GR

LANGUAGE COURSE

Greek Grammar 4

12 Chapters

Philip Osztromok

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GREEK GRAMMAR 4

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Greek Grammar 4

Chapter 1 · The Perfect Tenses

✔ Have Done — Οι συντελεσμένοι χρόνοι

*Greek Grammar 3 gave you the simple past (έγραψα, "I wrote"). English has a second way to talk about the past, the perfect: "I have written", "I had written", "I will have written". Greek has it too, and builds it from words you already know: the verb **έχω** plus **one fixed form of the main verb**. This chapter opens the last grammar course by teaching the three perfect tenses.*

THE RULE IN ONE BOX

Perfect = *έχω* (in the right tense and person) + the fixed *-ει* form of the main verb. The *-ει* form is the simple-stem verb with the ending *-ει*, and it **never changes** for person: *έχω γράψει, έχεις γράψει, έχει γράψει*. Only *έχω* carries the person and the tense: **present perfect** *έχω γράψει*, **past perfect** *είχα γράψει*, **future perfect** *θα έχω γράψει*.

The fixed form

Take the simple stem you know from Greek Grammar 3 (*γράψ-*, *δ-*, *φάγ-*) and add *-ει*. Where the simple subjunctive has a form such as *να γράψει*, the perfect uses that third-person form as its fixed part.

VERB	SIMPLE PAST (I)	FIXED FORM	I HAVE…
γράφω	έγραψα	γράψει	**έχω γράψει** I have written
διαβάζω	διάβασα	διαβάσει	**έχω διαβάσει** I have read
μιλάω	μίλησα	μιλήσει	**έχω μιλήσει** I have spoken
βλέπω	είδα	δει	**έχω δει** I have seen
τρώω	έφαγα	φάει	**έχω φάει** I have eaten
πίνω	ήπια	πιει	**έχω πιει** I have drunk

VERB	SIMPLE PAST (I)	FIXED FORM	I HAVE…
παίρνω	πήρα	πάρει	**έχω πάρει** I have taken
βρίσκω	βρήκα	βρει	**έχω βρει** I have found
πάω	πήγα	πάει	**έχω πάει** I have been (to), I have gone
έρχομαι	ήρθα	έρθει	**έχω έρθει** I have come
κάνω	έκανα	κάνει	**έχω κάνει** I have done
λέω	είπα	πει	**έχω πει** I have said

Watch out: this is not a participle

English builds the perfect from a *past participle* ("written", "seen"). The Greek fixed form is not an adjective and does not agree with the subject: a woman says *έχω γράψει*, not *έχω γραμμένη*. Do not mix it up with the participle in *-μένος* (Chapter 2), which is a different construction. See also Greek Grammar 3, Chapter 7, for the irregular stems.

The three perfect tenses

PERSON	PRESENT PERFECT	PAST PERFECT	FUTURE PERFECT
εγώ	**έχω γράψει**	**είχα γράψει**	**θα έχω γράψει**
εσύ	**έχεις γράψει**	**είχες γράψει**	**θα έχεις γράψει**
αυτός, αυτή, αυτό	**έχει γράψει**	**είχε γράψει**	**θα έχει γράψει**
εμείς	**έχουμε γράψει**	**είχαμε γράψει**	**θα έχουμε γράψει**
εσείς	**έχετε γράψει**	**είχατε γράψει**	**θα έχετε γράψει**
αυτοί, αυτές, αυτά	**έχουν γράψει**	**είχαν γράψει**	**θα έχουν γράψει**

The auxiliary is just *έχω* from Greek Grammar 3, Chapter 4 (present), Chapter 5 (past *είχα*) and Chapter 8 (future *θα έχω*). Once you can conjugate *έχω*, you can form every perfect.

What each one means

TENSE	MEANING	EXAMPLE
present perfect	done, and still relevant now	**Έχω ήδη φάει.** I have already eaten.
past perfect	done before a past moment	**Όταν έφτασα, είχαν φύγει.** When I arrived, they had left.
future perfect	will be done by a future moment	**Μέχρι το βράδυ θα έχω τελειώσει.** By the evening I will have finished.

Perfect or simple past?

Greek uses the present perfect **less** than English does. If you name **when** something happened (*χθες, πέρσι, το 2020*), use the **simple past**, as in Greek Grammar 3, Chapter 6. The present perfect is for what is relevant now, with words such as *ήδη* (“already”), *ακόμα* (“yet, still”), *ποτέ* (“ever”), *μέχρι τώρα* (“up to now”).

SIMPLE PAST (A STATED TIME)	PRESENT PERFECT (RELEVANT NOW)
Χθες είδα την ταινία. I saw the film yesterday.	**Έχω δει την ταινία.** I have seen the film.
Πέρσι πήγα στην Κρήτη. Last year I went to Crete.	**Έχεις πάει ποτέ στην Κρήτη;** Have you ever been to Crete?

> **Watch out: never mix έχω + -ει with a past time word**
>
> English allows “I have seen him *today*” but not “I have seen him yesterday”, and Greek follows the same idea more strictly. Sentences like *Έχω δει τον Νίκο χθες* sound wrong: say *Είδα τον Νίκο χθες*.

Negatives, questions and pronouns

Δεν goes before *έχω*: **Δεν έχω φάει ακόμα.** (“I haven’t eaten yet”). Questions keep the order: **Έχεις φάει;** (“Have you eaten?”). Unstressed object pronouns go **before *έχω***, not before the fixed form: **Τον έχω δει.** (“I have seen him”), **Δεν το έχω διαβάσει.** (“I haven’t read it”), **Σου έχω γράψει.** (“I have written to you”).

GREEK	ENGLISH
Έχεις φάει ήδη;	Have you eaten already?
Δεν έχω δει ακόμα την ταινία.	I haven’t seen the film yet.
Τον έχω ξαναδεί κάπου.	I have seen him somewhere before.
Είχα ξεχάσει τα κλειδιά μου.	I had forgotten my keys.

Words in this chapter

GREEK	SAY IT	ENGLISH
ήδη	EE-thee	already
ακόμα	ah-KOH-mah	yet, still, even
ποτέ	poh-TEH	ever; never (with *δεν*)
μέχρι τώρα	MEH-hree TOH-rah	up to now
ξανά	ksah-NAH	again
τελειώνω	teh-LYOH-noh	I finish
ξεχνάω	kseh-HNAH-oh	I forget
φτάνω	FTAH-noh	I arrive
μέχρι	MEH-hree	until, by
κάπου	KAH-poo	somewhere

GREEK	SAY IT	ENGLISH
ταινία	teh-NEE-ah	film
κλειδιά	klee-THYAH	keys

🗣️ In Use — Στην πράξη

Read the exchanges aloud. Find έχω and the fixed form in each perfect.

① Have you been?

A: Έχεις πάει ποτέ στη Θεσσαλονίκη;
Have you ever been to Thessaloniki?

B: Όχι, δεν έχω πάει ακόμα. Έχω πάει μόνο στην Αθήνα.
No, I haven't been yet. I have only been to Athens.

② Lunch

A: Πάμε για φαγητό;
Shall we go for something to eat?

B: Έχω ήδη φάει, αλλά θα έρθω για έναν καφέ.
I have already eaten, but I will come for a coffee.

③ Too late

A: Πώς ήταν το πάρτι;
How was the party?

B: Όταν φτάσαμε, είχαν φύγει όλοι.
When we arrived, everyone had left.

A: Μέχρι αύριο θα έχω βρει την ώρα να σου τηλεφωνήσω.
By tomorrow I will have found time to phone you.

📋 Quick Reference — Σύνοψη

TOPIC	SUMMARY
formation	*έχω* + the fixed *-ει* form (simple stem)
present perfect	*έχω γράψει*: done, relevant now
past perfect	*είχα γράψει*: done before a past moment
future perfect	*θα έχω γράψει*: done by a future moment
fixed form	does not change for person, gender or number
stated time	use the simple past (*χθες είδα*)
negative, pronouns	*δεν* and pronouns before *έχω*: *δεν τον έχω δει*

🖍️ Try It Yourself — Ασκήσεις

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

1. Write the six present perfect forms of *διαβάζω*.

▼ Show answer

έχω διαβάσει, έχεις διαβάσει, έχει διαβάσει, έχουμε διαβάσει, έχετε διαβάσει, έχουν διαβάσει

2. Say “I have seen the film” and “I saw the film yesterday”.

▼ Show answer

Έχω δει την ταινία. / Είδα την ταινία χθες.

3. Say “They had already left”.

▼ Show answer

Είχαν ήδη φύγει.

4. Say “By Friday I will have finished”.

▼ Show answer

Μέχρι την Παρασκευή θα έχω τελειώσει.

5. Ask “Have you ever eaten Greek food?”. (*ελληνικό φαγητό*)

▼ Show answer

Έχεις φάει ποτέ ελληνικό φαγητό;

6. Say “I haven’t read it yet” (the book, *το βιβλίο*).

▼ Show answer

Δεν το έχω διαβάσει ακόμα. The pronoun goes before *έχω*.

7. What changes in the fixed form when the subject is plural: *έχουμε φάει* or *έχουμε φάνε*?

▼ Show answer

έχουμε φάει. The fixed form never changes; only *έχω* takes the person.

8. Why is *Έχω δει τον Νίκο χθες* wrong?

▼ Show answer

A stated past time (*χθες*) takes the simple past: *Είδα τον Νίκο χθες*.

9. Say “I had forgotten my keys”.

▼ Show answer

Είχα ξεχάσει τα κλειδιά μου.

10. Write the fixed forms for *πάω*, *βρίσκω* and *βλέπω*.

▼ Show answer

πάει, βρει, δει

Not Yet Verified

Checked (one web search on 2026-11-22): that the Modern Greek perfect uses an inflected form of *έχω* plus an invariable form of the main verb, as a present perfect and a past perfect (the example in the sources is *Έχω γράψει την επιταγή*); that *έχω γράψει* means "I have written"; and that the pluperfect is *έχω* in the past plus the third-person singular form of the past subjunctive (sources: Wikipedia: Modern Greek verbs, Universal Dependencies: Greek aspect, Wikibooks: Modern Greek, Lesson 9.3, from search results only, not read in full). One page said the perfect uses "the past participle", which contradicts the others, so I did not use it. The future perfect *θα έχω γράψει* was not stated in any source: it is my inference from *θα* + the present perfect.
Not checked, from general knowledge: every fixed form in the table (*γράψει, διαβάσει, μιλήσει, δει, φάει, πιει, πάρει, βρει, πάει, έρθει, κάνει, πει*); the claim that Greek uses the present perfect less than English and avoids it with a stated time; the position of pronouns before *έχω*; the vocabulary list; the three dialogs and the sentences (written for this course); every stress mark and the respellings. No dictionary or grammar book was consulted. Check a grammar book or a native speaker before relying on them.

Coming up in Chapter 2: Participles. The active participle in *-οντας / -ώντας* (*γράφοντας*, "while writing") and the passive participle in *-μένος* (*γραμμένος*, "written"), with uses as an adverb and an adjective.

🔗 Participles — Οι μετοχές

*A participle is a verb form that works as an adverb or an adjective. Greek has two you will meet often. The **active participle** in -οντας / -ώντας (γράφοντας, "while writing") never changes. The **passive participle** in -μένος (γραμμένος, "written") is an adjective with three genders. Between them they cover "by doing", "while doing" and "done".*

THE RULE IN ONE BOX

Active participle: present stem + *-οντας* (Group A: *γράφω → γράφοντας*) or *-ώντας* (Group B: *μιλάω → μιλώντας*). It has **one form** and refers to the **subject of the main verb**. **Passive participle:** the stem of the passive simple past + *-μένος, -μένη, -μένο* (*γράφτηκα → γραμμένος*); it agrees with its noun like an adjective in *-ος, -η, -ο*.

The active participle: -οντας / -ώντας

VERB	PARTICIPLE	MEANING
γράφω	γράφοντας	writing, while writing
διαβάζω	διαβάζοντας	reading
βλέπω	βλέποντας	seeing
κάνω	κάνοντας	doing
πίνω	πίνοντας	drinking
έχω	έχοντας	having
μιλάω / μιλώ	μιλώντας	speaking
περπατάω / περπατώ	περπατώντας	walking

VERB	PARTICIPLE	MEANING
τραγουδάω / τραγουδώ	τραγουδώντας	singing

Take the **continuous stem** (the present stem of Greek Grammar 3, Chapter 1). For Group A add *-οντας* and keep the stress where the present has it (*γράφω → γράφοντας*). For Group B, the contracted verbs of Greek Grammar 3, Chapter 3, the stress is on the ending: *μιλώντας*.

What the active participle says

It tells **how** or **while what** the subject does the main action. The subject of the participle is always the subject of the main verb, and the participle is separated from the rest by a comma or placed right before it.

GREEK	ENGLISH
Περπατάω τραγουδώντας.	I walk singing.
Διαβάζοντας το βιβλίο, κατάλαβα τι έγινε.	By reading (while reading) the book, I understood what happened.
Μιλώντας με τον Νίκο, θυμήθηκα το ραντεβού.	While talking to Nikos, I remembered the appointment.
Δουλεύοντας κάθε μέρα, θα τελειώσεις γρήγορα.	By working every day, you will finish quickly.

> **Watch out: the participle is not a verb with its own subject**
> In English a "-ing" form can have its own subject ("Him being late, we left"). The Greek *-οντας* form cannot: *Διαβάζοντας το βιβλίο, κατάλαβα* means *I* read and *I* understood. If the two actions have different subjects, use *όταν* or *ενώ* and a normal verb: *Ενώ διάβαζα, ήρθε ο Νίκος.* ("While I was reading, Nikos came.")

έχοντας + the fixed form

Combine *έχοντας* with the fixed *-ει* form from Chapter 1 to say "having done": **Έχοντας τελειώσει τη δουλειά, πήγα σπίτι.** ("Having finished the work, I went home.") You will

meet it mostly in writing.

The passive participle: -μένος

The second participle describes a **state that follows an action**: *κουρασμένος* (“tired”, the result of being tired out), *σπασμένος* (“broken”), *γραμμένος* (“written”). It is formed from the stem of the passive simple past (Greek Grammar 3, Chapter 11): *γράφτηκα → γραμμένος*, *ντύθηκα → ντυμένος*. The stem often changes slightly, so learn it with the verb.

VERB	PARTICIPLE (MASC.)	FEMININE	NEUTER	ENGLISH
γράφω	γραμμένος	γραμμένη	γραμμένο	written
κουράζομαι	κουρασμένος	κουρασμένη	κουρασμένο	tired
ντύνομαι	ντυμένος	ντυμένη	ντυμένο	dressed
παντρεύομαι	παντρεμένος	παντρεμένη	παντρεμένο	married
σπάω	σπασμένος	σπασμένη	σπασμένο	broken
χαλάω	χαλασμένος	χαλασμένη	χαλασμένο	spoilt, out of order
χάνω	χαμένος	χαμένη	χαμένο	lost
φτιάχνω	φτιαγμένος	φτιαγμένη	φτιαγμένο	made

It declines like the adjectives of Greek Grammar 2, Chapter 1 in *-ος, -η, -ο*: *γραμμένος, γραμμένου, γραμμένο* (masculine singular); plural *γραμμένοι, γραμμένες, γραμμένα*. It agrees in gender, number and case with its noun.

