the article, for "on Monday". The same goes for *το πρωί* ("the morning") for "in the morning". Notice also that the days and parts of the day are in different genders, so the article differs (*τη Δευτέρα*, *το Σάββατο*).

When the form does not tell you

As Chapters 5 and 6 showed, many nouns look the same as subject and object (all neuter nouns, and many feminines). Greek has three ways to settle it:

CLUE	EXAMPLE
the **article** (masculine and feminine)	**Η μητέρα βλέπει τον φίλο.** (*η* = subject, *τον* = object)
the **verb ending**, which agrees with the subject	**Τα παιδιά βλέπουν το σκυλί.** (*βλέπουν* is plural, so *τα παιδιά* is the subject)
word order: the subject usually comes first	**Το παιδί βλέπει το σκυλί.** (the child sees the dog)

Words in this chapter

GREEK	SAY IT	ENGLISH
η Δευτέρα	thef-TEH-rah	Monday
η Παρασκευή	pah-rah-skeh-VEE	Friday
το Σάββατο	SAH-vah-toh	Saturday
η Κυριακή	kee-ree-ah-KEE	Sunday
το πρωί	proh-EE	morning
το απόγευμα	ah-POH-yev-mah	afternoon
το βράδυ	VRAH-thee	evening
ο χρόνος	HROH-nohs	year; time
ο μήνας	MEE-nahs	month
η εβδομάδα	ehv-thoh-MAH-thah	week
η μουσική	moo-see-KEE	music
το κλειδί	klee-THEE	key

🗣️ In Use — Στην πράξη

Read the exchanges aloud and notice the accusative in each one.

① The week

A: Τι κάνεις τη Δευτέρα;
What are you doing on Monday?

B: Τη Δευτέρα δουλεύω. Και το Σάββατο πάω στην παραλία.

② How long?

A: Πόσο καιρό μένεις εδώ;
How long have you lived here?

B: Μένω εδώ δύο χρόνια.
I have lived here for two years.

On Monday I work. And on Saturday I go to the beach.

A: Και την Κυριακή;
And on Sunday?

B: Την Κυριακή μένω στο σπίτι.
On Sunday I stay at home.

A: Σου αρέσει η πόλη;
Do you like the city?

B: Ναι, αγαπάω την πόλη και τη θάλασσα.
Yes, I love the city and the sea.

③ Waiting

A: Τι κάνεις;
What are you doing?

B: Περιμένω τον φίλο μου.
I am waiting for my friend.

A: Και τι ακούς;
And what are you listening to?

B: Ακούω μουσική.
I am listening to music.

📋 Quick Reference — Σύνοψη

TOPIC	SUMMARY
nominative	subject (*ποιος; τι;*); the word after *είμαι*; the dictionary form
accusative	direct object (*ποιον; τι;*); after *σε, για, με, από, χωρίς*; direction; many time expressions
subject pronoun	usually left out; used to stress or contrast
articles	accusative *τον, την, το, τους, τις, τα*
days, parts of the day, months	accusative with the article (*τη Δευτέρα, το πρωί, τον Μάρτιο*)

TOPIC	SUMMARY
duration	accusative alone (*δύο χρόνια*) or with *για*
subject or object?	article, verb ending, word order

🖍️ Try It Yourself — Ασκήσεις

Say or write the answer first, then click to check.

1. In *Ο Νίκος είναι γιατρός*, which words are in the nominative?

▼ Show answer

Νίκος (the subject) and *γιατρός* (the word after *είμαι*).

2. Put the object into the accusative: *Βλέπω ____ (ο φίλος).*

▼ Show answer

Βλέπω τον φίλο.

3. Say “I love my sisters” and “I love my mother”.

▼ Show answer

Αγαπάω τις αδελφές μου. / Αγαπάω τη μητέρα μου.

4. Say “I am waiting for my friend”. Why is there no word for “for”?

▼ Show answer

Περιμένω τον φίλο μου. The Greek verb *περιμένω* takes a direct object (accusative) where English uses “wait for”.

5. Say “I am going to school” and “I am at school”.

▼ Show answer

Πάω στο σχολείο. / Είμαι στο σχολείο. The same *σε* + accusative does both.

6. Say “on Monday”, “on Saturday”, “in the evening”.

▼ Show answer

τη Δευτέρα, το Σάββατο, το βράδυ

7. Say “I have lived here for three years”. (Hint: “three” is *τρία* before a neuter noun.)

▼ Show answer

Μένω εδώ τρία χρόνια.

8. In *Τα παιδιά βλέπουν το σκυλί*, how do you know which noun is the subject?

▼ Show answer

The verb *βλέπουν* is plural, so it agrees with *τα παιδιά*; also the subject comes first.

9. Say “tea without sugar” and “I am from Greece”.

▼ Show answer

τσάι χωρίς ζάχαρη / Είμαι από την Ελλάδα.

10. Why is *Νίκο* accusative in *Με λένε Νίκο*?

▼ Show answer

The sentence is literally “they call me Nikos”, and the name is the second object of *λένε*, so it is in the accusative (*Νίκος → Νίκο*).

Not Yet Verified

Checked (one web search on 2026-11-20): that *σε, με, από, για* are followed by the accusative; that the accusative marks the direct object (*ποιον; τι;*); and that days of the week take the article in the accusative for “on” (*τη Δευτέρα*). The search found nothing specific on the nominative predicate, and its only duration example was about a starting point, not a length of time (sources: Transparent Language: examples of the accusative, LingQ: Greek prepositions, Transparent Language: time words in Greek, from search results only, the pages themselves were not read in full).
Not checked, from general knowledge: the nominative after *είμαι*; duration in the accusative (*δύο χρόνια*) and with *για*; *το πρωί / το απόγευμα / το βράδυ* and *τον Μάρτιο* for “in”; *κάθε* + accusative; the verbs *περιμένω, ακούω, ψάχνω* taking a direct object; *Με λένε Νίκο*; *τρία χρόνια*;

every stress mark and the example dialogs, which were written for this course. No dictionary or grammar book was consulted. Check a Greek dictionary or a native speaker before relying on them.

Coming up in Chapter 8: The Genitive. Possession and “of”, the person who receives, the genitive plural, and the genitive in common phrases.

🔗 The Genitive — Η γενική

*The genitive is the case of **possession**: "the friend's house", "the name of the city". It also does the work the lost dative used to do: it marks the person who **receives** something, mostly through the small genitive pronouns μου, σου, του, της. You have all the forms from Chapters 3 to 6; this chapter is about the jobs.*

THE RULE IN ONE BOX

The genitive noun comes **after** the noun it belongs to, and it keeps its own article: *το σπίτι **του φίλου*** ("the friend's house"). The weak genitive pronouns *μου, σου, του, της, μας, σας, τους* do two jobs: they mean "my, your, his …" after a noun, and "to me, to you, to him …" before a verb. For nouns, "to someone" is normally *σε* + accusative (Chapter 7).

Possession and "of"

The possessor is in the genitive and stands after the thing possessed. Both nouns keep their articles. Review the genitive forms, from Chapters 3 to 6:

GENDER	SINGULAR	PLURAL
masculine	του φίλου, του μαθητή, του πατέρα	των φίλων, των μαθητών, των πατέρων
feminine	της φίλης, της μητέρας, της πόλης	των φίλων, των μητέρων, των πόλεων
neuter	του παιδιού, του σπιτιού, του ονόματος	των παιδιών, των σπιτιών, των ονομάτων

GREEK	ENGLISH
το σπίτι **του φίλου**	the friend's house

GREEK	ENGLISH
το όνομα **της πόλης**	the name of the city
η δουλειά **του πατέρα** μου	my father's job
τα βιβλία **των παιδιών**	the children's books
οι φωτογραφίες **της οικογένειας**	the family's photos

> **Watch out: the order is the reverse of English**
>
> English puts the possessor first (*the friend's house*). Greek puts the possessed thing first and the possessor after it (*το σπίτι του φίλου*). Note also that when both a genitive noun and *μου* follow, the noun comes first: *το σπίτι του φίλου μου* ("my friend's house").

Names and titles

NOMINATIVE	GENITIVE	EXAMPLE
ο Κώστας	του Κώστα	το αυτοκίνητο του Κώστα
ο Νίκος	του Νίκου	η μητέρα του Νίκου
η Μαρία	της Μαρίας	η τσάντα της Μαρίας
η Άννα	της Άννας	το σπίτι της Άννας
ο κύριος Παπαδόπουλος	του κυρίου Παπαδόπουλου	το γραφείο του κυρίου Παπαδόπουλου
η κυρία Ελένη	της κυρίας Ελένης	η γάτα της κυρίας Ελένης

The weak genitive pronouns

These small words are used constantly. Placed **after a noun**, they show possession. Placed **before a verb**, they show the person who receives or benefits. The form is the same either way.

PERSON	FORM	AFTER A NOUN (POSSESSION)	BEFORE A VERB (TO / FOR)
my / to me	**μου**	**το σπίτι μου** (my house)	**Μου δίνει το βιβλίο.** (He gives me the book.)
your / to you (sg.)	**σου**	**ο φίλος σου** (your friend)	**Σου γράφω.** (I write to you.)
his, its / to him, to it	**του**	**η μητέρα του** (his mother)	**Του τηλεφωνώ.** (I phone him.)
her / to her	**της**	**ο γιος της** (her son)	**Της δίνω ένα βιβλίο.** (I give her a book.)
our / to us	**μας**	**το σπίτι μας** (our house)	**Μας μιλάει.** (He speaks to us.)
your / to you (pl. or formal)	**σας**	**το όνομά σας** (your name)	**Σας ευχαριστώ.** (I thank you.)
their / to them	**τους**	**τα παιδιά τους** (their children)	**Τους γράφω.** (I write to them.)

> **Watch out: an extra accent**
>
> When *μου, σου, του* and the other weak pronouns follow a word stressed on the third syllable from the end, the noun takes a second accent: *ο άνθρωπός μου* (“my person”), *το όνομά σας* (“your name”). This is the exception to the “last three syllables” rule mentioned in Chapter 2. Chapter 11 returns to the weak pronouns.

Liking, missing and similar

Greek says “it pleases me” where English says “I like”. The thing liked is the **subject** (nominative) and the person who likes it is the genitive pronoun. The verb agrees with the thing liked.

GREEK	LITERALLY	ENGLISH
Μου αρέσει η Ελλάδα.	Greece pleases me.	I like Greece.

GREEK	LITERALLY	ENGLISH
Μου αρέσουν τα νησιά.	The islands please me.	I like the islands.
Σου αρέσει ο καφές;	Does the coffee please you?	Do you like coffee?
Του αρέσουν τα βιβλία.	Books please him.	He likes books.
Μου λείπει η οικογένειά μου.	My family is missing to me.	I miss my family.

With a **noun** as the person who likes, Greek uses *σε* + accusative: **Αρέσει στον Κώστα η μουσική.** ("Kostas likes the music.")

Formal expressions with the genitive

A few expressions, mainly in written or formal Greek, are followed by the genitive. You will meet them in the news and in official text. In *κατά τη διάρκεια του καλοκαιριού* the genitive belongs to *διάρκεια* ("the duration of the summer"); *κατά* itself is followed by the accusative (*τη διάρκεια*), as Chapter 10 notes.

GREEK	ENGLISH
λόγω της βροχής	because of the rain
κατά τη διάρκεια του καλοκαιριού	during the summer

Where English "of" is not a genitive

English uses "of" for containers and quantities. Greek simply puts the two nouns side by side, **both in the same case**, with no genitive.

GREEK	ENGLISH	NOT
ένα ποτήρι νερό	a glass of water	*ποτήρι του νερού*
ένα κιλό ψωμί	a kilo of bread	*κιλό του ψωμιού*

GREEK	ENGLISH	NOT
ένα τραπέζι από ξύλο	a table made of wood	*τραπέζι του ξύλου*

Words in this chapter

GREEK	SAY IT	ENGLISH
το ποτήρι	poh-TEE-ree	glass
το κιλό	kee-LOH	kilo
η φωτογραφία	foh-toh-ghrah-FEE-ah	photo
το αυτοκίνητο	af-toh-KEE-nee-toh	car
ο κύριος	KEE-ree-ohs	Mr; gentleman
η κυρία	kee-REE-ah	Mrs; lady
η βροχή	vroh-HEE	rain
το καλοκαίρι	kah-loh-KEH-ree	summer
η βοήθεια	voh-EE-thee-ah	help
ο γάμος	GHAH-mohs	wedding
η οικογένεια	ee-koh-YEH-nee-ah	family
η τσάντα	TSAHN-dah	bag

🗣️ In Use — Στην πράξη

Read the exchanges aloud and notice the genitive.

① Whose is it?

② Giving things

A: Ποιανού είναι αυτό το αυτοκίνητο;

Whose car is this?

B: Είναι του Κώστα.

It is Kostas's.

A: Και αυτή η τσάντα;

And this bag?

B: Είναι της Μαρίας.

It is Maria's.

A: Τι δίνεις στη Μαρία;

What are you giving Maria?

B: Της δίνω ένα βιβλίο.

I am giving her a book.

A: Και στον Κώστα;

And Kostas?

B: Του δίνω ένα ποτήρι νερό.

I am giving him a glass of water.

③ Likes

A: Σου αρέσει η Ελλάδα;

Do you like Greece?

B: Ναι, μου αρέσει πολύ. Μου αρέσουν και τα νησιά.

Yes, I like it a lot. I like the islands too.

A: Και στον φίλο σου αρέσει;

And does your friend like it?

B: Ναι, του αρέσουν τα νησιά.

Yes, he likes the islands.

📋 Quick Reference — Σύνοψη

TOPIC	SUMMARY
possession	genitive noun after the thing possessed: *το σπίτι του φίλου*
articles	genitive *του, της, του / των*; the possessed noun keeps its own article
weak pronouns	*μου, σου, του, της, μας, σας, τους*: after a noun = my, your …; before a verb = to me, to you …
liking	*Μου αρέσει / αρέσουν* + nominative; with a noun, *σε* + accusative

TOPIC	SUMMARY
formal expressions	*λόγω* + genitive; *κατά τη διάρκεια* + genitive of the period
containers and quantities	no genitive: *ένα ποτήρι νερό*
extra accent	the noun may take a second accent before *μου, σου, του …*

🖍️ Try It Yourself — Ασκήσεις

Say or write the answer first, then click to check.

1. Say “the friend’s house” and “the name of the city”.

▼ Show answer

το σπίτι του φίλου / το όνομα της πόλης

2. Say “the children’s books”.

▼ Show answer

τα βιβλία των παιδιών

3. Say “Maria’s bag” and “Kostas’s car”.

▼ Show answer

η τσάντα της Μαρίας / το αυτοκίνητο του Κώστα

4. Say “my friend’s house” (use *μου*).

▼ Show answer

το σπίτι του φίλου μου. The genitive noun comes first and *μου* after it.

5. Say “I give her a book” and “I give him a glass of water”.

▼ Show answer

Της δίνω ένα βιβλίο. / Του δίνω ένα ποτήρι νερό.