Uses

USE	GREEK	ENGLISH
after είμαι	**Είμαι κουρασμένος.** **Το παράθυρο είναι σπασμένο.**	I am tired. The window is broken.
before a noun	**το σπασμένο παράθυρο**	the broken window

USE	GREEK	ENGLISH
after a noun	**ένα γράμμα γραμμένο στα ελληνικά**	a letter written in Greek
έχω + object + participle	**Έχω το γράμμα γραμμένο.**	I have the letter written (it is ready).

Watch out: έχω γράψει or έχω γραμμένο?

Έχω γράψει το γράμμα (Chapter 1) says that *I* did the writing, with the fixed form. *Έχω το γράμμα γραμμένο* puts the object **between** the two words and describes the state of the letter ("the letter stands written"). The participle there agrees with the object: *Έχω τα γράμματα γραμμένα*.

Some words with two forms

A few verbs have a more common adjective than the regular participle. *Ανοίγω* gives *ανοιχτός* ("open") and *κλείνω* gives *κλειστός* ("closed"): **Το μαγαζί είναι κλειστό.** ("The shop is closed"). You can see *ανοιγμένος* and *κλεισμένος* in some contexts, but the first pair is the one to learn.

Words in this chapter

GREEK	SAY IT	ENGLISH
η μετοχή	ee meh-toh-HEE	participle
τραγουδάω	trah-ghoo-THAH-oh	I sing
κουράζομαι	koo-RAH-zoh-meh	I get tired
παντρεύομαι	pahn-DREH-voh-meh	I get married
σπάω	SPAH-oh	I break
χαλάω	hah-LAH-oh	I spoil, I break down

GREEK	SAY IT	ENGLISH
χάνω	HAH-noh	I lose
φτιάχνω	FTYAH-hnoh	I make, I fix
κατάλαβα	kah-TAH-lah-vah	I understood
ανοιχτός	ah-nee-HTOS	open
κλειστός	klee-STOS	closed
γρήγορα	GHREE-ghoh-rah	quickly

🗣️ In Use — Στην πράξη

Read the exchanges aloud. Spot the participles and say which kind each one is.

① A walk

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

B: Περπατάω ακούγοντας μουσική.
I walk listening to music.

② Out of order

A: Γιατί δεν δουλεύει ο υπολογιστής;
Why isn't the computer working?

B: Είναι χαλασμένος. Η οθόνη είναι σπασμένη.
It is broken. The screen is cracked.

A: Θα τον φτιάξω αύριο.
I will fix it tomorrow.

③ Tired

A: Φαίνεσαι κουρασμένος.
You look tired.

B: Ναι, δουλεύοντας ως αργά, δεν κοιμήθηκα καλά.

Yes, working until late, I didn't sleep well.

📋 Quick Reference — Σύνοψη

TOPIC	SUMMARY
active participle	present stem + *-οντας* (A) or *-ώντας* (B); one form
meaning	how or while; same subject as the main verb
έχοντας + fixed form	"having done"; mostly written
passive participle	*-μένος, -μένη, -μένο*; state after an action
agreement	like an adjective in *-ος, -η, -ο*
έχω + object + participle	state of the object: *Έχω το γράμμα γραμμένο*
open, closed	*ανοιχτός, κλειστός*

🖍️ Try It Yourself — Ασκήσεις

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

1. Make the active participle of *τρέχω, πίνω, μιλάω*.

▼ Show answer

τρέχοντας, πίνοντας, μιλώντας

2. Say "I learn Greek by listening to songs". (*ακούω, τραγούδια*)

▼ Show answer

Μαθαίνω ελληνικά ακούγοντας τραγούδια.

3. Why can the participle in *Διαβάζοντας το βιβλίο, κατάλαβα* not have a different subject?

▼ Show answer

The active participle always shares the subject of the main verb. For a different subject, use *όταν* or *ενώ* and a normal verb.

4. Give all three genders of the participle of *κουράζομαι*.

▼ Show answer

κουρασμένος, κουρασμένη, κουρασμένο

5. Say “The shop is closed” and “The windows are open”.

▼ Show answer

Το μαγαζί είναι κλειστό. / Τα παράθυρα είναι ανοιχτά.

6. Say “She is married” and “He is dressed”.

▼ Show answer

Είναι παντρεμένη. / Είναι ντυμένος.

7. Say “a broken glass” and “the lost keys”. (*ποτήρι* n., *κλειδιά* n. pl.)

▼ Show answer

ένα σπασμένο ποτήρι / τα χαμένα κλειδιά

8. What is the difference between *Έχω γράψει το γράμμα* and *Έχω το γράμμα γραμμένο*?

▼ Show answer

The first says that I did the writing (present perfect). The second says the letter is in a written state, and the participle agrees with the object.

9. Say “Having eaten, we went out”.

▼ Show answer

Έχοντας φάει, βγήκαμε έξω.

10. Say “While talking on the phone, he was walking”. (Same subject, *μιλώντας*, *περπατούσε*)

▼ Show answer

Μιλώντας στο τηλέφωνο, περπατούσε.

Not Yet Verified

Checked (one web search on 2026-11-22): that the active participle is made by adding *-οντας* to the present stem (the search did not cover *-ώντας* directly); that there is a perfect passive participle in *-μένος, -μένη, -μένο* (*γραμμένος, γραμμένη, γραμμένο*) formed from the passive aorist stem; that most verbs use this perfect form; and the examples *Περπατάω τραγουδώντας* (“I walk singing”) and *Είναι σπασμένο* (“It is broken”) (sources: greekpod101.com lesson, Universal Dependencies: Greek verb forms, polyglotclub.com: participle spelling, from search results only, not read in full; the polyglotclub page mislabels the *-μένος* form, so I did not rely on its terminology). **Not checked, from general knowledge:** the rule for when *-ώντας* replaces *-οντας*; the list of participles (*κουρασμένος, ντυμένος, παντρεμένος, σπασμένος, χαλασμένος, χαμένος, φτιαγμένος*) and their stems; *ανοιχτός* and *κλειστός* as the usual adjectives; the present passive participle in *-όμενος*, which I left out; *έχοντας* + the fixed form; the construction *έχω + object + participle*; the rule about subjects; the vocabulary list; the three dialogs and the sentences (written for this course); every stress mark and the respellings. No dictionary or grammar book was consulted. Check a grammar book (for example Holton, Mackridge and Philippaki-Warburton) or a native speaker before relying on them.

Coming up in Chapter 3: Verb Families and More Irregular Verbs. Compound verbs and prefixes (*ανεβαίνω, κατεβαίνω, μπαίνω, βγαίνω*), further irregular stems, and learning verbs in families.

👨‍👩‍👧 Verb Families — Οικογένειες ρημάτων

*Greek Grammar 3, Chapter 7 gave you a list of irregular verbs to memorise. This chapter shows how to learn them **in families**: many verbs are the same small verb with a **prefix** added, and the family keeps the same simple stem. Learn one member well and you get the others almost free: ανεβαίνω ("I go up") and κατεβαίνω ("I go down") both come from the same core.*

THE RULE IN ONE BOX

A **prefix + a core verb = a new verb** that follows the core verb's pattern. *ανά* (up) + *βαίνω* gives *ανεβαίνω*; *κατά* (down) + *βαίνω* gives *κατεβαίνω*. In the simple past the **augment sits inside** the word, after the prefix: *ανέβηκα*, *κατέβηκα*. Learn the simple past with the verb, then the whole family follows.

The family of going in and out, up and down

Four very common verbs of movement share a pattern: the present in *-αίνω*, a simple past in *-ηκα*, and a simple stem without the *-αιν-*.

VERB	ENGLISH	CONTINUOUS PAST (Ι)	SIMPLE PAST (Ι)	SIMPLE STEM (ΝΑ...)
ανεβαίνω	go up, climb, board	ανέβαινα	ανέβηκα	να ανέβω
κατεβαίνω	go down, get off	κατέβαινα	κατέβηκα	να κατέβω
μπαίνω	go in, enter	έμπαινα	μπήκα	να μπω
βγαίνω	go out, come out	έβγαινα	βγήκα	να βγω

PERSON	ΑΝΈΒΗΚΑ (WENT UP)	ΜΠΉΚΑ (WENT IN)	ΒΓΉΚΑ (WENT OUT)
εγώ	ανέβηκα	μπήκα	βγήκα

PERSON	ΑΝΈΒΗΚΑ (WENT UP)	ΜΠΉΚΑ (WENT IN)	ΒΓΉΚΑ (WENT OUT)
εσύ	**ανέβηκες**	**μπήκες**	**βγήκες**
αυτός	**ανέβηκε**	**μπήκε**	**βγήκε**
εμείς	**ανεβήκαμε**	**μπήκαμε**	**βγήκαμε**
εσείς	**ανεβήκατε**	**μπήκατε**	**βγήκατε**
αυτοί	**ανέβηκαν**	**μπήκαν**	**βγήκαν**

> **Watch out: ανεβαίνω does a lot of work**
>
> *Ανεβαίνω* means "go up" and also "get on a bus, train or horse", and *κατεβαίνω* means "go down" and "get off": *Ανέβηκα στο λεωφορείο, κατέβηκα στο κέντρο.* ("I got on the bus, I got off in the centre.") Also, *βγαίνω* is "go out" as in "go out with friends".

Core verbs and their families

The same trick works for other core verbs. Notice how often the simple past of the prefixed verb is the simple past of the core verb with a prefix in front.

CORE VERB	FAMILY MEMBERS (PRESENT → SIMPLE PAST)
γράφω → έγραψα write	**ξαναγράφω → ξαναέγραψα** write again **συγγράφω** compose (formal) **περιγράφω → περιέγραψα** describe
φέρνω → έφερα bring	**προσφέρω → πρόσφερα** offer **μεταφέρω → μετέφερα** transport **αναφέρω → ανέφερα** mention
δίνω → έδωσα give	**ξαναδίνω → ξαναέδωσα** give again **παραδίνω → παρέδωσα** hand over
βλέπω → είδα see	**ξαναβλέπω → ξαναείδα** see again **προβλέπω → προέβλεψα** foresee

The prefix **ξανα-** (“again”) is easy to add to almost any verb and keeps the same forms: *ξαναδιαβάζω* (“I read again”), *ξαναπαίρνω* (“I take again”), *ξαναρωτάω* (“I ask again”). It often replaces an extra word: *Θα το ξαναδιαβάσω* instead of “I will read it again”.

More verbs worth learning in pairs

PRESENT	SIMPLE PAST (I)	ENGLISH
μαθαίνω	**έμαθα**	learn
πεθαίνω	**πέθανα**	die
φέρνω	**έφερα**	bring
πιστεύω	**πίστεψα**	believe
περνάω	**πέρασα**	pass, spend (time)
προσέχω	**πρόσεξα**	take care
συμφωνώ	**συμφώνησα**	agree
επιστρέφω	**επέστρεψα**	return
αρχίζω	**άρχισα**	begin
τελειώνω	**τέλειωσα**	finish

Habits for learning verbs in families

HABIT	EXAMPLE
Learn the pair (present + simple past) together.	**βγαίνω / βγήκα**
Spot the core verb inside a longer one.	**περιγράφω** = *περι-* + *γράφω*
Look for the augment after the prefix.	**περιέγραψα** (*περι-* + *έγραψα*)

HABIT	EXAMPLE
Use *ξανα-* instead of an extra word.	**Ξαναδοκίμασα.** I tried again.

Words in this chapter

GREEK	SAY IT	ENGLISH
ανεβαίνω	ah-neh-VEH-noh	I go up, I get on
κατεβαίνω	kah-teh-VEH-noh	I go down, I get off
μπαίνω	BEH-noh	I go in, I enter
βγαίνω	VYEH-noh	I go out
μαθαίνω	mah-THEH-noh	I learn
πιστεύω	pee-STEH-voh	I believe
περιγράφω	peh-ree-GHRAH-foh	I describe
προσφέρω	pros-FEH-roh	I offer
επιστρέφω	eh-pee-STREH-foh	I return
ξανά	ksah-NAH	again
λεωφορείο	leh-oh-foh-REE-oh	bus
στάση	STAH-see	stop (bus stop), attitude

🗣️ In Use — Στην πράξη

Read the exchanges aloud. Which verbs belong to a family?

① On the bus

② Going out

A: Πού ανέβηκες;

Where did you get on?

B: Ανέβηκα στο Σύνταγμα και θα κατέβω στην Ομόνοια.

I got on at Syntagma and I will get off at Omonia.

A: Βγήκες χθες βράδυ;

Did you go out last night?

B: Ναι, βγήκαμε με φίλους και μπήκαμε σε ένα μικρό μπαρ.

Yes, we went out with friends and went into a little bar.

③ Again

A: Δεν κατάλαβα. Μπορείς να το πεις ξανά;

I didn't understand. Can you say it again?

B: Βεβαίως. Θα σου το εξηγήσω ξανά.

Of course. I will explain it again.

📋 Quick Reference — Σύνοψη

TOPIC	SUMMARY
family	prefix + core verb: same simple stem
movement verbs	*ανεβαίνω / ανέβηκα, κατεβαίνω / κατέβηκα, μπαίνω / μπήκα, βγαίνω / βγήκα*
augment in compounds	after the prefix: *περιέγραψα, ανέβηκα*
ξανα-	"again": *ξαναδιαβάζω*
method	learn the pair; spot the core verb

🖍️ Try It Yourself — Ασκήσεις

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

1. Write the simple past of *κατεβαίνω* for all six persons.

▼ Show answer

κατέβηκα, κατέβηκες, κατέβηκε, κατεβήκαμε, κατεβήκατε, κατέβηκαν

2. Say “We got on the bus at the square”. (*η πλατεία*)

▼ Show answer

Ανεβήκαμε στο λεωφορείο στην πλατεία.

3. Say “I will go out tonight” (simple future).

▼ Show answer

Απόψε θα βγω.

4. Say “They went into the shop”.

▼ Show answer

Μπήκαν στο μαγαζί.

5. What is the prefix and the core verb in *περιγράφω*?

▼ Show answer

The prefix *περι-* and the core verb *γράφω*. Its simple past is *περιέγραψα*.

6. Say “I read the letter again” with *ξανα-*.

▼ Show answer

Ξαναδιάβασα το γράμμα.

7. Write the simple past of *φέρνω* and *μαθαίνω* for “I”.

▼ Show answer

έφερα and *έμαθα*

8. Say “I didn’t believe him”.

▼ Show answer

Δεν τον πίστεψα.

9. Say “He returned yesterday”.

▼ Show answer

Επέστρεψε χθες.

10. Name two meanings of *ανεβαίνω* and of *κατεβαίνω*.

▼ Show answer

ανεβαίνω: go up and get on (a bus). *κατεβαίνω*: go down and get off.

Not Yet Verified

Checked (one web search on 2026-11-22): only that *ανεβαίνω* has the simple past *ανέβηκα, ανέβηκες, ανέβηκε* and the imperfect *ανέβαινα*, and that Wiktionary groups verbs that conjugate like it (sources: Wiktionary: ανεβαίνω, Transparent Greek blog: irregular simple past verbs, foundalis.com: irregular Modern Greek verbs, from search results only, not read in full).
Not checked, from general knowledge: everything else, in particular *κατέβηκα, μπήκα, βγήκα* and the continuous pasts *έμπαινα, έβγαινα*; the subjunctive forms (*να μπω, να βγω, να κατέβω*); every family member in the family table and their pasts (*περιέγραψα, πρόσφερα, μετέφερα, ανέφερα, παρέδωσα, προέβλεψα, ξαναείδα*); the list of further pairs (*έμαθα, πέθανα, πίστεψα, πέρασα, πρόσεξα, συμφώνησα, επέστρεψα, άρχισα, τέλειωσα*); the claims about the augment after a prefix and about *ξανα-*; the vocabulary list; the three dialogs and the sentences (written for this course); every stress mark and the respellings. These are frequent and irregular: check them against the Transparent or Foundalis pages above, a dictionary, or a native speaker before relying on them. No dictionary or grammar book was consulted.

Coming up in Chapter 4: Verbs with Indirect Objects. *μου αρέσει, μου λείπει, μου φαίνεται, μου φτάνει*: verbs where the person is not the subject, and impersonal expressions.

🔄 Turned Round — Ρήματα με έμμεσο αντικείμενο

*English says "I like coffee", with the person as the subject. Greek says **μου αρέσει ο καφές**: "the coffee is pleasing to me". The thing liked is the **subject**, and the person is a small pronoun in the **genitive** (μου, σου, του…) in front of the verb. Many everyday verbs of liking, missing, needing and seeming work this way, so the pattern is worth knowing.*

THE RULE IN ONE BOX

Genitive pronoun + verb + the thing (subject). The **verb agrees with the thing**, not the person: *Μου αρέσει το βιβλίο* (one thing, singular verb), *Μου αρέσουν τα βιβλία* (many things, plural verb). The pronoun is the weak genitive of Greek Grammar 2, Chapter 4: *μου, σου, του, της, μας, σας, τους*.

μου αρέσει: to like

PERSON WHO LIKES	ONE THING	SEVERAL THINGS	ENGLISH
εγώ	Μου αρέσει ο καφές.	Μου αρέσουν τα μήλα.	I like coffee / apples.
εσύ	Σου αρέσει ο καφές;	Σου αρέσουν τα μήλα;	Do you like…?
αυτός	Του αρέσει ο καφές.	Του αρέσουν τα μήλα.	He likes…
αυτή	Της αρέσει ο καφές.	Της αρέσουν τα μήλα.	She likes…
εμείς	Μας αρέσει ο καφές.	Μας αρέσουν τα μήλα.	We like…
εσείς	Σας αρέσει ο καφές;	Σας αρέσουν τα μήλα;	Do you (pl.) like…?
αυτοί	Τους αρέσει ο καφές.	Τους αρέσουν τα μήλα.	They like…

Watch out: the verb follows the thing, not the person

> A common mistake is to say *Μου αρέσουμε* or to treat *μου* as the subject. Ask first: "What is pleasing?" If it is one thing, *αρέσει*; if more than one, *αρέσουν*. With a verb after it the thing is a verb phrase, so the singular is used: *Μου αρέσει να διαβάζω* ("I like to read", Greek Grammar 3, Chapter 9).

Past, future and negative

FORM	EXAMPLE	ENGLISH
past	**Μου άρεσε η ταινία. / Μου άρεσαν οι ηθοποιοί.**	I liked the film / the actors.
future	**Θα σου αρέσει η Αθήνα.**	You will like Athens.
negative	**Δεν μου αρέσει το ψάρι.**	I don't like fish.
agreeing	**Και σε μένα. / Ούτε σε μένα.**	Me too. / Nor do I.

The same pattern with other verbs

VERB	EXAMPLE	ENGLISH
λείπει / λείπουν	**Μου λείπει η οικογένειά μου.**	I miss my family.
	Μας λείπουν δύο καρέκλες.	We are missing two chairs.
φαίνεται	**Μου φαίνεται δύσκολο.**	It seems difficult to me.
φτάνει / φτάνουν	**Μου φτάνει ένας καφές.**	One coffee is enough for me.
χρειάζεται / χρειάζονται	**Μου χρειάζεται βοήθεια.**	I need help.
περισσεύει	**Μου περισσεύουν δέκα ευρώ.**	I have ten euros left over.

Χρειάζομαι ("I need", Greek Grammar 3, Chapter 11) is the personal verb: *Χρειάζομαι βοήθεια*. *Μου χρειάζεται βοήθεια* turns it round with the same meaning. Both are in use.

Not every feeling takes the genitive

Some verbs of feeling or sensation use the **accusative** pronoun instead (*με, σε, τον, την, μας, σας, τους*), as you saw with *Με πονάει το κεφάλι μου* in Greek Grammar 3, Chapter 3. You have to learn which pronoun goes with which verb.

GENITIVE (MOY)	ACCUSATIVE (ME)
Μου αρέσει. I like it.	**Με ενδιαφέρει.** It interests me.
Μου λείπει. I miss it.	**Με πονάει.** It hurts me.
Μου φαίνεται. It seems to me.	**Με ενοχλεί.** It bothers me.

Impersonal expressions

Some expressions have no real subject at all and use the same genitive pronoun: **Μου κάνει κρύο.** (“I feel cold”), **Μου έρχεται να γελάσω.** (“I feel like laughing”), **Μου πάει.** (“It suits me”). Learn them whole.

Words in this chapter

GREEK	SAY IT	ENGLISH
αρέσει	ah-REH-see	it pleases (I like)
λείπει	LEE-pee	it is missing (I miss)
φαίνεται	FEH-neh-teh	it seems
φτάνει	FTAH-nee	it is enough
χρειάζεται	hree-AH-zeh-teh	it is needed
ενδιαφέρει	ehn-thee-ah-FEH-ree	it interests
ενοχλεί	eh-noh-HLEE	it bothers
περισσεύει	peh-ree-SEH-vee	it is left over

GREEK	SAY IT	ENGLISH
οικογένεια	ee-koh-YEH-nyah	family
δύσκολος	THEES-koh-los	difficult
ταινία	teh-NEE-ah	film
κρύο	KREE-oh	cold (noun)

🗣️ In Use — Στην πράξη

Read the exchanges aloud. For each verb, ask: what is pleasing, and is it one or many?

① Likes

A: Σου αρέσει η ελληνική κουζίνα;
Do you like Greek food?

B: Πολύ! Μου αρέσουν ιδιαίτερα οι ντομάτες και το τυρί.
Very much! I especially like the tomatoes and the cheese.

② Homesick

A: Σου λείπει το Εδιμβούργο;
Do you miss Edinburgh?

B: Μου λείπουν οι φίλοι μου, αλλά εδώ έχει ήλιο!
I miss my friends, but here it is sunny!

③ Enough

A: Θέλεις κι άλλο φαγητό;
Do you want more food?

B: Όχι, ευχαριστώ, μου φτάνει. Μου φάνηκε πολύ νόστιμο.
No, thanks, that is enough for me. It seemed very tasty to me.

📋 Quick Reference — Σύνοψη

TOPIC	SUMMARY
pattern	genitive pronoun + verb + thing (subject)
agreement	the verb follows the thing: *αρέσει / αρέσουν*
pronouns	*μου, σου, του, της, μας, σας, τους*
verbs	*αρέσει, λείπει, φαίνεται, φτάνει, χρειάζεται, περισσεύει*
accusative verbs	*με ενδιαφέρει, με πονάει, με ενοχλεί*
past, future	*μου άρεσε, μου άρεσαν; θα μου αρέσει*
negative	*δεν μου αρέσει*

🖍️ Try It Yourself — Ασκήσεις

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

1. Say “I like Greece” and “I like the islands”. (*η Ελλάδα, τα νησιά*)

▼ Show answer

Μου αρέσει η Ελλάδα. / Μου αρέσουν τα νησιά.

2. Ask a friend “Do you like the film?” and a group “Did you like the songs?”.

▼ Show answer

Σου αρέσει η ταινία; / Σας άρεσαν τα τραγούδια;

3. Say “She doesn’t like fish” and “We don’t like the noise”. (*ο θόρυβος*)

▼ Show answer

Δεν της αρέσει το ψάρι. / Δεν μας αρέσει ο θόρυβος.

4. Say “I miss you”. (*Μου λείπεις* or *Μου λείπεις εσύ*)

▼ Show answer

Μου λείπεις. The person who is missed is the subject, so the verb is in the second person.

5. Say “It seems difficult to them”.

▼ Show answer

Τους φαίνεται δύσκολο.

6. Say “Two coffees are enough for us”.

▼ Show answer

Μας φτάνουν δύο καφέδες.

7. Choose *αρέσει* or *αρέσουν*: *Μου ___ τα παπούτσια σου.*

▼ Show answer

αρέσουν, because the shoes (plural) are what pleases.

8. Say “I like swimming” with *να*. (*κολυμπάω*)

▼ Show answer

Μου αρέσει να κολυμπάω.

9. Say “The film interests me” and “My head hurts”. Which pronoun does each use?

▼ Show answer

Με ενδιαφέρει η ταινία. / *Με πονάει το κεφάλι μου*. Both take the accusative *με*.

10. Say “You will like Crete” and “I liked the hotel”.

▼ Show answer

Θα σου αρέσει η Κρήτη. / *Μου άρεσε το ξενοδοχείο.*

Not Yet Verified

Checked (one web search on 2026-11-22): that with verbs like *αρέσει* the thing liked is the nominative subject and the verb agrees with it, while the person is a genitive clitic (*Της αρέσουν οι*

φωτογραφίες); that *λείπει, φαίνεται* and *χρειάζεται* follow the same frame; that the genitive clitic is obligatory in Standard Modern Greek even with impersonal predicates; and that *Πονάει το κεφάλι μου* is a separate structure (sources: elon.io: the *μου αρέσει* mistake, Michelioudakis, ICGL 42, Wikipedia: Modern Greek grammar, from search results only, not read in full). *Φτάνει* was not covered.

Not checked, from general knowledge: the behaviour of *φτάνει, περισσεύει* and the impersonal expressions (*Μου κάνει κρύο, Μου έρχεται να γελάσω, Μου πάει*); the claim that *ενδιαφέρει, πονάει, ενοχλεί* take the accusative; *Μου λείπεις* for "I miss you"; the replies *Και σε μένα / Ούτε σε μένα*; the past *άρεσε, άρεσαν, φάνηκε*; the vocabulary list; the three dialogs and the sentences (written for this course); every stress mark and the respellings. No dictionary or grammar book was consulted. Check a grammar book or a native speaker before relying on them.

Coming up in Chapter 5: Reflexive and Reciprocal Verbs. *πλένομαι, ντύνομαι* revisited, *βλεπόμαστε* ("we see each other"), *τον εαυτό μου* and *μόνος μου*.

🔁 Myself and Each Other — Αυτοπαθή και αλληλοπαθή

*Two ideas that English builds with extra words ("myself", "each other") Greek often builds with **the passive endings you learned in Greek Grammar 3, Chapter 11**. Ντύνομαι is "I get dressed", and βλεπόμαστε is "we see each other". When the meaning needs to be sharper, Greek has full reflexive pronouns too.*

THE RULE IN ONE BOX

Reflexive (I do it to myself): for everyday actions of grooming, the **passive form** (*πλένομαι*); for other verbs, the verb plus the reflexive pronoun ***τον εαυτό μου***.
Reciprocal (we do it to each other): the **passive form in the plural** (*βλεπόμαστε*) or ***ο ένας τον άλλον***. **On my own:** *μόνος μου*.

Reflexive with passive endings

For actions we do to ourselves, especially grooming and dressing, Greek uses the passive. It has no object: the subject is also the one acted on.

ACTIVE (TO SOMEONE ELSE)	PASSIVE FORM (TO ONESELF)
Ντύνω το παιδί. I dress the child.	**Ντύνομαι.** I get dressed.
Πλένω τα πιάτα. I wash the plates.	**Πλένομαι.** I wash (myself).
Χτενίζω την κόρη μου. I comb my daughter's hair.	**Χτενίζομαι.** I comb my hair.
Ξυρίζω τον μπαμπά μου. I shave my father.	**Ξυρίζομαι.** I shave.

ACTIVE (TO SOMEONE ELSE)	PASSIVE FORM (TO ONESELF)
Κρύβω το δώρο. I hide the present.	**Κρύβομαι.** I hide.

Watch out: only for a limited set of verbs

This reflexive use works for a **small set of everyday verbs**, mostly grooming, and only when the meaning is clear. You cannot make any verb reflexive just by giving it passive endings. For the others, use *τον εαυτό μου* (below). Remember too that your hair, hands and face are expressed with a possessive: *Πλένω τα χέρια μου* ("I wash my hands"), not "I wash myself the hands".

The reflexive pronoun: τον εαυτό μου

When the passive form does not work, or when you want to **stress** that the doer and the receiver are the same, use *τον εαυτό μου* ("my self"). It is a noun (*ο εαυτός*, "the self") plus a possessive, in the case the verb needs.

PERSON	ACCUSATIVE (OBJECT)	EXAMPLE
εγώ	**τον εαυτό μου**	**Κοιτάζω τον εαυτό μου στον καθρέφτη.** I look at myself in the mirror.
εσύ	**τον εαυτό σου**	**Πρόσεχε τον εαυτό σου.** Look after yourself.
αυτός, αυτή	**τον εαυτό του / της**	**Κατηγορεί τον εαυτό της.** She blames herself.
εμείς	**τον εαυτό μας**	**Πρέπει να προσέχουμε τον εαυτό μας.** We must look after ourselves.
εσείς	**τον εαυτό σας**	**Φροντίστε τον εαυτό σας.** Take care of yourselves.
αυτοί	**τον εαυτό τους**	**Δεν πιστεύουν στον εαυτό τους.** They don't believe in themselves.

The noun changes case with the verb (*στον εαυτό μου* after *σε*, *του εαυτού μου* in the genitive). The possessive agrees with the doer, as in English “myself, yourself”.

Reciprocal: we see each other

A reciprocal verb takes the passive endings and a **plural subject**. It does not take an object: the people are doing the action *to each other*.