6. Say “I like the islands” and “I like Greece”. Which verb form, and why?

▼ Show answer

Μου αρέσουν τα νησιά. / Μου αρέσει η Ελλάδα. The verb agrees with the thing liked: plural *αρέσουν*, singular *αρέσει*.

7. Say “Kostas likes the music”. Why not use *του*?

▼ Show answer

Αρέσει στον Κώστα η μουσική. With a noun as the person, Greek uses *σε* + accusative; the weak genitive pronoun is for pronouns.

8. Say “a glass of water”. Why is the second noun not in the genitive?

▼ Show answer

ένα ποτήρι νερό. Containers and quantities put the two nouns side by side in the same case; English “of” is not a genitive here.

9. Say “during the summer” and “because of the rain”.

▼ Show answer

κατά τη διάρκεια του καλοκαιριού / λόγω της βροχής

10. Give the genitive of *η κυρία Ελένη*.

▼ Show answer

της κυρίας Ελένης

Not Yet Verified

Checked (one web search on 2026-11-20): that the possessive pronouns of Modern Greek have the same forms as the weak genitive personal pronouns (*μου, σου, του, της*); that the genitive also marks indirect objects, partly through genitive forms and partly through *σε* + accusative; and that *ποιανού* is a genitive of *ποιος*. The search did not address *μου αρέσει* or the noun-phrase pattern *το*

σπίτι του φίλου directly (sources: projectrazon.github.io: personal pronouns, Wikiwand: Modern Greek grammar, Kallipos: Greek grammar textbook, from search results only, the pages themselves were not read in full).

Not checked, from general knowledge: the order and article pattern in possessive phrases; the use of *μου αρέσει / μου λείπει*; *Του τηλεφωνώ* with the genitive; the formal expressions *λόγω* and *κατά τη διάρκεια*; the container pattern *ένα ποτήρι νερό*; the genitives of the names and titles; the second accent before *μου*; every stress mark and the example dialogs, which were written for this course. No dictionary or grammar book was consulted. Check a Greek dictionary or a native speaker before relying on them.

Coming up in Chapter 9: The Vocative and Forms of Address. Vocative endings, names and titles, and formal and informal ways of calling someone.

📣 The Vocative — Η κλητική

*The vocative is the case you use when you **talk to** someone and name them: Κώστα, έλα εδώ! ("Kostas, come here!"). You already know all its forms from Chapters 4 to 6; this chapter collects them in one place and adds how Greek speakers address each other, formally and informally.*

THE RULE IN ONE BOX

The vocative **drops the article**. Feminine and neuter nouns, and all plurals, use the same form as the nominative (*Μαρία!, παιδί!, φίλοι!*). Only **masculine singular** nouns change: **-ος** nouns take **-ε** (*φίλε, κύριε*), but masculine first names in **-ος** take **-ο** (*Νίκο, Γιώργο*); **-ης** nouns take **-η** (*Γιάννη, μαθητή*); **-ας** nouns take **-α** (*Κώστα, πατέρα*).

Vocative forms in one table

TYPE	NOMINATIVE	VOCATIVE	EXAMPLE
common noun in *-ος*	ο φίλος	φίλε	Φίλε, έλα εδώ!
	ο δάσκαλος	δάσκαλε	Δάσκαλε, καλημέρα!
	ο κύριος	κύριε	Κύριε, παρακαλώ!
	ο γιατρός	γιατρέ	Γιατρέ, με βοηθάτε;
masculine first name in *-ος*	ο Νίκος, ο Γιώργος	Νίκο, Γιώργο	Νίκο, τι κάνεις;
-ης	ο Γιάννης, ο μαθητής	Γιάννη, μαθητή	Γιάννη, έλα!

TYPE	NOMINATIVE	VOCATIVE	EXAMPLE
-ας	**ο Κώστας, ο πατέρας, ο μπαμπάς**	**Κώστα, πατέρα, μπαμπά**	**Μπαμπά, έλα εδώ!**
feminine	**η Μαρία, η μαμά, η κυρία, η φίλη**	**Μαρία, μαμά, κυρία, φίλη**	**Μαμά, πού είσαι;**
neuter	**το παιδί**	**παιδί**	**Παιδί μου, έλα!**
plural, all genders	**οι φίλοι, τα παιδιά**	**φίλοι, παιδιά**	**Παιδιά, ελάτε!**

Watch out: names

Calling someone by the nominative of a masculine name in *-ος* (*Νίκος!*, *Γιώργος!*) is a common mistake; the usual vocative is *Νίκο!*, *Γιώργο!*. With ordinary words (*φίλε*, *κύριε*) the *-ε* ending is the norm. For *-ης* and *-ας* names the vocative drops the *ς*: *Γιάννη!*, *Κώστα!*.

Adding *μου*

The weak pronoun *μου* after a vocative turns it into an affectionate or friendly address. It is very common.

GREEK	ENGLISH
φίλε μου	my friend, mate
παιδί μου	my child, dear
αγάπη μου	my love
μαμά μου	mum (affectionately)
Θεέ μου!	My God! (an exclamation)

Titles and surnames

In polite address, a title and a surname are both put in the vocative. A masculine surname in *-ος* takes *-ε*, like a common noun. A woman's name does not change.

NOMINATIVE	VOCATIVE	EXAMPLE
ο κύριος Παπαδόπουλος	κύριε Παπαδόπουλε	Καλημέρα, κύριε Παπαδόπουλε!
η κυρία Ελένη	κυρία Ελένη	Καλησπέρα, κυρία Ελένη!
ο καθηγητής	καθηγητή	Καθηγητή, μια ερώτηση!

Nouns in *-ής* such as **ο καθηγητής** and **ο μαθητής** have the vocative *καθηγητή*, *μαθητή*, as in Chapter 4.

Formal and informal address

Greek has two ways to say "you". **εσύ** is for one friend, a child or a younger person. **εσείς** is for more than one person and also for one person you address politely. The verb and the pronouns follow:

INFORMAL (ONE FRIEND)	FORMAL / PLURAL	ENGLISH
εσύ	εσείς	you
Γεια σου!	Γεια σας!	Hello! / Goodbye!
Τι κάνεις;	Τι κάνετε;	How are you?
Πώς σε λένε;	Πώς σας λένε;	What is your name?
Πού μένεις;	Πού μένετε;	Where do you live?
Συγγνώμη!	Με συγχωρείτε!	Sorry! / Excuse me!
το σπίτι σου	το σπίτι σας	your house

Watch out: which one to use?

Use the formal forms (*εσείς, κύριε, κυρία, σας*) with older people, people you have just met, officials, shop staff and teachers, until they invite you to say *εσύ*. Among friends, family and young people, the informal forms are normal and the formal ones can sound cold. The Basic courses used both registers in context; the rule of thumb here is to start formal and follow the other person.

Greetings through the day

GREEK	ENGLISH
Καλημέρα!	Good morning!
Καλησπέρα!	Good afternoon / evening!
Καληνύχτα!	Good night!
Καλημέρα σας, κύριε Παπαδόπουλε!	Good morning, Mr Papadopoulos!

Words in this chapter

GREEK	SAY IT	ENGLISH
η καλημέρα	kah-lee-MEH-rah	good morning
η καλησπέρα	kah-lee-SPEH-rah	good evening
η καληνύχτα	kah-lee-NEEH-tah	good night
η συγγνώμη	see-GHNOH-mee	sorry; pardon
ο θείος	THEE-ohs	uncle
ο ξάδελφος	KSAH-thehl-fohs	cousin (male)
η γειτόνισσα	yee-TOH-nee-sah	neighbour (female)
ο πελάτης	peh-LAH-tees	customer
ο σερβιτόρος	ser-vee-TOH-rohs	waiter

GREEK	SAY IT	ENGLISH
η σερβιτόρα	ser-vee-TOH-rah	waitress
η αγάπη	ah-GHAH-pee	love
ο Θεός	theh-OHS	God

🗣️ In Use — Στην πράξη

Read the exchanges aloud and notice the address forms.

① Formal

A: Καλημέρα σας, κύριε Παπαδόπουλε!
Good morning, Mr Papadopoulos!

B: Καλημέρα, κυρία Ελένη. Τι κάνετε;
Good morning, Mrs Eleni. How are you?

A: Καλά, ευχαριστώ. Εσείς;
Fine, thank you. And you?

B: Πολύ καλά.
Very well.

② Informal

A: Γεια σου, Κώστα! Τι κάνεις;
Hello, Kostas! How are you?

B: Καλά, φίλε μου. Εσύ;
Fine, my friend. And you?

A: Μια χαρά!
Great!

③ In the restaurant

A: Σερβιτόρε, παρακαλώ!
Waiter, please!

B: Ορίστε, κυρία μου.
Yes, madam.

A: Έναν καφέ και ένα νερό, παρακαλώ.
A coffee and a water, please.

B: Αμέσως!
Right away!

📋 Quick Reference — Σύνοψη

TOPIC	SUMMARY
article	dropped in the vocative
common nouns in *-ος*	*-ε* (*φίλε, κύριε, γιατρέ*)
first names in *-ος*	*-ο* (*Νίκο, Γιώργο*)
-ης, -ας	drop the *ς* (*Γιάννη, Κώστα, μπαμπά*)
feminine, neuter, plural	same as the nominative
titles with surnames	both in the vocative: *κύριε Παπαδόπουλε*; *κυρία Ελένη*
friendly address	vocative + *μου*: *φίλε μου*
informal / formal	*εσύ, σου, Τι κάνεις;* / *εσείς, σας, Τι κάνετε;*

🖍️ Try It Yourself — Ασκήσεις

Say or write the answer first, then click to check.

1. Give the vocative of *ο φίλος, ο δάσκαλος, ο γιατρός*.

▼ Show answer

φίλε, δάσκαλε, γιατρέ

2. Give the vocative of *ο Νίκος, ο Γιώργος, ο Κώστας, ο Γιάννης*.

▼ Show answer

Νίκο, Γιώργο, Κώστα, Γιάννη

3. Give the vocative of *η Μαρία, η μαμά, το παιδί*.

▼ Show answer

The same as the nominative: *Μαρία, μαμά, παιδί*.

4. Call out to a group of children and to your dad.

▼ Show answer

Παιδιά! and *Μπαμπά!*

5. Greet *ο κύριος Παπαδόπουλος* politely with “Good morning”.

▼ Show answer

Καλημέρα σας, κύριε Παπαδόπουλε!

6. How would you say “my friend” when speaking to one?

▼ Show answer

φίλε μου

7. Ask “How are you?” to a friend and to an older person you have just met.

▼ Show answer

Τι κάνεις; / Τι κάνετε;

8. Ask “What is your name?” informally and formally.

▼ Show answer

Πώς σε λένε; / Πώς σας λένε;

9. Why is *Νίκος, έλα εδώ!* not the usual way to call someone?

▼ Show answer

Masculine first names in *-ος* take *-ο* in the vocative: *Νίκο, έλα εδώ!*

10. Call the waiter and the waitress.

▼ Show answer

Σερβιτόρε, παρακαλώ! and *Σερβιτόρα, παρακαλώ!*

Not Yet Verified

Checked (one web search on 2026-11-20): that common nouns in *-ος* take *-ε* in the vocative while masculine first names in *-ος* take *-ο* (*Γιώργο, Νίκο*); that names in *-ης* take *-η* and in *-ας* take *-α*; that feminine and neuter nouns usually keep the nominative; that both title and surname are inflected in polite address (*κύριε Παπαδόπουλε*); and that the vocative drops the article (source: elon.io: the vocative case, from search results only, the page itself was not read in full). The search found nothing on *εσείς* as a formal "you".

Not checked, from general knowledge: the formal and informal pairs (*Τι κάνεις / κάνετε, Πώς σε / σας λένε, Με συγχωρείτε*) and advice on when to use them; *Θεέ μου* and the other *μου* phrases; the greetings; every stress mark and the example dialogs, which were written for this course. No dictionary or grammar book was consulted. Check a Greek dictionary or a native speaker before relying on them.

Coming up in Chapter 10: Prepositions. *σε, από, με, για, χωρίς, μέχρι, προς, κατά*, the case that follows, and the joined forms *στον, στη, στο*.

🧭 Prepositions — Οι προθέσεις

Prepositions are the small words that show place, direction, company and time. In Greek they are pleasantly simple on one front: ***the common ones are followed by the accusative****, so there is one case to remember, not several as in Russian. The less simple part is that σε joins onto the article (στον, στην, στο), and that Greek builds place prepositions out of two words. This chapter gathers it all.*

THE RULE IN ONE BOX

The common prepositions **σε, από, με, για, χωρίς, μέχρι, προς** are followed by the **accusative**. **σε** always merges with the article that follows it: *σε + τον = στον, σε + την = στην, σε + το = στο* (and in the plural *στους, στις, στα*); *σε το* is never written.
Prepositions of place are mostly built as **adverb + σε** or **adverb + από** (*μπροστά σε, πίσω από*) and the noun after them is in the accusative.

σε and its joined forms

σε is the most common Greek preposition. It means “in, at, to, on” depending on the context, and it joins with the article that follows.

ΣΕ +	JOINED FORM	EXAMPLE
τον (masc. sg.)	**στον**	**στον φούρνο** (at the bakery)
την (fem. sg.)	**στην / στη**	**στην Αθήνα, στη θάλασσα** (the final *ν* follows the rule in Chapter 3)
το (neut. sg.)	**στο**	**στο σπίτι** (at home)
τους (masc. pl.)	**στους**	**στους φίλους** (to the friends)
τις (fem. pl.)	**στις**	**στις παραλίες** (to the beaches)

ΣΕ +	JOINED FORM	EXAMPLE
τα (neut. pl.)	**στα**	**στα νησιά** (to the islands)

Without an article, *σε* stays separate: **σε ένα σπίτι** (in a house), **σε μια πόλη** (in a city). Place names normally take the article, so you say **στην Ελλάδα, στην Αθήνα, στο Εδιμβούργο, στη Σκωτία**.

The simple prepositions

PREPOSITION	MAIN MEANINGS	EXAMPLE
σε	in, at, to, on	**Μένω στην Αθήνα.** / **Πάω στο σχολείο.**
από	from; by; since; than	**Είμαι από τη Σκωτία.** (I am from Scotland.)
με	with; by (means)	**Πάω με το λεωφορείο.** (I go by bus.)
για	for; about	**Μιλάμε για τη δουλειά.** (We talk about work.)
χωρίς	without	**Καφέ χωρίς ζάχαρη.** (Coffee without sugar.)
μέχρι	until, as far as	**Μέχρι την Κυριακή.** (Until Sunday.)
προς	towards	**Πάω προς το κέντρο.** (I am going towards the centre.)
κατά	around (a time); towards	**κατά τις πέντε** (around five o'clock)

> **Watch out: *από* does not join**
>
> *από* does not merge with the article the way *σε* does: you write *από τον φίλο, από την πόλη, από το σπίτι*. In speech you may hear a shortened *απ' το, απ' εδώ*.