VERB	FORM	MEANING
βλέπω → βλέπομαι	**βλεπόμαστε**	we see each other; see you!
αγαπάω → αγαπιέμαι	**αγαπιούνται**	they love each other
γνωρίζω → γνωρίζομαι	**γνωριζόμαστε**	we know each other
συναντάω → συναντιέμαι	**συναντιόμαστε**	we meet (each other)
φιλάω → φιλιέμαι	**φιλιούνται**	they kiss each other
καταλαβαίνω → καταλαβαίνομαι	**καταλαβαινόμαστε**	we understand each other

The spoken farewell **Βλεπόμαστε!** (“See you!”) is a ready-made example. Another is **Τα λέμε!** (“We’ll talk!”).

ο ένας τον άλλον

When the reciprocal meaning must be explicit or the verb has no passive partner, use **ο ένας τον άλλον** (“the one the other”). The second part takes the case that the verb needs, and a preposition goes in front of the second part.

GREEK	ENGLISH
Αγαπάνε ο ένας τον άλλον.	They love each other.
Μιλάμε ο ένας με τον άλλον κάθε μέρα.	We talk to each other every day.
Βοηθάνε ο ένας τον άλλον.	They help each other.

On my own: μόνος μου

Μόνος μου (“by myself, on my own”) takes the gender and number of the speaker, and the possessive shows the person.

PERSON	MASCULINE	FEMININE
εγώ	**μόνος μου**	**μόνη μου**
εσύ	**μόνος σου**	**μόνη σου**
αυτός, αυτή	**μόνος του**	**μόνη της**
εμείς	**μόνοι μας**	**μόνες μας**
εσείς	**μόνοι σας**	**μόνες σας**
αυτοί, αυτές	**μόνοι τους**	**μόνες τους**

It means both “alone” and “without help”: **Έφτιαξα το φαγητό μόνος μου.** (“I made the meal myself”), **Μένει μόνη της.** (“She lives alone”).

Words in this chapter

GREEK	SAY IT	ENGLISH
ο εαυτός	oh eh-ahf-TOS	self
μόνος	MOH-nos	alone, on one’s own
ο ένας τον άλλον	oh EH-nahs tohn AH-lohn	each other
ο καθρέφτης	oh kah-THREHF-tees	mirror
κοιτάζω	kee-TAH-zoh	I look at
προσέχω	pro-SEH-hoh	I take care
φροντίζω	frohn-DEE-zoh	I look after

GREEK	SAY IT	ENGLISH
κατηγορώ	kah-tee-ghoh-ROH	I blame
συναντάω	see-nahn-DAH-oh	I meet
γνωρίζω	ghnoh-REE-zoh	I know, I get to know
κρύβομαι	KREE-voh-meh	I hide
ξυρίζομαι	ksee-REE-zoh-meh	I shave

🗣️ In Use — Στην πράξη

Read the exchanges aloud. Which phrases are reflexive and which are reciprocal?

① Getting ready

A: Έτοιμος;
Ready?

B: Όχι ακόμα. Ξυρίζομαι και ντύνομαι.
Not yet. I am shaving and getting dressed.

② Old friends

A: Γνωρίζεστε εσείς οι δύο;
Do you two know each other?

B: Ναι, συναντιόμαστε κάθε εβδομάδα και βοηθάμε ο ένας τον άλλον.
Yes, we meet every week and help each other.

③ On your own

A: Έφτιαξες το site μόνος σου;
Did you build the site yourself?

B: Ναι, μόνος μου. Βλεπόμαστε αύριο!
Yes, on my own. See you tomorrow!

📋 Quick Reference — Σύνοψη

TOPIC	SUMMARY
reflexive, grooming	passive form: *ντύνομαι, πλένομαι, χτενίζομαι*
reflexive pronoun	*τον εαυτό μου / σου / του / της / μας / σας / τους*
reciprocal	passive plural: *βλεπόμαστε, αγαπιούνται*
explicit	*ο ένας τον άλλον*
on one's own	*μόνος / μόνη μου, μόνοι μας…*
body parts	possessive, not reflexive: *πλένω τα χέρια μου*

🖍️ Try It Yourself — Ασκήσεις

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

1. Say "I wash my hands" and "I wash" (myself).

▼ Show answer

Πλένω τα χέρια μου. / Πλένομαι.

2. Say "She is getting dressed" and "She is dressing the child".

▼ Show answer

Ντύνεται. / Ντύνει το παιδί.

3. Say "Look after yourself" (to a friend) and "Look after yourselves".

▼ Show answer

Πρόσεχε τον εαυτό σου. / Προσέχετε τον εαυτό σας.

4. Say "We see each other every day".

▼ Show answer

Βλεπόμαστε κάθε μέρα.

5. Say “They help each other” with *ο ένας τον άλλον*.

▼ Show answer

Βοηθάνε ο ένας τον άλλον.

6. Say “I live alone” as a man and as a woman.

▼ Show answer

Μένω μόνος μου. / Μένω μόνη μου.

7. Say “We did it ourselves” (all men).

▼ Show answer

Το κάναμε μόνοι μας.

8. Why is *Βλεπόμαστε* not followed by an object?

▼ Show answer

A reciprocal verb takes passive endings and a plural subject, and the people act on each other, so there is no separate object.

9. Say “He blames himself” and “They blame themselves”.

▼ Show answer

Κατηγορεί τον εαυτό του. / Κατηγορούν τον εαυτό τους.

10. Say “We talk to each other every day” with *ο ένας με τον άλλον*.

▼ Show answer

Μιλάμε ο ένας με τον άλλον κάθε μέρα.

Not Yet Verified

Checked (one web search on 2026-11-22): that Modern Greek marks reciprocity with non-active (passive) morphology, the same morphology used for reflexive, passive and middle meanings; that reciprocal verbs take no object (the source’s example is *φιλιούνται*, “they kiss each other”); that

the reflexive use of the passive is limited to a small set of verbs, mostly grooming; and that a separate reciprocal with *ο ένας* and *ο άλλος* exists (sources: u.osu.edu: non-active verbs, linglib: Greek reciprocals, WALS: Modern Greek, from search results only, not read in full).

Not checked, from general knowledge: the pronoun forms *τον εαυτό μου…* and their case endings (the search returned nothing on them); *μόνος μου* and its forms; every verb in the reflexive and reciprocal tables (*ξυρίζομαι, κρύβομαι, αγαπιόμαστε, συναντιόμαστε, γνωριζόμαστε, καταλαβαινόμαστε*) and the spellings of their passive stems; the farewell phrases *Βλεπόμαστε* and *Τα λέμε*; *ο ένας τον άλλον* with prepositions; the vocabulary list; the three dialogs and the sentences (written for this course); every stress mark and the respellings. No dictionary or grammar book was consulted; the search suggested the Asproudi (2005) paper on Modern Greek reflexive and reciprocal constructions as a next check. Check a grammar book or a native speaker before relying on them.

Coming up in Chapter 6: Conditional Sentences. *αν* with the present, past and perfect, real and unreal conditions, and *θα* with a past form for “would”.

🔀 If… — Οι υποθετικοί λόγοι

*A conditional sentence has two halves: the **condition** ("if it rains") and the **result** ("we will stay at home"). Greek marks the condition with **αν** and the result with **θα**, and the **tenses** in the two halves tell you how real the situation is. All the forms are ones you already know from Greek Grammar 3 and Chapter 1 of this course.*

THE RULE IN ONE BOX

Three kinds, three sets of tenses. Real or likely: *αν* + the simple or continuous subjunctive-type form, *θα* + future: *Αν βρέξει, θα μείνουμε*. **Unreal now (imagined):** *αν* + continuous past, *θα* + continuous past: *Αν είχα χρόνο, θα ερχόμουν*. **Unreal in the past (it did not happen):** *αν* + past perfect, *θα* + past perfect: *Αν είχα φύγει νωρίς, θα είχα προλάβει*. The negative in the *αν* clause is *δεν*.

1. Real or likely conditions

Use the form you would use after *να* (Greek Grammar 3, Chapter 9): the simple stem for one event, the continuous stem for a repeated or ongoing one. The result clause takes *θα* + a future, the present, or an imperative.

GREEK	ENGLISH
Αν βρέξει, θα μείνουμε σπίτι.	If it rains, we will stay at home.
Αν έρθεις, θα σε δω.	If you come, I will see you.
Αν θέλεις, έλα μαζί μας.	If you want, come with us.
Αν δεν διαβάσεις, δεν θα περάσεις.	If you don't study, you won't pass.
Αν έχεις χρόνο, πάρε με τηλέφωνο.	If you have time, phone me.
Αν κάνει κρύο, φοράω παλτό.	If it is cold, I wear a coat. (a general fact)

Watch out: no θα in the αν clause

English says "if it *rains*" (not "if it will rain"), and Greek behaves the same way: *Αν βρέξει*, never *αν θα βρέξει*. The *θα* belongs to the result clause only.

2. Unreal now: imagined situations

For something that is not true now, or is unlikely, put the **continuous past** (Greek Grammar 3, Chapter 5) in **both** halves. The past form does not mean past time here: it says "this is only imagined".

GREEK	ENGLISH
Αν είχα χρόνο, θα ερχόμουν.	If I had time, I would come. (but I haven't)
Αν ήξερα, θα σου έλεγα.	If I knew, I would tell you.
Αν ήμουν πλούσιος, θα αγόραζα ένα σπίτι στην Κρήτη.	If I were rich, I would buy a house in Crete.
Αν έμενα στην Ελλάδα, θα μιλούσα καλύτερα ελληνικά.	If I lived in Greece, I would speak better Greek.
Τι θα έκανες, αν κέρδιζες το λαχείο;	What would you do if you won the lottery?

3. Unreal in the past: what did not happen

For something that did **not** happen, use the **past perfect** of Chapter 1 in both halves: *αν είχα* + fixed form, *θα είχα* + fixed form.

GREEK	ENGLISH
Αν είχα φύγει νωρίτερα, θα είχα προλάβει το τρένο.	If I had left earlier, I would have caught the train.
Αν το είχες πει, θα σε είχα βοηθήσει.	If you had said so, I would have helped you.

GREEK	ENGLISH
Αν είχαμε διαβάσει, θα είχαμε περάσει.	If we had studied, we would have passed.

> **Watch out: speech often shortens the past type**
>
> You will hear, especially in speech, a continuous or simple past in the result clause for a past event (*Αν το ήξερα, δεν θα ερχόμουν*). That is easy to understand but looser than the past perfect: use the past perfect in writing and when you want to be exact.

Summary table

TYPE	AN CLAUSE	ΘΑ CLAUSE	EXAMPLE
real, likely	subjunctive-type form	future, present, imperative	**Αν έρθεις, θα χαρώ.**
unreal now	continuous past	continuous past	**Αν είχα, θα έδινα.**
unreal past	past perfect	past perfect	**Αν είχα πάει, θα είχα δει.**

Other ways of saying “if” and “although”

GREEK	MEANING	EXAMPLE
αν και	although	**Αν και κουράστηκα, πήγα βόλτα.** Although I was tired, I went for a walk.
εκτός αν	unless	**Θα έρθω, εκτός αν βρέξει.** I will come unless it rains.
αν όχι	if not	**Θα έρθεις; Αν όχι, πες μου.** Will you come? If not, tell me.
σε περίπτωση που	in case	**Πάρε ομπρέλα σε περίπτωση που βρέξει.** Take an umbrella in case it rains.

GREEK	MEANING	EXAMPLE
με την προϋπόθεση ότι	provided that	**Θα έρθω με την προϋπόθεση ότι θα φύγουμε νωρίς.** I will come provided we leave early.

Words in this chapter

GREEK	SAY IT	ENGLISH
αν	ahn	if
αν και	ahn keh	although
εκτός αν	ehk-TOS ahn	unless
σε περίπτωση που	seh peh-REEP-toh-see poo	in case
προλαβαίνω	proh-lah-VEH-noh	I catch, I have time for
κερδίζω	kehr-THEE-zoh	I win, I earn
το λαχείο	toh lah-HEE-oh	lottery
πλούσιος	PLOO-syos	rich
η ομπρέλα	ee ohm-BREH-lah	umbrella
χαίρομαι	HEH-roh-meh	I am glad
νωρίτερα	noh-REE-teh-rah	earlier
η προϋπόθεση	ee proh-ee-POH-theh-see	condition, requirement

🗣️ In Use — Στην πράξη

Read the exchanges aloud. Which kind of condition is each one?

① Plans

A: Θα πάμε βόλτα αύριο;

Shall we go for a walk tomorrow?

B: Ναι, εκτός αν βρέξει. Αν βρέξει, θα μείνουμε σπίτι.

Yes, unless it rains. If it rains, we will stay at home.

② Dreaming

A: Τι θα έκανες, αν κέρδιζες το λαχείο;

What would you do if you won the lottery?

B: Αν κέρδιζα, θα αγόραζα ένα σπίτι στην Ελλάδα.

If I won, I would buy a house in Greece.

③ Regret

A: Έχασες το τρένο;

Did you miss the train?

B: Ναι. Αν είχα φύγει νωρίτερα, θα το είχα προλάβει.

Yes. If I had left earlier, I would have caught it.

📋 Quick Reference — Σύνοψη

TOPIC	SUMMARY
real	*αν* + subjunctive-type form; *θα* + future
unreal now	*αν* + continuous past; *θα* + continuous past
unreal past	*αν είχα* + fixed form; *θα είχα* + fixed form
no θα after αν	*Αν βρέξει*, not *αν θα βρέξει*
negative	*αν δεν* + verb
other	*αν και, εκτός αν, αν όχι, σε περίπτωση που*

📝 Try It Yourself — Ασκήσεις

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

1. Say “If you phone me, I will come”.

▼ Show answer

Αν μου τηλεφωνήσεις, θα έρθω.

2. Say “If I had a car, I would drive to Athens”. (*οδηγώ*)

▼ Show answer

Αν είχα αυτοκίνητο, θα οδηγούσα μέχρι την Αθήνα.

3. Say “If I had known, I would have told you”.

▼ Show answer

Αν το είχα μάθει, θα σου το είχα πει. (The continuous-past version *Αν ήξερα, θα σου έλεγα* is heard in speech.)

4. Why is *Αν θα έρθεις* wrong?

▼ Show answer

The *αν* clause takes no *θα*: *Αν έρθεις, θα….* The *θα* belongs to the result clause.

5. Say “I will come unless I am tired”. (*είμαι κουρασμένος*)

▼ Show answer

Θα έρθω, εκτός αν είμαι κουρασμένος.

6. Say “Although it was raining, we went out”.

▼ Show answer

Αν και έβρεχε, βγήκαμε έξω.

7. Name the three kinds of condition and the tenses of each.

▼ Show answer

Real: subjunctive-type form + *θα* future. Unreal now: continuous past + continuous past. Unreal past: past perfect + past perfect.

8. Say “What would you do if you were me?”.

▼ Show answer

Τι θα έκανες αν ήσουν στη θέση μου;

9. Say “Take your umbrella in case it rains”.

▼ Show answer

Πάρε την ομπρέλα σου σε περίπτωση που βρέξει.

10. Finish: “If we had studied more, …” (we would have passed).

▼ Show answer

Αν είχαμε διαβάσει περισσότερο, θα είχαμε περάσει.

Not Yet Verified

Checked (one web search on 2026-11-22): only that in Greek the imperfect and the pluperfect with *θα* express potential and unreal modality, and that the same marker *αν* is used for conditionals, indirect questions and wishes (sources: ceeol.com: Bulgarian and Greek conditionals, pasithee.library.upatras.gr, from search results only, not read in full; most results were about Ancient Greek, which I ignored). The search could not confirm the exact tense patterns.
Not checked, from general knowledge: the three-way split and the tense pairs of each type; the form after *αν* in real conditions; the statement that the continuous past is used in both halves of the unreal present; the past perfect in both halves of the unreal past; the looser spoken version; the list of connectors (*αν και, εκτός αν, αν όχι, σε περίπτωση που, με την προϋπόθεση ότι*); the vocabulary list; the three dialogs and the sentences (written for this course); every stress mark and the respellings. The conditional system is the least secure part of this course: check it in a Modern Greek grammar (for example Holton, Mackridge and Philippaki-Warburton) or with a native speaker before relying on it. No dictionary or grammar book was consulted.

Coming up in Chapter 7: Time and Cause Clauses. *όταν, ενώ, αφού, πριν, μέχρι να, μόλις, επειδή, γιατί*: which verb forms follow each, and how to put events in order.

⏳ When and Why — Χρονικές και αιτιολογικές προτάσεις

So far you have joined clauses with και *and* αλλά*. This chapter adds the conjunctions that say* ***when*** *something happens (*όταν*,* ενώ*,* αφού*,* πριν*,* μέχρι να*,* μόλις*) and* ***why*** *(*επειδή*,* γιατί*,* αφού*). The new question is always the same:* ***which verb form comes after the conjunction?*** *For most, the answer is a form you already know.*

THE RULE IN ONE BOX

Past or present time: an ordinary indicative verb (*όταν έφτασα, ενώ διάβαζα*). **Future time: the simple subjunctive-type form without *θα*** (*όταν φτάσω, μόλις τελειώσω*), with *θα* only in the main clause. ***Πριν* and *μέχρι να* take the same simple subjunctive-type form** (*πριν φύγω, μέχρι να έρθεις*). **Cause:** *επειδή* and *γιατί* take the indicative.

όταν: when

TIME	GREEK	ENGLISH
past, once	**Όταν έφτασα, ο Νίκος είχε φύγει.**	When I arrived, Nikos had left.
past, habit	**Όταν ήμουν μικρός, έμενα στο Εδιμβούργο.**	When I was little, I lived in Edinburgh.
present, habit	**Όταν βρέχει, μένω σπίτι.**	When it rains, I stay at home.
future	**Όταν τελειώσεις τη δουλειά, θα σου τηλεφωνήσω.**	When you finish the work, I will phone you.

Watch out: no θα after όταν

> As with *αν* in Chapter 6, a clause about the future after *όταν* takes the simple subjunctive-type form, never *θα*. Say *Όταν φτάσω, θα σου πω*, not *όταν θα φτάσω*. English works the same way ("when I arrive", not "when I will arrive").

ενώ: while

Ενώ joins two actions that go on at the same time. The verbs are usually in the continuous form (Greek Grammar 3, Chapter 5): **Ενώ μαγείρευα, άκουγα μουσική.** ("While I was cooking, I was listening to music"). It can also mean "whereas": **Εγώ πίνω καφέ, ενώ εσύ πίνεις τσάι.** ("I drink coffee, whereas you drink tea").

αφού: after, since

Αφού has two meanings. It can mean "after" (in time) or "since, as" (the reason is already known).

MEANING	GREEK	ENGLISH
after (past)	**Αφού έφαγα, πήγα για ύπνο.**	After I ate, I went to bed.
after (future)	**Αφού φάμε, θα πάμε βόλτα.**	After we eat, we will go for a walk.
since (reason)	**Αφού το ξέρεις, γιατί ρωτάς;**	Since you know, why do you ask?

πριν and μέχρι να: before and until

Both take the simple subjunctive-type form, without *θα* and without a negative. *Πριν* may be followed by *να*, which is optional: *πριν φύγω* or *πριν να φύγω*.

GREEK	ENGLISH
Πριν φύγεις, κλείσε το φως.	Before you leave, turn off the light.
Έφυγα πριν αρχίσει η βροχή.	I left before the rain began.

GREEK	ENGLISH
Περίμενε μέχρι να έρθω.	Wait until I come.
Περίμενα μέχρι να τελειώσουν.	I waited until they finished.

μόλις and από τότε που

GREEK	ENGLISH
Μόλις φτάσω, θα σου τηλεφωνήσω.	As soon as I arrive, I will phone you.
Μόλις έφτασα, χτύπησε το τηλέφωνο.	As soon as I arrived, the phone rang.
Από τότε που ήρθα στην Αθήνα, μαθαίνω ελληνικά.	Since I came to Athens, I have been learning Greek.

Cause: επειδή and γιατί

Both mean “because” and take an ordinary indicative verb. **Επειδή** is the natural choice at the **start** of a sentence; **γιατί** is the everyday word in the **middle**. *Γιατί* is also “why?” in a question.

GREEK	ENGLISH
Επειδή έβρεχε, έμεινα σπίτι.	Because it was raining, I stayed at home.
Έμεινα σπίτι γιατί έβρεχε.	I stayed at home because it was raining.
Γιατί έμεινες σπίτι;	Why did you stay at home?
Δεν ήρθα επειδή ήμουν άρρωστος.	I didn’t come because I was ill.

Clause order and the comma

A time or cause clause can come **before or after** the main clause. When it comes first, it sets the scene for what follows, and a **comma** separates it from the main clause: **Όταν τελειώσω, θα έρθω.** After the main clause, no comma is needed: **Θα έρθω όταν τελειώσω.**

Words in this chapter

GREEK	SAY IT	ENGLISH
όταν	OH-tahn	when
ενώ	eh-NOH	while, whereas
αφού	ah-FOO	after, since
πριν	preen	before
μέχρι να	MEH-hree nah	until
μόλις	MOH-lees	as soon as
επειδή	eh-pee-THEE	because
γιατί	yah-TEE	because; why
από τότε που	ah-POH TOH-teh poo	since (then)
η βροχή	ee vroh-HEE	rain
άρρωστος	AH-ros-tos	ill
το φως	toh fohs	light

🗣️ In Use — Στην πράξη

Read the exchanges aloud. Underline the conjunction and the verb form after it.

① Arrangements

② Why not?

A: Πότε θα έρθεις;

When will you come?

B: Μόλις τελειώσω τη δουλειά. Πριν φύγω, θα σου τηλεφωνήσω.

As soon as I finish work. Before I leave, I will phone you.

A: Γιατί δεν ήρθες χθες;

Why didn't you come yesterday?

B: Επειδή ήμουν άρρωστος. Όταν σηκώθηκα, είχε περάσει η ώρα.

Because I was ill. When I got up, the time had passed.

③ Waiting

A: Μπορώ να φύγω;

Can I go?

B: Όχι ακόμα. Περίμενε μέχρι να έρθει ο διευθυντής.

Not yet. Wait until the manager comes.

📋 Quick Reference — Σύνοψη

CONJUNCTION	MEANING	VERB AFTER IT
όταν	when	indicative for past or habit; simple subjunctive-type form for future
ενώ	while, whereas	indicative, usually continuous
αφού	after; since	indicative; simple subjunctive-type form for future
πριν (να)	before	simple subjunctive-type form
μέχρι να	until	simple subjunctive-type form
μόλις	as soon as	indicative past; simple form for future
επειδή, γιατί	because	indicative
no *θα*	never in the time clause: *όταν φτάσω, θα…*	

🖍️ Try It Yourself — Ασκήσεις

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

1. Say “When I arrive, I will phone you”.

▼ Show answer

Όταν φτάσω, θα σου τηλεφωνήσω.

2. Say “I was reading while he was sleeping”.

▼ Show answer

Διάβαζα ενώ εκείνος κοιμόταν.

3. Say “After we eat, we will go out”.

▼ Show answer

Αφού φάμε, θα βγούμε.

4. Say “Close the window before you leave”.

▼ Show answer

Κλείσε το παράθυρο πριν φύγεις.

5. Say “Wait until I finish”.

▼ Show answer

Περίμενε μέχρι να τελειώσω.

6. Say “As soon as I got home, I made coffee”.

▼ Show answer

Μόλις έφτασα σπίτι, έφτιαξα καφέ.

7. Why is *Όταν θα φτάσω* wrong?

▼ Show answer

A future time clause takes the simple subjunctive-type form with no *θα*: *Όταν φτάσω.*

8. Say “I stayed at home because I was tired” in two ways.

▼ Show answer

Έμεινα σπίτι γιατί ήμουν κουρασμένος. / Επειδή ήμουν κουρασμένος, έμεινα σπίτι.

9. Say “Since I came here, I have been learning Greek”.

▼ Show answer

Από τότε που ήρθα εδώ, μαθαίνω ελληνικά.

10. Name two meanings of *αφού* and of *γιατί*.

▼ Show answer

αφού: after; since (reason). *γιατί*: because; why (in a question).

Not Yet Verified

Checked (one web search on 2026-11-22): that Greek temporal clauses can come before or after the main clause, with a comma after a fronted one; that future-oriented *όταν* clauses take a perfective dependent form and no *θα* (the source’s example is *Όταν τελειώσεις τη δουλειά, θα σου τηλεφωνήσω*); that *πριν* requires the subjunctive-type form while *αφού*, *μέχρι* and *όταν* take the indicative; that *μέχρι* means “until” and *αφού* can be temporal or causal; and that Greek has no strict sequence-of-tenses rule (sources: elon.io: temporal clauses, linglib: Greek temporal connectives, elon.io: adverbial clauses, from search results only, not read in full; the linglib page is a formal semantics model rather than a descriptive grammar).

Not checked, from general knowledge: everything about causal clauses (the search found nothing on *επειδή* and *γιατί*), including the preference for *επειδή* at the start; *ενώ* and *μόλις* (not covered); *από τότε που*; the optional *να* after *πριν*; *μέχρι να* in the past; the vocabulary list; the three dialogs and the sentences (written for this course); every stress mark and the respellings. No dictionary or grammar book was consulted. Check a grammar book or a native speaker before relying on them.

Coming up in Chapter 8: Relative Clauses. *που*, *ο οποίος / η οποία / το οποίο*, *ό,τι*, *όποιος*, and how a pronoun is repeated inside the relative clause.

🔗 Who, Which, That — Οι αναφορικές προτάσεις

*A relative clause adds information about a noun: "the man who lives next door", "the book that I read". Greek has **two main relativizers**. The little word **που** never changes and does most of the work in everyday speech. The longer form **ο οποίος, η οποία, το οποίο** changes like an adjective, and appears after prepositions and in formal writing. A third group, ό,τι and όποιος, covers "whatever" and "whoever".*

THE RULE IN ONE BOX

***Που* is invariable** and links the clause to the noun before it: *ο άνθρωπος που ήρθε* ("the man who came"), *το βιβλίο που διάβασα* ("the book I read"). ***Ο οποίος* agrees with the noun in gender and number** and takes the case its own clause needs: *η κοπέλα με την οποία μίλησα*. When the relative word would be an **indirect object or possessor**, Greek keeps a **weak pronoun** in the clause with *που*: *ο φίλος που του έδωσα το βιβλίο*.

που: the all-purpose relative

ROLE OF THE NOUN IN THE CLAUSE	GREEK	ENGLISH
subject	**Ο άνθρωπος που μένει δίπλα είναι γιατρός.**	The man who lives next door is a doctor.
direct object	**Το βιβλίο που διάβασα ήταν ωραίο.**	The book (that) I read was nice.
indirect object	**Ο φίλος που του έδωσα το βιβλίο το χάρηκε.**	The friend I gave the book to liked it.
possessor	**Ο συγγραφέας που το βιβλίο του διάβασα είναι Έλληνας.**	The author whose book I read is Greek.

ROLE OF THE NOUN IN THE CLAUSE	GREEK	ENGLISH
place	**Το σπίτι που μένω είναι μικρό.**	The house where I live is small.
time	**Την ημέρα που έφτασα, έβρεχε.**	The day I arrived, it was raining.

> **Watch out: the pronoun stays in the clause**
>
> English drops the pronoun ("the friend *to whom* I gave"); Greek with *που* keeps it: *ο φίλος που* ***του*** *έδωσα*. But a **subject or direct object** needs no extra pronoun: *το βιβλίο που διάβασα*, not *το βιβλίο που* ***το*** *διάβασα*. As a rule of thumb, add the weak pronoun for the indirect object (*του, της, τους*) and for the possessor (*το βιβλίο* ***του***).

ο οποίος: the long relative

Use *ο οποίος* (which, who) after a **preposition**, when *που* would be ambiguous, and in **formal writing**. It declines like the article plus an adjective in *-ος, -α, -ο* and agrees with its antecedent.

CASE	MASCULINE	FEMININE	NEUTER
nominative singular	**ο οποίος**	**η οποία**	**το οποίο**
genitive singular	**του οποίου**	**της οποίας**	**του οποίου**
accusative singular	**τον οποίο**	**την οποία**	**το οποίο**
nominative plural	**οι οποίοι**	**οι οποίες**	**τα οποία**
genitive plural	**των οποίων**	**των οποίων**	**των οποίων**
accusative plural	**τους οποίους**	**τις οποίες**	**τα οποία**

GREEK	ENGLISH
Η κοπέλα με την οποία μίλησα είναι η αδελφή του Νίκου.	The girl I spoke with is Nikos's sister.
Οι φίλοι στους οποίους έγραψα δεν απάντησαν.	The friends I wrote to did not reply.
Ο συγγραφέας, του οποίου το βιβλίο διάβασα, μένει στην Κρήτη.	The author whose book I read lives in Crete.
Το σπίτι στο οποίο μένω είναι κοντά στη θάλασσα.	The house in which I live is near the sea.

After a preposition (*με, σε, για, από*) in a careful sentence, use *ο οποίος* with the case the preposition needs. In speech, you will often hear *που* with a pronoun instead: *η κοπέλα που μίλησα μαζί της*.

Restrictive or not: the comma

A **restrictive** clause tells *which one* you mean, so it takes **no commas**: **Ο φίλος που μένει στην Αθήνα ήρθε.** ("The friend who lives in Athens came": one of several). A **non-restrictive** clause adds extra information and is set off by **commas**: **Ο Νίκος, που μένει στην Αθήνα, ήρθε.** ("Nikos, who lives in Athens, came").

A whole sentence as the antecedent

A relative clause can comment on a *whole sentence*, with *κάτι που* ("something that"): **Άργησε, κάτι που με εκνεύρισε.** ("He was late, which annoyed me"). The longer form *πράγμα το οποίο* does the same in writing.

"Whatever" and "whoever": free relatives

These words have **no noun before them**. They stand for the thing, person or place.