με and transport

"By bus, by train" is *με* + the article + the noun, not just *με* + noun.

GREEK	ENGLISH
με το λεωφορείο	by bus
με το τρένο	by train
με το αεροπλάνο	by plane
με τα πόδια	on foot

σε and clock time

"At" a clock time is *σε* + the article + the hour: **στις τρεις** (at three), **στις πέντε και μισή** (at half past five). For one o'clock the article is singular: **στη μία** (at one).

Compound prepositions of place

Many prepositions of place are two words: an adverb followed by *σε* or *από*. They follow the pattern of the second word: the noun is in the accusative, and the *σε* joins with the article (*στο, στην*).

GREEK	ENGLISH	EXAMPLE
μέσα σε	inside	μέσα στο σπίτι
έξω από	outside	έξω από το σπίτι
πάνω σε	on (top of)	πάνω στο τραπέζι
πάνω από	above, over	πάνω από την πόλη
κάτω από	under	κάτω από το τραπέζι
μπροστά σε	in front of	μπροστά στο σχολείο
πίσω από	behind	πίσω από την τράπεζα
δίπλα σε	next to	δίπλα στο πάρκο

GREEK	ENGLISH	EXAMPLE
κοντά σε	near	κοντά στη θάλασσα
μακριά από	far from	μακριά από το κέντρο
απέναντι από	opposite	απέναντι από τον σταθμό
ανάμεσα σε	between, among	ανάμεσα στο σπίτι και το σχολείο
γύρω από	around	γύρω από την πλατεία

Watch out: σε or από?

There is no single rule for which one a compound takes; learn them in pairs. A rough guide: the "static" closeness ones (*μέσα, μπροστά, δίπλα, κοντά, ανάμεσα*) take *σε*; the ones that mark a separation or a reference point (*έξω, πίσω, κάτω, μακριά, απέναντι, γύρω*) take *από*. *πάνω* takes both with different meanings (on / above).

Time and sequence: before and after

GREEK	ENGLISH
πριν από το φαγητό	before the meal
μετά το φαγητό	after the meal
μέχρι τις δύο	until two o'clock
από τη Δευτέρα	from Monday, since Monday

Words in this chapter

GREEK	SAY IT	ENGLISH
το λεωφορείο	leh-oh-foh-REE-oh	bus

GREEK	SAY IT	ENGLISH
το τρένο	TREH-noh	train
το αεροπλάνο	ah-eh-roh-PLAH-noh	plane
το τραπέζι	trah-PEH-zee	table
η καρέκλα	kah-REH-klah	chair
η πλατεία	plah-TEE-ah	square
το κέντρο	KEHN-droh	centre
το γραφείο	ghrah-FEE-oh	office; desk
η στάση	STAH-see	stop (bus stop)
η τράπεζα	TRAH-peh-zah	bank
το πάρκο	PAHR-koh	park
ο σταθμός	stahth-MOHS	station

🗣️ In Use — Στην πράξη

Read the exchanges aloud and notice the joined forms.

① Where is it?

A: Πού είναι η στάση του λεωφορείου;
Where is the bus stop?

B: Είναι απέναντι από την τράπεζα, δίπλα στο πάρκο.
It is opposite the bank, next to the park.

A: Είναι μακριά από εδώ;
Is it far from here?

B: Όχι, είναι κοντά.

② How do you go?

A: Πώς πας στη δουλειά;
How do you go to work?

B: Πάω με το τρένο.
I go by train.

A: Και στο κέντρο;
And to the centre?

B: Με το λεωφορείο.
By bus.

No, it is near.

③ The time

A: Πότε έρχεται το τρένο;

When does the train come?

B: Στις τρεις.

At three.

A: Έχουμε χρόνο. Θα είμαι στο γραφείο μέχρι τις δύο.

We have time. I will be at the office until two.

📋 Quick Reference — Σύνοψη

TOPIC	SUMMARY
case	the common prepositions take the accusative
σε + article	*στον, στην / στη, στο, στους, στις, στα*; always joined
από + article	not joined: *από τον, από την, από το*
με	with; by (transport, with the article): *με το λεωφορείο*
clock time	*στις τρεις, στη μία*
compound prepositions	adverb + *σε* or *από*: *δίπλα στο πάρκο, πίσω από την τράπεζα*
before / after	*πριν από, μετά*
until	*μέχρι* + accusative

🖍️ Try It Yourself — Ασκήσεις

Say or write the answer first, then click to check.

1. Join *σε* with the article: ____ φίλο (masc.), ____ Αθήνα, ____ σπίτι, ____ νησιά.

▼ Show answer

στον φίλο, στην Αθήνα, στο σπίτι, στα νησιά

2. Say “I live in Edinburgh” and “I am going to the beach”.

▼ Show answer

Μένω στο Εδιμβούργο. / *Πάω στην παραλία.*

3. Say “I am from Greece”. Does *από* join with the article?

▼ Show answer

Είμαι από την Ελλάδα. No, *από* stays separate from the article.

4. Say “by bus” and “by plane”.

▼ Show answer

με το λεωφορείο / *με το αεροπλάνο*

5. Say “at three o’clock” and “at one o’clock”.

▼ Show answer

στις τρεις / *στη μία*

6. Say “the book is on the table” and “the cat is under the table”. (cat = *η γάτα*)

▼ Show answer

Το βιβλίο είναι πάνω στο τραπέζι. / *Η γάτα είναι κάτω από το τραπέζι.*

7. Say “opposite the bank” and “next to the park”.

▼ Show answer

απέναντι από την τράπεζα / *δίπλα στο πάρκο*

8. Say “tea without sugar” and “until Sunday”.

▼ Show answer

τσάι χωρίς ζάχαρη / *μέχρι την Κυριακή*

9. Why is *σε το σπίτι* wrong?

▼ Show answer

σε always joins with the article: *στο σπίτι*.

10. Say “before the meal” and “after the meal”.

▼ Show answer

πριν από το φαγητό / *μετά το φαγητό*

Not Yet Verified

Checked (one web search on 2026-11-20): that *σε, από, με, για, μέχρι, χωρίς, προς* are followed by the accusative in their everyday uses; that *σε* merges with the article (*στο, στην, στον, στη, στους, στις, στα*) and that *σε το* should not be written; and that compounds such as *πάνω σε* and *κάτω από* take the case of their last word. The same sources disagree on *κατά*, which one page lists with the accusative and another with the genitive for the sense “against” (sources: LingQ: Greek prepositions, elon.io: prepositions overview, greekboston.com: learning the prepositions, from search results only, the pages themselves were not read in full).

Not checked, from general knowledge: the meanings in the simple-preposition table; *κατά τις πέντε* (the one use of *κατά* shown here); the full list of compound prepositions and my rule of thumb for *σε* against *από* (it is a guide, not a rule); *με το λεωφορείο* and *με τα πόδια*; clock time with *σε*; the shortened *απ’ εδώ*; *πριν από* and *μετά* + accusative; every stress mark and the example dialogs, which were written for this course. No dictionary or grammar book was consulted. Check a Greek dictionary or a native speaker before relying on them.

Coming up in Chapter 11: Personal Pronouns. Strong and weak pronouns in all cases, where the weak pronouns go, and double pronouns such as *μου το είπε*.