WORD	MEANING	EXAMPLE
ό,τι	whatever, what	**Κάνε ό,τι θέλεις.** Do whatever you want.
όποιος / όποια	whoever	**Όποιος θέλει, να έρθει.** Whoever wants to, can come.
όπου	wherever, where	**Πάω όπου θέλω.** I go wherever I want.
όποτε	whenever	**Έλα όποτε θέλεις.** Come whenever you like.
αυτό που	what, the thing that	**Αυτό που είπες είναι σωστό.** What you said is right.

> **Watch out: ό,τι with a comma is not ότι**
>
> *Ό,τι* (with a comma between the two letters, "whatever") and *ότι* ("that", as in "I know that…") sound the same, and only the writing tells them apart. *Ότι* is for reported speech, Chapter 9.

Words in this chapter

GREEK	SAY IT	ENGLISH
που	poo	who, which, that, where
ο οποίος	oh oh-PEE-os	who, which (long form)
ό,τι	OH-tee	whatever
όποιος	OH-pyos	whoever
όπου	OH-poo	wherever
όποτε	OH-poh-teh	whenever
ο συγγραφέας	oh see-ghrah-FEH-ahs	author
ο γιατρός	oh yah-TROS	doctor
δίπλα	THEE-plah	next door, beside

GREEK	SAY IT	ENGLISH
εκνευρίζω	ehk-nehv-REE-zoh	I annoy
σωστός	soh-STOS	right, correct
απαντάω	ah-pahn-DAH-oh	I answer, I reply

🗣️ In Use — Στην πράξη

Read the exchanges aloud. Find the relativizer and say what noun it belongs to.

① Neighbours

A: Ποιος είναι ο άντρας που μένει δίπλα σου;

Who is the man who lives next to you?

B: Είναι ο γιατρός που μου έδωσε τη συνταγή.

He is the doctor who gave me the prescription.

② A book

A: Πώς σου φάνηκε το βιβλίο που σου δάνεισα;

How did you like the book I lent you?

B: Ο συγγραφέας για τον οποίο μου μίλησες είναι εξαιρετικός.

The author you told me about is excellent.

③ Free choice

A: Τι να φάμε;

What shall we eat?

B: Ό,τι θέλεις. Πάμε όπου θέλεις εσύ.

Whatever you like. Let's go wherever you like.

📋 Quick Reference — Σύνοψη

TOPIC	SUMMARY
που	invariable; subject, object, place, time

TOPIC	SUMMARY
pronoun with που	for indirect object and possessor: *που του έδωσα*; not for subject or direct object
ο οποίος	agrees in gender and number; case from its clause; after prepositions, in writing
restrictive	no commas
non-restrictive	set off by commas
whole sentence	*κάτι που*
free relatives	*ό,τι, όποιος, όπου, όποτε, αυτό που*

🖍️ Try It Yourself — Ασκήσεις

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

1. Say “The girl who lives here is my sister”.

▼ Show answer

Η κοπέλα που μένει εδώ είναι η αδελφή μου.

2. Say “The film I saw yesterday was good”.

▼ Show answer

Η ταινία που είδα χθες ήταν καλή.

3. Say “The student I gave the book to” (use *που* + pronoun).

▼ Show answer

Ο φοιτητής που του έδωσα το βιβλίο. Add the pronoun for the indirect object.

4. Say “The woman with whom I spoke” with *ο οποίος*.

▼ Show answer

Η γυναίκα με την οποία μίλησα.

5. Say “The house where we live is old”.

▼ Show answer

Το σπίτι που μένουμε είναι παλιό. (or *Το σπίτι στο οποίο μένουμε…*)

6. Why does *Ο Νίκος, που μένει στην Αθήνα, ήρθε* have commas, while *Ο φίλος που μένει στην Αθήνα ήρθε* does not?

▼ Show answer

The first adds extra information about a person already identified (non-restrictive). The second says *which* friend (restrictive).

7. Say “Do whatever you want” and “Come whenever you like”.

▼ Show answer

Κάνε ό,τι θέλεις. / Έλα όποτε θέλεις.

8. Say “He was late, which annoyed me”.

▼ Show answer

Άργησε, κάτι που με εκνεύρισε.

9. Give the genitive singular masculine and the accusative plural feminine of *ο οποίος*.

▼ Show answer

του οποίου and *τις οποίες*

10. Say “What you said is right”.

▼ Show answer

Αυτό που είπες είναι σωστό.

Not Yet Verified

Checked (one web search on 2026-11-22): that Modern Greek has restrictive, non-restrictive and free relative clauses; that the two main relativizers are *που* (“that”) and *ο οποίος* (“who”); that restrictive relatives give information needed to identify the noun; that resumptive pronouns occur in some relative clauses; and that a non-restrictive relative can have a whole sentence as its antecedent (sources: Chatsiou: relative clauses in Modern Greek (LFG), enl.auth.gr: symposium paper, langsci-press.org, from search results only, not read in full; these are academic papers, not learner guides).
Not checked, from general knowledge: when the weak pronoun is kept and when it is dropped (the rule of thumb in the tip box); the full declension of *ο οποίος*; the preference for *ο οποίος* after prepositions and in writing; *ό,τι, όποιος, όπου, όποτε* and *αυτό που* (the search found nothing on them); *κάτι που* and *πράγμα το οποίο*; the comma rule for restrictive and non-restrictive clauses; the vocabulary list; the three dialogs and the sentences (written for this course); every stress mark and the respellings. No dictionary or grammar book was consulted. Check a grammar book or a native speaker before relying on them.

Coming up in Chapter 9: Indirect Speech and Questions. *ότι* and *πως, να* after verbs of saying, indirect questions with *αν* and question words, and *μου είπε να…*

💬 Reporting What Was Said — Ο πλάγιος λόγος

Direct speech quotes the exact words: Ο Νίκος είπε: «Θα έρθω αύριο.» Indirect speech reports them: Ο Νίκος είπε ότι θα έρθει αύριο. This chapter covers the three kinds: ***statements*** *(with ότι or πως),* ***commands and requests*** *(with να) and* ***questions*** *(with αν or a question word). The good news: Greek does* ***not*** *force the tense backwards the way English often does.*

THE RULE IN ONE BOX

Statement: reporting verb + *ότι* (or *πως*) + an ordinary verb: *Είπε ότι θα έρθει.* **Command or request:** reporting verb + *να* + the subjunctive-type form: *Μου είπε να περιμένω.* **Yes/no question:** *αν* + verb: *Ρώτησε αν θα έρθω.* **Question word:** keep it and use statement order: *Ρώτησε πού μένω.* The **tense** is chosen by the meaning, and the **person** changes to suit the new speaker.

Reporting statements: ότι and πως

DIRECT	INDIRECT
«Μένω στην Αθήνα», είπε ο Νίκος.	Ο Νίκος είπε ότι μένει στην Αθήνα. Nikos said that he lives in Athens.
«Θα έρθω αύριο», μου είπε.	Μου είπε ότι θα έρθει αύριο. He told me that he would come tomorrow.
«Έχασα το τρένο», είπε η Μαρία.	Η Μαρία είπε πως έχασε το τρένο. Maria said that she missed the train.

The conjunctions *ότι* and *πως* both mean “that” and can usually replace each other. They follow verbs of saying and thinking: *λέω* (“I say”), *νομίζω* (“I think”), *ξέρω* (“I know”), *πιστεύω* (“I believe”), *ακούω* (“I hear”), *βλέπω*, *θυμάμαι*. Do not mix up *ότι* (“that”) with *ό,τι* (“whatever”, Chapter 8).

Tense: no automatic shift

English pushes the tense back ("he said he *lived* in Athens"). Greek chooses the tense that fits the **real time** of what was reported, from the point of view of the reporter. If the situation is still true, the present stays.

SITUATION	GREEK	ENGLISH
still true	**Μου είπε ότι μένει στην Αθήνα.**	He told me he lives in Athens.
no longer true	**Μου είπε ότι έμενε στην Αθήνα.**	He told me he used to live in Athens.
future	**Είπε ότι θα έρθει.**	He said he would come.
done before	**Είπε ότι είχε φύγει.**	He said he had left.

Person and time words

The **person** changes when someone else reports the words: *«Θα σου τηλεφωνήσω»* becomes *Είπε ότι θα μου τηλεφωνήσει*. Words such as *εδώ* ("here"), *τώρα* ("now") and *αύριο* ("tomorrow") follow the reporter's point of view, so you change them when the time or place has changed: *αύριο* may become *την επόμενη μέρα* ("the next day") and *εδώ* may become *εκεί* ("there").

> **Watch out: a different person is not a different tense**
>
> *Είπα: «Θα έρθω»* becomes *Είπα ότι θα έρθω* when I report my own words, and *Είπε ότι θα έρθει* when someone else does. Only the person changed; the tense is the same. Do not look for English-style backshifting.

Reporting commands and requests: να

When a command or request is reported, Greek uses ***να* + the subjunctive-type form** (Greek Grammar 3, Chapter 9), not *ότι*.

DIRECT	INDIRECT
«Περίμενε!»	**Μου είπε να περιμένω.** He told me to wait.
«Μην αργήσεις!»	**Μου είπε να μην αργήσω.** He told me not to be late.
«Μπορείς να με βοηθήσεις;»	**Μου ζήτησε να τον βοηθήσω.** He asked me to help him.
«Έλα αύριο»	**Μου είπε να έρθω την επόμενη μέρα.** He told me to come the next day.

Compare *Μου είπε ότι θα έρθει* (a statement: he *will* come) with *Μου είπε να έρθω* (a command: *I* must come). The same verb *είπε* serves both, and *ότι* or *να* shows which.

Indirect questions

A direct question becomes a clause. A **yes/no question** takes *αν* (“whether, if”); a **question word** stays. The word order is that of a statement, and the question mark goes away if the main clause is a statement.

DIRECT	INDIRECT
«Θα έρθεις;»	**Με ρώτησε αν θα έρθω.** He asked me whether I would come.
«Πού μένεις;»	**Με ρώτησε πού μένω.** He asked me where I live.
«Τι ώρα φεύγει το τρένο;»	**Θέλω να μάθω τι ώρα φεύγει το τρένο.** I want to find out what time the train leaves.
«Ποιος είναι αυτός;»	**Δεν ξέρω ποιος είναι αυτός.** I don’t know who he is.
«Γιατί άργησες;»	**Ρώτησα γιατί άργησε.** I asked why he was late.

Verbs that take an indirect question: *ρωτάω* (“I ask”), *ξέρω*, *θυμάμαι*, *θέλω να μάθω* (“I want to find out”), *δεν ξέρω* (“I don’t know”), *αναρωτιέμαι* (“I wonder”).

Choosing the right verb and link

YOU REPORT	LINK	EXAMPLE
a fact or belief	*ότι / πως* + indicative	**Νομίζω ότι έχεις δίκιο.**
a command or request	*να* + subjunctive-type form	**Μου ζήτησε να περιμένω.**
a hope	*να* + subjunctive-type form	**Ελπίζω να έρθεις.**
a yes/no question	*αν*	**Ρώτησε αν θέλω καφέ.**
an information question	the question word	**Ρώτησε τι θέλω.**

Words in this chapter

GREEK	SAY IT	ENGLISH
ότι / πως	OH-tee / pohs	that
αν	ahn	whether, if
ρωτάω	roh-TAH-oh	I ask
ζητάω	zee-TAH-oh	I ask for, I request
απαντάω	ah-pahn-DAH-oh	I answer
νομίζω	noh-MEE-zoh	I think
πιστεύω	pee-STEH-voh	I believe
αναρωτιέμαι	ah-nah-roh-TYEH-meh	I wonder
μαθαίνω	mah-THEH-noh	I learn, I find out

GREEK	SAY IT	ENGLISH
την επόμενη μέρα	teen eh-POH-meh-nee MEH-rah	the next day
εκεί	eh-KEE	there
το τρένο	toh TREH-noh	train

🗣️ In Use — Στην πράξη

Read the exchanges aloud. Is each report a statement, a command or a question?

① Passing on a message

A: Τι είπε ο Νίκος;
What did Nikos say?

B: Είπε ότι θα αργήσει και μου ζήτησε να τον περιμένω.
He said he would be late and asked me to wait for him.

② Asking around

A: Τι σε ρώτησε ο αστυνομικός;
What did the policeman ask you?

B: Με ρώτησε πού μένω και αν είδα κάτι.
He asked me where I live and whether I saw anything.

③ Not sure

A: Ξέρεις τι ώρα φεύγει το τρένο;
Do you know what time the train leaves?

B: Όχι, αναρωτιέμαι κι εγώ. Νομίζω ότι φεύγει στις οκτώ.
No, I am wondering too. I think it leaves at eight.

📋 Quick Reference — Σύνοψη

TOPIC	SUMMARY
statement	*ότι / πως* + indicative
command, request	*να* + subjunctive-type form; *να μην* for no
yes/no question	*αν* + verb
information question	question word + statement order
tense	chosen by the real time; no automatic backshift
person, time words	shift to the reporter's point of view

🖍️ Try It Yourself — Ασκήσεις

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

1. Report: *«Μένω στο Εδιμβούργο», είπε ο Γιώργος.*

▼ Show answer

Ο Γιώργος είπε ότι μένει στο Εδιμβούργο.

2. Report: *«Θα φύγω αύριο», είπε η Μαρία.*

▼ Show answer

Η Μαρία είπε ότι θα φύγει αύριο. (or *πως θα φύγει*)

3. Report the command: *«Κλείσε την πόρτα!»* (he told me…)

▼ Show answer

Μου είπε να κλείσω την πόρτα.

4. Report the negative command: *«Μην πας!»* (she told me…)

▼ Show answer

Μου είπε να μην πάω.

5. Report the question: *«Θέλεις καφέ;»* (he asked me…)

▼ Show answer

Με ρώτησε αν θέλω καφέ.

6. Report the question: *«Πότε φεύγεις;»* (she asked me…)

▼ Show answer

Με ρώτησε πότε φεύγω.

7. What is the difference between *Μου είπε ότι θα έρθει* and *Μου είπε να έρθω*?

▼ Show answer

The first is a statement (*he* will come); the second is a command (*I* must come).

8. Say “I think that you are right” and “I hope you come”. Which link does each use?

▼ Show answer

Νομίζω ότι έχεις δίκιο. (*ότι*) / *Ελπίζω να έρθεις.* (*να*)

9. Say “I don’t know where he lives” and “I wonder whether he is coming”.

▼ Show answer

Δεν ξέρω πού μένει. / *Αναρωτιέμαι αν έρχεται.*

10. Why does Greek not say *Είπε ότι έμενε* for a man who still lives in Athens?

▼ Show answer

Because Greek chooses the tense by the real time of the situation. If it is still true, the present (*μένει*) stays; *έμενε* would say he no longer lives there.

Not Yet Verified

Checked (one web search on 2026-11-22): that Greek reports statements with a verb of saying followed by *ότι* or *πως*; that pronouns and words such as “here” and “tomorrow” follow the reporter’s viewpoint; that yes/no questions become *αν* clauses and question words are kept, after verbs such as

ξέρω, ρωτάω, θυμάμαι; and that Greek does not apply English-style backshift, but chooses the tense by the time meant (the source's example contrasts *μένω* and *έμενα*) (sources: elon.io: reported speech, elon.io: reported questions, elon.io: indirect questions, from search results only, not read in full; a polyglotclub page gives English-style tense rules that conflict with the Greek-specific sources, so I did not use it).

Not checked, from general knowledge: reported commands and requests with *να* (the search did not cover them); that *ότι* and *πως* are interchangeable; the choice of *να* for hopes; *την επόμενη μέρα* and *εκεί* as replacements for "tomorrow" and "here"; *αναρωτιέμαι*; the vocabulary list; the three dialogs and the sentences (written for this course); every stress mark and the respellings. No dictionary or grammar book was consulted. Check a grammar book (for example Holton, Mackridge and Philippaki-Warburton) or a native speaker before relying on them.

Coming up in Chapter 10: Wishes, Concessions and Idiom. *ας, μακάρι, να ζήσεις, ακόμα κι αν, όσο κι αν*, and common expressions with *να* and *θα*.

🌟 If Only… Even If… — Ευχές και παραχωρήσεις

English has a few words for suggesting, wishing and giving way: "let's", "if only", "even if". Greek uses the particles ***ας*** *and* ***να****, and the word* ***μακάρι****, together with verb forms you already know. These small words appear in almost every conversation, and many of them are fixed phrases you simply learn whole.*

THE RULE IN ONE BOX

***Ας* + the subjunctive-type form** suggests or allows: *Ας πάμε!* ("Let's go!"), *Ας έρθει.* ("Let him come."). ***Μακάρι να* + a verb** makes a wish: with the subjunctive-type form for a possible one (*Μακάρι να έρθει*), with a past form for an impossible one (*Μακάρι να ήξερα*). ***Να* + a verb** is also the frame of many good wishes (*Να περάσεις καλά!*). **Concession:** *ακόμα κι αν* + verb ("even if"), *παρόλο που* + indicative ("although").

ας: let's, let him, so be it

Ας is followed by the same form as *να* (Greek Grammar 3, Chapter 9). It has several uses, depending on the person.

USE	GREEK	ENGLISH
suggestion (we)	**Ας πάμε για καφέ.**	Let's go for a coffee.
suggestion (we)	**Ας αρχίσουμε.**	Let's begin.
permission (he, she, they)	**Ας έρθει, αν θέλει.**	Let him come, if he wants.
indifference	**Ας λέει ό,τι θέλει.**	Let him say what he likes (I don't mind).
acceptance	**Ας είναι.**	So be it. / Never mind.
"let's say"	**Ας πούμε ότι έχεις δίκιο.**	Let's say that you are right.

USE	GREEK	ENGLISH
negative	**Ας μην το συζητάμε τώρα.**	Let's not discuss it now.

> **Watch out: ας is not the same as να**
>
> *Να πάμε;* is a **question** ("Shall we go?", Greek Grammar 3, Chapter 9). *Ας πάμε* is a **statement of intention** ("Let's go"). With the first, you ask; with the second, you decide.

Wishes: μακάρι and να

Μακάρι ("if only, I wish") takes *να* and a verb. The verb form shows how possible the wish is.

KIND OF WISH	FORM	GREEK	ENGLISH
possible, in the future	subjunctive-type form	**Μακάρι να έρθει αύριο!**	I hope he comes tomorrow! (if only)
impossible now	continuous past	**Μακάρι να ήξερα ελληνικά καλύτερα!**	If only I knew Greek better!
impossible, in the past	past perfect	**Μακάρι να είχα πάει νωρίτερα!**	If only I had gone earlier!

Compare the two verbs of wanting and hoping: *Ελπίζω να έρθει* ("I hope he comes") is a real hope, while *Μακάρι να έρθει* sounds more wistful. A very common wish with *να* alone has no verb of wishing at all.

Good wishes with να

GREEK	WHEN	ENGLISH
Να περάσεις καλά!	before an outing	Have a good time!
Να είσαι καλά!	thanks, farewell	Take care! (literally "may you be well")
Να ζήσεις!	a birthday, a new baby	Long life to you!

GREEK	WHEN	ENGLISH
Να χαίρεσαι!	to someone with a new thing	Enjoy it!
Να σας ζήσουν!	a wedding	May they live long and well!

Other set greetings are not built on a verb at all: **Χρόνια πολλά!** (“Many years!”, birthdays and name days), **Καλό ταξίδι!** (“Have a good trip!”), **Καλή επιτυχία!** (“Good luck with it!”).

Concessions: even if, although

GREEK	MEANING	EXAMPLE
ακόμα κι αν	even if	**Θα έρθω ακόμα κι αν βρέξει.** I will come even if it rains.
και να	even if (spoken)	**Και να θέλω, δεν μπορώ.** Even if I wanted to, I can’t.
όσο κι αν	however much	**Όσο κι αν προσπαθώ, δεν τα καταφέρνω.** However hard I try, I don’t manage.
παρόλο που	although	**Παρόλο που κουράστηκα, πήγα βόλτα.** Although I was tired, I went for a walk.
παρ' όλα αυτά	nevertheless	**Έβρεχε. Παρ' όλα αυτά, βγήκαμε.** It was raining. Nevertheless, we went out.

Αν και (Chapter 6) and *παρόλο που* both mean “although” and take an ordinary indicative verb. *Ακόμα κι αν* looks at a possible situation, so it takes the same form as *αν* in Chapter 6.

Everyday expressions on να and θα

GREEK	ENGLISH
Να σου πω κάτι;	Can I tell you something?

GREEK	ENGLISH
Τι να κάνουμε;	What can we do? (resigned)
Πού να ξέρω;	How should I know?
Θα έλεγα ότι έχεις δίκιο.	I would say you are right.
Ας το δούμε.	Let's have a look at it.
Θα τα πούμε.	We'll talk. (a way of saying goodbye)

Words in this chapter

GREEK	SAY IT	ENGLISH
ας	ahs	let, let's
μακάρι	mah-KAH-ree	if only, I wish
ακόμα κι αν	ah-KOH-mah kee ahn	even if
όσο κι αν	OH-soh kee ahn	however much
παρόλο που	pah-ROH-loh poo	although
προσπαθώ	pros-pah-THOH	I try
τα καταφέρνω	tah kah-tah-FEHR-noh	I manage (it)
συζητάω	see-zee-TAH-oh	I discuss
η ευχή	ee ehf-HEE	wish
η επιτυχία	ee eh-pee-tee-HEE-ah	success
το ταξίδι	toh tahk-SEE-thee	trip
χρόνια πολλά	HROH-nyah poh-LAH	happy birthday, many happy returns

🗣️ In Use — Στην πράξη

Read the exchanges aloud and notice the small particles.

① A birthday

A: Χρόνια πολλά! Να ζήσεις και να είσαι πάντα καλά!

Happy birthday! Long life to you, and may you always be well!

B: Ευχαριστώ! Ας πάμε να φάμε κάτι.

Thank you! Let's go and eat something.

② Wishing

A: Μακάρι να ήξερα ελληνικά καλύτερα.

If only I knew Greek better.

B: Μην ανησυχείς. Όσο κι αν δυσκολεύεσαι, θα τα καταφέρεις.

Don't worry. However hard you find it, you will manage.

③ Rain or shine

A: Θα βγούμε αύριο;

Shall we go out tomorrow?

B: Θα βγούμε ακόμα κι αν βρέξει. Ας πάρουμε ομπρέλες!

We will go out even if it rains. Let's take umbrellas!

📋 Quick Reference — Σύνοψη

TOPIC	SUMMARY
ας	let's, let him, so be it; same form as after *να*
ας or να?	*Ας πάμε* (decide) / *Να πάμε;* (ask)
μακάρι να	possible: subjunctive-type; impossible now: continuous past; impossible past: past perfect

TOPIC	SUMMARY
good wishes	*Να περάσεις καλά! Να είσαι καλά! Να ζήσεις!*
even if	*ακόμα κι αν, και να*
although	*παρόλο που, αν και* + indicative
expressions	*Τι να κάνουμε; Πού να ξέρω; Να σου πω κάτι;*

🖍️ Try It Yourself — Ασκήσεις

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

1. Say “Let’s eat” and ask “Shall we eat?”.

▼ Show answer

Ας φάμε. / Να φάμε;

2. Say “Let him decide”. (*αποφασίζει*, the simple form is *αποφασίσει*)

▼ Show answer

Ας αποφασίσει εκείνος.

3. Say “I hope it doesn’t rain” as a wistful wish with *μακάρι*.

▼ Show answer

Μακάρι να μην βρέξει.

4. Say “If only I had more time”. (*περισσότερο χρόνο*)

▼ Show answer

Μακάρι να είχα περισσότερο χρόνο.

5. Wish a friend “Have a good trip” and “Good luck”.

▼ Show answer

Καλό ταξίδι! / Καλή επιτυχία!

6. Say “Even if I am tired, I will come”.

▼ Show answer

Ακόμα κι αν είμαι κουρασμένος, θα έρθω.

7. Say “Although it was expensive, I bought it”.

▼ Show answer

Παρόλο που ήταν ακριβό, το αγόρασα.

8. Say “However hard I study, I don’t understand”.

▼ Show answer

Όσο κι αν διαβάζω, δεν καταλαβαίνω.

9. What is the difference between *Ας πάμε* and *Να πάμε;*?

▼ Show answer

Ας πάμε is a statement (“Let’s go”); *Να πάμε;* is a suggestion in the form of a question (“Shall we go?”).

10. Say “What can we do?” and “How should I know?”.

▼ Show answer

Τι να κάνουμε; / Πού να ξέρω;

Not Yet Verified

Checked (one web search on 2026-11-22): that Modern Greek *ας* has hortative uses, including wishes and indifference, which a paper separates from concessive uses; that the subjunctive *να* is often used to soften an utterance; and that the Ancient Greek optative has disappeared, so Modern Greek wishes rest on *ας* and *να* (sources: Chondrogianni, ISTAL 19, Chondrogianni, ICGL 27, from search results only, not read in full; most other results were about Ancient Greek, which I ignored).

Not checked, from general knowledge: everything else, in particular *μακάρι* with the three tense patterns (the search found nothing on it); the concessive expressions (*ακόμα κι αν, και να, όσο κι αν, παρόλο που, παρ' όλα αυτά*); the good wishes (*Να περάσεις καλά, Να είσαι καλά, Να ζήσεις, Να χαίρεσαι, Να σας ζήσουν, Χρόνια πολλά*) and the occasions they are used for; the everyday expressions (*Τι να κάνουμε;, Πού να ξέρω;, Να σου πω κάτι;, Θα τα πούμε*); the contrast between *ας* and *να* in a question; the vocabulary list; the three dialogs and the sentences (written for this course); every stress mark and the respellings. No dictionary or grammar book was consulted. Check a grammar book or a native speaker before relying on them.

Coming up in Chapter 11: Word Order, Emphasis and Register. How free Greek word order is and what it signals, where the weak pronouns go, spoken against written style, polite forms, and linking words and punctuation.

🧭 Order and Tone — Σειρά λέξεων και ύφος

*Because Greek endings and cases carry so much information, the words of a sentence can **move around** without changing who does what. English cannot do that: "the dog bit the man" and "the man bit the dog" differ only by order. In Greek the order is used for **emphasis**. This chapter shows how that works, where the small weak pronouns go, and how to match your tone to the situation, spoken or written, formal or friendly.*

THE RULE IN ONE BOX

Word order is flexible and signals emphasis. The neutral order is **subject, verb, object** (and a verb-first order is also very common), and moving a word to the **front** or after the verb changes what you stress. **Weak pronouns stay glued to the verb**: before it (*το διάβασα*), after an imperative (*διάβασέ το*). A pronoun can **double** a noun that is already named: *Το διάβασα το βιβλίο*. **Register** is chosen by vocabulary and a few forms, not by a different grammar.

One idea, several orders

ORDER	GREEK	EFFECT
subject, verb, object	**Ο Νίκος διάβασε το βιβλίο.**	neutral: Nikos read the book.
verb, subject, object	**Διάβασε ο Νίκος το βιβλίο.**	also neutral, common in speech
object first	**Το βιβλίο το διάβασε ο Νίκος.**	the *book* is the topic: "As for the book, Nikos read it."
stressed object first	**ΤΟ ΒΙΒΛΙΟ διάβασε ο Νίκος (όχι την εφημερίδα).**	focus: it was the *book* he read (not the newspaper).

ORDER	GREEK	EFFECT
subject after the verb	**Ήρθε ο Νίκος.**	news: “Nikos has come.”

Two simple rules of thumb: the **first** word is what you are talking *about* (the topic) or what you are *stressing* (the focus); the **new information** tends to come late. In spoken Greek, stress and voice show the focus; in writing, capitals or italics sometimes do.

> **Watch out: free order is not random order**
>
> You can move the words, but the cases and endings must still say who did what. *Τον Νίκο είδε ο Γιώργος* means “Giorgos saw Nikos”, because *τον Νίκο* is accusative (the object) and *ο Γιώργος* is nominative (the subject). If the cases are the same, as with two neuter nouns, the order is read as subject first. Be careful there.

Questions and new subjects

A **question word** comes first: **Ποιος ήρθε;**, **Πού πήγε ο Νίκος;**. A subject that is **new** in the conversation often comes **after the verb**: **Χτύπησε το τηλέφωνο.** (“The phone rang”), **Έφτασε το τρένο.** (“The train has arrived”).

Where the weak pronouns go

CONTEXT	POSITION	EXAMPLE
ordinary verb	before the verb	**Τον είδα χθες.** I saw him yesterday.
after δεν, θα, να	between the particle and the verb	**Δεν τον είδα. Θα τον δω. Θέλω να τον δω.**
perfect tenses	before έχω	**Τον έχω δει.** I have seen him.
imperative	after the verb	**Δες τον. Πες μου.** Look at him. Tell me.
after μην	before the verb	**Μην τον δεις. Μη μου πεις.**

CONTEXT	POSITION	EXAMPLE
two pronouns	indirect object first, then direct	**Μου το έδωσε.** He gave it to me.

Doubling

When the object is a **topic** that has already been named or is moved to the front, Greek often repeats it with a weak pronoun on the verb. This is **clitic doubling**: **Το διάβασα το βιβλίο.** ("I read it, the book"), **Τον είδα τον Νίκο.** ("I saw him, Nikos"). Doubling is also needed with a **strong pronoun**: **Εσένα σε είδα.** ("It was *you* I saw"), **Σε μένα μου το είπε.** ("He told *me*").

Spoken and written, formal and informal

There is one grammar, but the **tone** varies with the person you are talking to and the medium.