👤 Personal Pronouns — Οι προσωπικές αντωνυμίες

*Greek has two sets of personal pronouns. The **strong** ones are full words that you can stress (εμένα, εσένα). The **weak** ones are short words that lean on the verb (με, σε, μου, σου) and are the ones you use all the time. This chapter shows both sets, where the weak ones go in the sentence, and how two of them combine (μου το είπε). You have used many of them since Greek Basic Conversation 1; now they are put in order.*

THE RULE IN ONE BOX

Weak pronouns go **immediately before the verb** (*Σε βλέπω, Μου δίνει*), but **after a positive imperative** (*Δώσε μου*). **Strong** pronouns are used for emphasis, contrast and after prepositions, and they are often **stacked** with the weak one (*Εμένα μου αρέσει*). When two weak pronouns meet, the **indirect object (genitive) comes first** and the **direct object (accusative) second**: *Μου το δίνει.*

The strong pronouns

PERSON	NOMINATIVE	ACCUSATIVE (ALSO AFTER PREPOSITIONS)
I / me	**εγώ**	**εμένα**
you (sg.)	**εσύ**	**εσένα**
he, him	**αυτός**	**αυτόν**
she, her	**αυτή**	**αυτήν**
it	**αυτό**	**αυτό**
we, us	**εμείς**	**εμάς**
you (pl. / formal)	**εσείς**	**εσάς**

PERSON	NOMINATIVE	ACCUSATIVE (ALSO AFTER PREPOSITIONS)
they, them (masc.)	αυτοί	αυτούς
they, them (fem.)	αυτές	αυτές
they, them (neut.)	αυτά	αυτά

The third-person strong pronouns *αυτός, αυτή, αυτό* also mean "this". As subject pronouns, none of these is needed in a normal sentence (Chapter 7); you add one for emphasis or contrast: **Εγώ μένω στην Αθήνα, εσύ στο Εδιμβούργο.**

The weak pronouns

PERSON	ACCUSATIVE (DIRECT OBJECT)	GENITIVE (TO / FOR; MY, YOUR …)
me, my	με	μου
you, your (sg.)	σε	σου
him, his, it, its	τον / το	του
her	την / τη	της
us, our	μας	μας
you, your (pl. / formal)	σας	σας
them (masc.)	τους	τους
them (fem.)	τις	τους
them (neut.)	τα	τους

Watch out: the accusative weak forms are the articles

τον, την, το, τους, τις, τα are the same words as the accusative articles from Chapter 3. The final *-ν* follows the same rule too: *Την ξέρω* (before *ξ* the *ν* is kept) but *Τη βλέπω* (before *β* the *ν* is dropped); *τον* normally keeps its *ν*.

Where the weak pronouns go

SITUATION	POSITION	EXAMPLE
an ordinary verb	**before** the verb	**Σε βλέπω. Με ξέρεις;** (I see you. Do you know me?)
after *δεν*	between *δεν* and the verb	**Δεν σε ακούω.** (I can't hear you.)
after *θα, να*	between *θα / να* and the verb	**Θα σου τηλεφωνήσω.** (I will phone you.) / **Να μου πεις.** (You must tell me.)
positive imperative	**after** the verb	**Πες μου!** (Tell me!) / **Δώσε μου το βιβλίο.** (Give me the book.)
negative imperative	before the verb	**Μη μου λες!** (Don't tell me!)

Strong and weak together

To stress a person, use the strong pronoun **and** keep the weak one: the two together are normal in speech.

GREEK	ENGLISH
Εμένα με λένε Νίκο. Εσένα;	My name is Nikos. And yours?
Εμένα μου αρέσει ο καφές, εσένα;	I like coffee, do you?
Εσάς σας περιμένουν.	It is you they are waiting for.

Two weak pronouns together

When both an indirect and a direct object are pronouns, the **genitive (to whom) goes first**, then the **accusative (what)**. Both stand before the verb.

GREEK	ENGLISH	PATTERN
Μου το δίνει.	He gives it to me.	μου + το
Σου το δίνω.	I give it to you.	σου + το
Της το λέω.	I tell it to her.	της + το
Μας το στέλνουν.	They send it to us.	μας + το
Τους τα δείχνω.	I show them to them.	τους + τα
Δώσε μου το.	Give it to me.	after the imperative: μου + το

Pronouns after prepositions

After most prepositions use the strong accusative (*για εμένα, για εσένα*); in speech *για μένα, για σένα* are also heard. With *μαζί* ("together with") Greek uses the weak genitive instead.

GREEK	ENGLISH
για εμένα, για εσένα, για αυτόν, για αυτήν	for me, for you, for him, for her
για εμάς, για εσάς, για αυτούς	for us, for you, for them
από αυτόν, με αυτήν	from him, with her
μαζί μου, μαζί σου, μαζί του, μαζί της	with me, with you, with him, with her
μαζί μας, μαζί σας, μαζί τους	with us, with you, with them

Words in this chapter

GREEK	SAY IT	ENGLISH
βλέπω	VLEH-poh	I see
ξέρω	KSEH-roh	I know

GREEK	SAY IT	ENGLISH
δίνω	THEE-noh	I give
λέω	LEH-oh	I say, I tell
στέλνω	STEHL-noh	I send
δείχνω	THEEH-noh	I show
αγαπάω	ah-ghah-PAH-oh	I love
βοηθάω	voh-ee-THAH-oh	I help
καταλαβαίνω	kah-tah-lah-VEH-noh	I understand
ρωτάω	roh-TAH-oh	I ask
φέρνω	FEHR-noh	I bring
τηλεφωνώ	tee-leh-foh-NOH	I phone

In Use — Στην πράξη

Read the exchanges aloud and notice where the small pronouns stand.

① A video call

A: Με ακούς;
Can you hear me?

B: Ναι, σε ακούω. Εσύ με ακούς;
Yes, I can hear you. Can you hear me?

A: Ναι, σε ακούω καλά.
Yes, I can hear you well.

② The book

A: Τι κάνεις με το βιβλίο;
What are you doing with the book?

B: Το δίνω στη Μαρία.
I am giving it to Maria.

A: Της το δίνεις σήμερα;
Are you giving it to her today?

B: Όχι, της το δίνω αύριο.
No, I am giving it to her tomorrow.

③ Names

A: Εμένα με λένε Νίκο. Εσένα;

My name is Nikos. And yours?

B: Εμένα με λένε Άννα. Χαίρω πολύ!

My name is Anna. Nice to meet you!

A: Χαίρω πολύ!

Nice to meet you!

📋 Quick Reference — Σύνοψη

TOPIC	SUMMARY
strong nominative	*εγώ, εσύ, αυτός / αυτή / αυτό, εμείς, εσείς, αυτοί / αυτές / αυτά*
strong accusative	*εμένα, εσένα, αυτόν / αυτήν / αυτό, εμάς, εσάς, αυτούς / αυτές / αυτά*
weak accusative	*με, σε, τον / την / το, μας, σας, τους / τις / τα*
weak genitive	*μου, σου, του / της / του, μας, σας, τους*
position	before the verb (after *δεν, θα, να* too); after a positive imperative
strong + weak	for emphasis: *Εμένα μου αρέσει*
two weak pronouns	genitive first, then accusative: *Μου το δίνει*
after prepositions	strong accusative; *μαζί* + weak genitive

🖍️ Try It Yourself — Ασκήσεις

Say or write the answer first, then click to check.

1. Say “I see you” and “I know him”.

▼ Show answer

Σε βλέπω. / Τον ξέρω.

2. Say “I give her a book” and “He tells me”.

▼ Show answer

Της δίνω ένα βιβλίο. / Μου λέει.

3. Say “I can’t hear you” (use *δεν*).

▼ Show answer

Δεν σε ακούω. The weak pronoun goes between *δεν* and the verb.

4. Say “Tell me!” and “Give me the book.” Where does *μου* go?

▼ Show answer

Πες μου! / Δώσε μου το βιβλίο. After the positive imperative.

5. Say “He gives it to me” and “I tell it to her”.

▼ Show answer

Μου το δίνει. / Της το λέω.

6. Say “for me”, “for you” and “with me”.

▼ Show answer

για εμένα, για εσένα, μαζί μου

7. Say “My name is Anna, and yours?” with the strong pronouns.

▼ Show answer

Εμένα με λένε Άννα. Εσένα;

8. Which is the subject pronoun for “we” and which the weak accusative?

▼ Show answer

εμείς (strong nominative) and *μας* (weak accusative).

9. Say “I love her” and “I understand them” (masculine or mixed).

▼ Show answer

Την αγαπάω. / Τους καταλαβαίνω.

10. Why do you not usually need *εγώ* in *Μένω στην Αθήνα*?

▼ Show answer

The verb ending *-ω* already shows the first person. *εγώ* is added only for emphasis or contrast.

Not Yet Verified

Checked (one web search on 2026-11-20): that Greek has strong (*εμένα, εσένα, αυτόν*) and weak (*μου, σου, τον*) pronoun sets; that strong forms are used for emphasis and can be stacked with a weak form (*Εμένα με λένε …*); that a weak pronoun goes right before a finite verb but after a positive imperative (*δώσε μου το*); and that an indirect and a direct weak pronoun can stand together (*μου το έδωσε*). The search did not state the order of the pair and found no reliable third-person table (sources: elon.io: strong and weak pronouns, projectrazon.github.io: personal pronouns, u.osu.edu: clitic placement, from search results only, the pages themselves were not read in full).
Not checked, from general knowledge: the full strong and weak tables; the genitive-first order of double pronouns (the usual order, not confirmed here); *μαζί μου*; *για μένα* as a spoken variant; the placement after *δεν, θα, να* and in the negative imperative *Μη μου λες*; the *-ν* remarks; every stress mark and the example dialogs, which were written for this course. No dictionary or grammar book was consulted. Check a Greek dictionary or a native speaker before relying on them.

Coming up in Chapter 12: Putting It Together. A noun phrase from nominative to genitive in one table, a short text to read, and a recap with the pointer to Greek Grammar 2. This is the last chapter of the course.

🧩 Putting It Together — Όλα μαζί

This last chapter brings the course together. You will see the article and noun in all four cases in one table, learn a short way to decide which case a word needs, read a short text and name the case of every noun in it, and check what each chapter taught. After this, Greek Grammar 2 adds adjectives, pronouns and numbers to the noun phrase you now know.

THE RULE IN ONE BOX

A Greek noun phrase is **article + noun**, and both carry the same **gender, number and case**. Ask what job the phrase does in the sentence, then pick the case: **subject → nominative**; **object, after *σε, από, με, για*, time and direction → accusative**; **possession and "to someone" (with a pronoun) → genitive**; **calling someone → vocative**. The article drops in the vocative.

The whole noun phrase in one table

One noun of each gender with its article, singular and plural.

CASE	SINGULAR			PLURAL		
	Ο ΦΊΛΟΣ	Η ΦΊΛΗ	ΤΟ ΠΑΙΔΊ	ΟΙ ΦΊΛΟΙ	ΟΙ ΦΊΛΕΣ	ΤΑ ΠΑΙΔΙΆ
Nominative	ο φίλος	η φίλη	το παιδί	οι φίλοι	οι φίλες	τα παιδιά
Genitive	του φίλου	της φίλης	του παιδιού	των φίλων	των φίλων	των παιδιών
Accusative	τον φίλο	τη(ν) φίλη	το παιδί	τους φίλους	τις φίλες	τα παιδιά
Vocative	φίλε	φίλη	παιδί	φίλοι	φίλες	παιδιά

All the noun types in one table

The endings you learned in Chapters 4 to 6, side by side. The first column is the nominative singular.

TYPE	GEN. SG.	ACC. SG.	VOC. SG.	NOM. PL.	GEN. PL.	ACC. PL.
masc. *-ος* (φίλος)	**-ου**	**-ο**	**-ε**	**-οι**	**-ων**	**-ους**
masc. *-ης* (μαθητής)	**-η / -ή**	**-η / -ή**	**-η / -ή**	**-ες**	**-ων**	**-ες**
masc. *-ας* (πατέρας)	**-α**	**-α**	**-α**	**-ες**	**-ων**	**-ες**
fem. *-α / -η* (μητέρα, φίλη)	**-ας / -ης**	**-α / -η**	**-α / -η**	**-ες**	**-ων**	**-ες**
fem. *πόλη* type	**-ης**	**-η**	**-η**	**-εις**	**-εων**	**-εις**
neut. *-ο* (δέντρο)	**-ου**	**-ο**	**-ο**	**-α**	**-ων**	**-α**
neut. *-ι* (παιδί, σπίτι)	**-ιού**	**-ι**	**-ι**	**-ιά / -ια**	**-ιών**	**-ιά / -ια**
neut. *-μα* (όνομα)	**-ματος**	**-μα**	**-μα**	**-ματα**	**-μάτων**	**-ματα**
neut. *-ος* (μέρος)	**-ους**	**-ος**	**-ος**	**-η**	**-ών**	**-η**

Which case? A decision guide

THE WORD …	CASE	EXAMPLE
does the action, or is described after *είμαι*	nominative	**Ο Νίκος είναι φοιτητής.**
receives the action (direct object)	accusative	**Βλέπω τον φίλο.**
follows *σε, από, με, για, χωρίς, μέχρι, προς*	accusative	**Πάω με τη φίλη μου στην παραλία.**

THE WORD …	CASE	EXAMPLE
names a time or a length of time	accusative	**τη Δευτέρα, δύο χρόνια**
says whose it is	genitive	**το σπίτι του φίλου**
is the person who receives (a pronoun)	weak genitive	**Της δίνω το βιβλίο.**
is the person who receives (a noun)	*σε* + accusative	**Δίνω το βιβλίο στη Μαρία.**
is being called or addressed	vocative, no article	**Κώστα, έλα εδώ!**

A short text, case by case

Read the text first, then look at the table that names the case of each noun phrase.

> **Ο Νίκος είναι φοιτητής στην Αθήνα. Μένει σε ένα μικρό σπίτι κοντά στη θάλασσα με τη γιαγιά του. Κάθε πρωί πίνει έναν καφέ και πάει στο πανεπιστήμιο με το λεωφορείο. Το μάθημα των ελληνικών είναι τη Δευτέρα και την Τετάρτη. Την Κυριακή βλέπει τους φίλους του στην παραλία. Η γιαγιά του μαγειρεύει το φαγητό και αυτός της φέρνει ψωμί και νερό. Τη βοηθάει στο σπίτι και του αρέσει η ζωή του.**
>
> Nikos is a student in Athens. He lives in a small house near the sea with his grandmother. Every morning he drinks a coffee and goes to the university by bus. The Greek lesson is on Monday and Wednesday. On Sunday he sees his friends at the beach. His grandmother cooks the food, and he brings her bread and water. He helps her at home, and he likes his life.

PHRASE	CASE	WHY
ο Νίκος	nominative	subject
φοιτητής	nominative	after *είναι*
στην Αθήνα, στη θάλασσα, στο πανεπιστήμιο, στην παραλία, στο σπίτι	accusative	after *σε* (joined with the article)

PHRASE	CASE	WHY
σε ένα μικρό σπίτι	accusative	after *σε* (no article to join)
με τη γιαγιά του, με το λεωφορείο	accusative	after *με*
του (in τη γιαγιά του)	weak genitive	"his", after a noun
κάθε πρωί, τη Δευτέρα, την Τετάρτη, την Κυριακή	accusative	time expressions
έναν καφέ, το φαγητό, ψωμί, νερό	accusative	direct objects
το μάθημα	nominative	subject
των ελληνικών	genitive plural	"of the Greek (language)", after *μάθημα*
τους φίλους του	accusative plural	direct object
η γιαγιά του, η ζωή του	nominative	subjects (*του* = his)
της (φέρνει), του (αρέσει)	weak genitive	"to her", "to him"
Τη (βοηθάει)	weak accusative	direct object

True or false?

1. Nikos lives far from the sea. **2.** He goes to the university by train. **3.** He sees his friends on Sunday.

▼ Show answers

1. False: he lives near the sea (*κοντά στη θάλασσα*). **2.** False: by bus (*με το λεωφορείο*). **3.** True (*Την Κυριακή βλέπει τους φίλους του*).

What each chapter taught

CHAPTER	THE IDEA TO KEEP
Greek Grammar 1, Chapter 1 (How Greek Works)	Articles, three genders, four cases, no dative; *είμαι* is used in the present; endings let word order move.
Chapter 2 (Stress and Spelling)	One accent mark; stress on the last three syllables; six spellings of "ee"; *της* and *τις* sound alike.
Chapter 3 (Gender & Articles)	Gender from the ending; the full article tables; the final *-ν*; *ένας, μία, ένα*.
Chapter 4 (Masculine Nouns)	*-ος, -ης, -ας*; accusative = nominative without ς; *-ης* and *-ας* singular: genitive = accusative = vocative.
Chapter 5 (Feminine Nouns)	*-α, -η*; plural *-ες, -ων*; the *πόλη* type with *-εις*.
Chapter 6 (Neuter Nouns)	Nominative = accusative = vocative; *-ο, -ι, -μα, -ος*.
Chapter 7 (Nominative & Accusative)	Subject and object; direction; time; verbs that take an object where English has a preposition.
Chapter 8 (The Genitive)	Possession after the noun; weak genitive pronouns; *μου αρέσει*; "of" is not always a genitive.
Chapter 9 (Forms of Address)	The vocative; names and titles; *εσύ* against *εσείς*.
Chapter 10 (Prepositions)	Accusative after *σε, από, με, για*; *στον, στην, στο*; compound prepositions of place.
Chapter 11 (Personal Pronouns)	Strong and weak forms; position before the verb; double pronouns, genitive first.

Words in this chapter

GREEK	SAY IT	ENGLISH
το φαγητό	fah-yee-TOH	food, meal
η ζωή	zoh-EE	life

GREEK	SAY IT	ENGLISH
η Τρίτη	TREE-tee	Tuesday
η Τετάρτη	teh-TAHR-tee	Wednesday
η Πέμπτη	PEHM-ptee	Thursday
πίνω	PEE-noh	I drink
πάω	PAH-oh	I go
μαγειρεύω	mah-yee-REH-voh	I cook
μικρός	mee-KROHS	small
κάθε	KAH-theh	every, each
σήμερα	SEE-meh-rah	today
τα ελληνικά	eh-lee-nee-KAH	Greek (the language)

In Use — Στην πράξη

Three short exchanges that use most of the course.

① Where do you live?

A: Γεια σου, Άννα! Πού μένεις;
Hello, Anna! Where do you live?

B: Μένω στην Αθήνα, κοντά στη θάλασσα. Εσύ;
I live in Athens, near the sea. And you?

A: Εγώ μένω στο Εδιμβούργο. Μου αρέσει η πόλη.
I live in Edinburgh. I like the city.

② A question for the teacher

A: Δάσκαλε, έχω μια ερώτηση.
Teacher, I have a question.

B: Ναι, Νίκο, πες μου.
Yes, Nikos, tell me.

A: Πώς λέγεται αυτό στα ελληνικά;
What is this called in Greek?

③ Plans

A: Φίλε μου, τι κάνεις αύριο;

My friend, what are you doing tomorrow?

B: Αύριο δουλεύω. Την Κυριακή πάω στην παραλία με τη γιαγιά μου.

Tomorrow I work. On Sunday I go to the beach with my grandmother.

A: Ωραία! Καλή διασκέδαση!

Lovely! Have fun!

📋 Quick Reference — Σύνοψη

TOPIC	SUMMARY
noun phrase	article + noun, agreeing in gender, number and case
articles	sg. *ο, του, τον / η, της, την / το, του, το*; pl. *οι, των, τους / οι, των, τις / τα, των, τα*
nominative	subject; after *είμαι*
accusative	object; after *σε, από, με, για*; time and direction
genitive	possession; weak pronoun for "to him / her"
vocative	calling people; no article
weak pronouns	before the verb; genitive before accusative
next	Greek Grammar 2: adjectives, pronouns, numbers

🖍️ Try It Yourself — Ασκήσεις

Say or write the answer first, then click to check.

1. Decline *ο φίλος* in all four cases of the singular.

▼ Show answer

ο φίλος, του φίλου, τον φίλο, φίλε

2. Give the genitive plural of *το παιδί*, *η φίλη* and *ο μαθητής*.

▼ Show answer

των παιδιών, των φίλων, των μαθητών

3. Say “I see the friends” (masculine) and “I see the children”.

▼ Show answer

Βλέπω τους φίλους. / Βλέπω τα παιδιά.

4. Say “my friend’s name” and “the children’s school”.

▼ Show answer

το όνομα του φίλου μου / το σχολείο των παιδιών

5. Say “I live in Athens, near the sea”.

▼ Show answer

Μένω στην Αθήνα, κοντά στη θάλασσα.

6. Say “On Sunday I see my friends at the beach”.

▼ Show answer

Την Κυριακή βλέπω τους φίλους μου στην παραλία.

7. Say “I give her the book” and “I give it to her”.

▼ Show answer

Της δίνω το βιβλίο. / Της το δίνω.

8. Call a friend, your dad, and a man called Γιώργος.

▼ Show answer

Φίλε! Μπαμπά! Γιώργο!

9. Say “I like coffee” and “He likes the islands”.

▼ Show answer

Μου αρέσει ο καφές. / Του αρέσουν τα νησιά.

10. Say “I go by bus to the centre”.

▼ Show answer

Πάω στο κέντρο με το λεωφορείο.

Not Yet Verified

Checked (one web search on 2026-11-20): that Modern Greek has four cases (nominative, genitive, accusative, vocative) and three genders; that the definite articles are *ο, η, το* and *οι, οι, τα*; that the dative’s functions moved to the genitive and prepositional phrases; and, from the Universal Dependencies page, that *μητέρα* has the same singular nominative, accusative and vocative, with genitive *μητέρας* and plurals *μητέρες, μητέρων* (sources: universaldependencies.org: Greek case, LingQ: Greek nouns, polyglotclub.com: the cases in Modern Greek, from search results only, the pages themselves were not read in full). No complete Modern Greek declension table was found. **Not checked, from general knowledge:** every table and form on this page, which repeats Chapters 3 to 11 and carries the same uncertainties listed there (above all the stress in the genitive plural, the *-μα* and *πόλη* types, the *μπαμπάς* plural and the vocatives of first names); the reading text and the case analysis, written for this course; every stress mark and the example dialogs. No dictionary or grammar book was consulted. Before relying on any form in this course, check it in a Greek dictionary or with a native speaker.

🎉 **Course Complete.** You have finished **Greek Grammar 1**: the whole noun phrase, its four cases and the pronouns. **Next:** Greek Grammar 2 adds adjectives (which agree with the noun in gender, number and case), possessive and demonstrative pronouns, numbers and comparison. When you have finished the planned Greek courses, a Greek syllabus checklist will gather everything in one place.