INFORMAL, SPOKEN	FORMAL, POLITE OR WRITTEN	ENGLISH
Γεια! / Γεια σου!	Γεια σας! / Χαίρετε!	Hello
Συγγνώμη.	Με συγχωρείτε.	Excuse me
Θέλω έναν καφέ.	Θα ήθελα έναν καφέ, παρακαλώ.	I want / I would like a coffee
Πώς σε λένε;	Πώς σας λένε; / Πώς ονομάζεστε;	What is your name?
Μπορείς να με βοηθήσεις;	Θα μπορούσατε να με βοηθήσετε;	Can / Could you help me?
Το σπίτι που μένω	Το σπίτι στο οποίο διαμένω	The house where I live
Τα λέμε!	Με εκτίμηση, …	See you! / Yours sincerely (end of a letter)

For politeness, use the **plural *εσείς*** forms to a stranger or an older person (Greek Grammar 3, Chapter 10), add *παρακαλώ*, and use *θα ήθελα* ("I would like") and *θα μπορούσατε* ("could

you") for requests. Written style prefers the long relative *ο οποίος* (Chapter 8), complete clauses and linking words.

Linking words for a text

JOB	WORDS
adding	**επίσης, επιπλέον, εξάλλου** also, in addition, besides
contrasting	**αλλά, όμως, ωστόσο** but, however, nevertheless
concluding	**επομένως, λοιπόν, άρα** therefore, so
explaining	**δηλαδή, για παράδειγμα** that is, for example
ordering	**πρώτα, έπειτα, μετά, τέλος** first, then, after that, finally

Punctuation

MARK	GREEK USE
;	the question mark: *Πού πας;*
·	the raised dot, for what English does with a semicolon or colon
« »	quotation marks (guillemets): *«Θα έρθω», είπε.*
,	after a fronted time clause (Chapter 7), and around non-restrictive relative clauses (Chapter 8)

Words in this chapter

GREEK	SAY IT	ENGLISH
η σειρά	ee see-RAH	order, sequence

GREEK	SAY IT	ENGLISH
το ύφος	toh EE-fos	tone, style
η έμφαση	ee EHM-fah-see	emphasis
επίσημος	eh-PEE-see-mos	formal, official
επίσης	eh-PEE-sees	also
ωστόσο	oh-STOH-soh	however, nevertheless
επομένως	eh-poh-MEH-nohs	therefore
δηλαδή	thee-lah-THEE	that is, i.e.
για παράδειγμα	yah pah-RAH-theeg-mah	for example
τέλος	TEH-los	finally, end
με συγχωρείτε	meh seen-hoh-REE-teh	excuse me (formal)
με εκτίμηση	meh ehk-TEE-mee-see	yours sincerely

🗣️ In Use — Στην πράξη

Read the exchanges aloud. Notice which word comes first and how the weak pronouns attach.

① Who did it?

A: Ποιος διάβασε το βιβλίο;

Who read the book?

B: Το διάβασε ο Νίκος. Την εφημερίδα την διάβασα εγώ.

Nikos read it. The newspaper, I read.

② At the hotel

A: Με συγχωρείτε, θα μπορούσατε να μου πείτε πού είναι η είσοδος;

Excuse me, could you tell me where the entrance is?

B: Βεβαίως. Θα ήθελα πρώτα να σας ρωτήσω το όνομά σας.

Certainly. I would first like to ask you your name.

③ News

A: Χτύπησε το κουδούνι. Ποιος είναι;
The bell rang. Who is it?

B: Έφτασε ο Γιώργος. Τον περίμενα.
Giorgos has arrived. I was expecting him.

📋 Quick Reference — Σύνοψη

TOPIC	SUMMARY
neutral order	subject-verb-object, or verb first
front position	topic or focus
new subject	often after the verb
weak pronouns	before the verb; after the imperative; before *έχω*; indirect before direct
doubling	*Το διάβασα το βιβλίο*; with strong pronouns *Εσένα σε είδα*
formal	*εσείς, θα ήθελα, θα μπορούσατε, ο οποίος*
linking	*επίσης, ωστόσο, επομένως, δηλαδή, πρώτα, τέλος*
punctuation	; question; · raised dot; « »

🖍️ Try It Yourself — Ασκήσεις

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

1. Say “Nikos read the book” in three orders.

▼ Show answer

Ο Νίκος διάβασε το βιβλίο. / Διάβασε ο Νίκος το βιβλίο. / Το βιβλίο το διάβασε ο Νίκος.

2. How do you say it was the *book* he read, not the newspaper?

▼ Show answer

Put the object first and stress it: *ΤΟ ΒΙΒΛΙΟ διάβασε, όχι την εφημερίδα.*

3. Say “The phone rang” with a new subject after the verb.

▼ Show answer

Χτύπησε το τηλέφωνο.

4. Place the pronoun: “I haven’t seen him” and “Look at him”.

▼ Show answer

Δεν τον έχω δει. / Δες τον.

5. Say “He gave it to me” and “He didn’t give it to me”.

▼ Show answer

Μου το έδωσε. / Δεν μου το έδωσε.

6. Use doubling: “I saw Maria yesterday” with the topic named.

▼ Show answer

Τη Μαρία την είδα χθες.

7. Make this polite: *Θέλω ένα δωμάτιο.*

▼ Show answer

Θα ήθελα ένα δωμάτιο, παρακαλώ.

8. Make this formal: *Μπορείς να με βοηθήσεις;*

▼ Show answer

Θα μπορούσατε να με βοηθήσετε;

9. Choose the linking word: “It rained. ____, we went out.” (nevertheless)

▼ Show answer

ωστόσο (or *παρ' όλα αυτά*)

10. Write “Where are you going?” with the correct question mark, and “He said: ‘I will come’” with Greek quotation marks.

▼ Show answer

Πού πας; / Είπε: «Θα έρθω.»

Not Yet Verified

Checked (one web search on 2026-11-22): that Modern Greek word order is quite free, with SVO and VSO both common (the sources disagree on which is basic); that topics and foci move to the front of the sentence and background information goes to the right; that object clitics attach to the verb and form a fixed unit; and that clitic doubling marks a topic (the sources note that its function is debated) (sources: Wikipedia: Modern Greek grammar, UCL discovery paper on word order, QUIS: Greek information structure, from search results only, not read in full; these are academic sources). **Not checked, from general knowledge:** the register table (*Γεια σας, Με συγχωρείτε, Θα ήθελα, Θα μπορούσατε, διαμένω, Με εκτίμηση*); the rule of thumb about the two neuter nouns; the rules for pronoun position and for two pronouns together (the search found nothing on proclitic or enclitic position as a register marker); the examples of doubling with strong pronouns (*Εσένα σε είδα, Σε μένα μου το είπε*); the linking words; the punctuation section (the question mark, the raised dot and the guillemets); the vocabulary list; the three dialogs and the sentences (written for this course); every stress mark and the respellings. The search found nothing on katharevousa and demotic, so I did not discuss that history. No dictionary or grammar book was consulted. Check a grammar book or a native speaker before relying on them.

Coming up in Chapter 12: Putting It Together. One longer text, a letter or an e-mail, built from the whole four-course grammar; a checklist for the sentence; a recap of Greek Grammar 4. This is the last chapter of the course.

🧩 Everything at Once — Όλα μαζί

*This is the last chapter of the course, and of the four-course Greek grammar series. There is no new rule. Instead you will **read two letters** that use almost everything from Greek Grammar 4, learn the **opening and closing phrases** of a letter or e-mail, run a **checklist** over a sentence, and see the whole course on **one page**.*

THE RULE IN ONE BOX

Build a sentence in layers. First the verb in the right tense (Chapters 1 to 5), then the clause that joins it to another: condition (6), time or cause (7), relative (8), reported speech (9), wish or concession (10). Finally choose the **order and the tone** (11): who is the topic, where the weak pronouns go, formal or friendly.

Letter openings and closings

TONE	OPENING	CLOSING
formal, unknown reader	Αγαπητέ κύριε / Αγαπητή κυρία,	Με εκτίμηση,
formal, known name	Αγαπητέ κύριε Παπαδόπουλε,	Με εκτίμηση,
friendly	Αγαπητή Μαρία, / Γεια σου Μαρία,	Με φιλικούς χαιρετισμούς, / Φιλιά,

The name after *Αγαπητέ* is in the **vocative**: *κύριε Παπαδόπουλε* (the *-ος* of the name becomes *-ε*). Useful lines inside a letter: **Σας γράφω για να…** (“I am writing to…”), **Θα ήθελα να ρωτήσω αν…** (“I would like to ask whether…”), **Σας ευχαριστώ εκ των προτέρων.** (“Thank you in advance”), **Περιμένω την απάντησή σας.** (“I look forward to your reply”).

A formal e-mail

Booking a room

Αγαπητέ κύριε,
Dear Sir,

Σας γράφω επειδή θέλω να κλείσω ένα δωμάτιο για δύο άτομα.
I am writing because I want to book a room for two people. (cause, Chapter 7)

Θα φτάσουμε στις δέκα Ιουλίου. Αν έχετε δωμάτιο με θέα, θα το πάρουμε.
We will arrive on 10 July. If you have a room with a view, we will take it. (condition, Chapter 6)

Θα ήθελα να ρωτήσω αν το πρωινό περιλαμβάνεται στην τιμή.
I would like to ask whether breakfast is included in the price. (indirect question, Chapter 9)

Το ξενοδοχείο που μου συστήσατε είναι κοντά στη θάλασσα;
Is the hotel you recommended to me near the sea? (relative, Chapter 8)

Σας ευχαριστώ εκ των προτέρων.
Thank you in advance.

Με εκτίμηση, Philip Osztromok
Yours sincerely, Philip Osztromok

A letter to a friend

Αγαπητή Μαρία,
Dear Maria,

Όταν έφτασα στο Εδιμβούργο, έβρεχε. Μακάρι να είχες έρθει μαζί μου!
When I arrived in Edinburgh, it was raining. If only you had come with me! (time, Chapter 7; wish, Chapter 10)

Μου είπες να σου γράψω μόλις φτάσω. Να, σου γράφω!
You told me to write to you as soon as I arrived. Here I am writing! (reported command, Chapter 9)

Αν έρθεις τον Αύγουστο, θα πάμε βόλτα. Ακόμα κι αν βρέξει, θα περάσουμε καλά.
If you come in August, we will go for a walk. Even if it rains, we will have a good time. (Chapters 6 and 10)

Τα λέμε σύντομα. Φιλιά, Philip
Speak soon. Love, Philip

A checklist for any sentence

ASK YOURSELF	WHERE TO LOOK
Has the action finished, and does it still matter now? Is it perfect?	Greek Grammar 4, Chapter 1

ASK YOURSELF	WHERE TO LOOK
Do I need a participle, a verb family or an irregular verb?	Greek Grammar 4, Chapters 2 and 3
Does the verb take an indirect object, a reflexive or a reciprocal form?	Greek Grammar 4, Chapters 4 and 5
Is it an *if* sentence? Real, unreal, or past unreal?	Greek Grammar 4, Chapter 6
Is it *when, before, until, because*? No *θα* in a future time clause	Greek Grammar 4, Chapter 7
Do I need *που* or *ο οποίος*? Commas or none?	Greek Grammar 4, Chapter 8
Am I reporting a statement, a command or a question?	Greek Grammar 4, Chapter 9
Is it a wish, a suggestion or a concession?	Greek Grammar 4, Chapter 10
What is the topic? Where do the pronouns go? Formal or friendly?	Greek Grammar 4, Chapter 11

Greek Grammar 4 on one page

CHAPTER	TOPIC	ONE-LINE SUMMARY
1	The perfect tenses	*έχω* + the simple form for what is done and relevant
2	Participles	*-οντας* for "while doing"; *-μένος* for "done"
3	Verb families, irregulars	patterns that group verbs; the common exceptions
4	Indirect objects	*μου, σου, του…* with verbs of giving and telling
5	Reflexive, reciprocal	doing it to yourself, to each other
6	Conditionals	*αν* + verb; *θα* in the result
7	Time and cause	*όταν, πριν, μέχρι να, επειδή*; no *θα* after them
8	Relative clauses	*που* and *ο οποίος*; *ό,τι, όποιος*

CHAPTER	TOPIC	ONE-LINE SUMMARY
9	Indirect speech	*ότι*, *να*, *αν*; tense by real time
10	Wishes, concessions	*ας*, *μακάρι να*, *ακόμα κι αν*
11	Order, register	topic first; pronouns beside the verb; formal *θα ήθελα*

Words in this chapter

GREEK	SAY IT	ENGLISH
αγαπητός	ah-ghah-pee-TOS	dear
γράφω	GHRAH-foh	I write
κλείνω δωμάτιο	KLEE-noh thoh-MAH-tyoh	I book a room
το ξενοδοχείο	toh kseh-noh-thoh-HEE-oh	hotel
η θέα	ee THEH-ah	view
το πρωινό	toh proh-ee-NOH	breakfast
η τιμή	ee tee-MEE	price
περιλαμβάνεται	peh-ree-lahm-VAH-neh-teh	is included
συστήνω	see-STEE-noh	I recommend
η απάντηση	ee ah-PAHN-dee-see	reply
εκ των προτέρων	ehk tohn proh-TEH-rohn	in advance
σύντομα	SEEN-doh-mah	soon

🖍️ Try It Yourself — Ασκήσεις

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

1. Open and close a formal letter to a Mr Georgiou.

▼ Show answer

Αγαπητέ κύριε Γεωργίου, … Με εκτίμηση,

2. Write “I am writing because I want to ask something”.

▼ Show answer

Σας γράφω επειδή θέλω να ρωτήσω κάτι.

3. Say “When I arrive, I will phone you”.

▼ Show answer

Όταν φτάσω, θα σου τηλεφωνήσω.

4. Say “The hotel I recommended is near the sea”.

▼ Show answer

Το ξενοδοχείο που σας σύστησα είναι κοντά στη θάλασσα.

5. Report: *«Θα έρθω αύριο»*, said Nikos.

▼ Show answer

Ο Νίκος είπε ότι θα έρθει αύριο.

6. Say “I would like to ask whether the breakfast is included”.

▼ Show answer

Θα ήθελα να ρωτήσω αν το πρωινό περιλαμβάνεται.

7. Say “If only you had come!”.

▼ Show answer

Μακάρι να είχες έρθει!

8. Say “Even if it rains, we will go out”.

▼ Show answer

Ακόμα κι αν βρέξει, θα βγούμε.

9. Write a two-line note to a friend: tell her you will write as soon as you arrive.

▼ Show answer

Αγαπητή Μαρία, θα σου γράψω μόλις φτάσω. Φιλιά!

10. Without looking back: which chapters of this course cover *if*, *when* and *who* clauses?

▼ Show answer

If: Chapter 6. *When* (and *because*): Chapter 7. *Who, which*: Chapter 8.

Not Yet Verified

Checked (one web search on 2026-11-22): nothing. The search returned only English-language guides to e-mail openings and closings, with no Greek source, so none of the Greek letter phrases could be confirmed from it.

Not checked, from general knowledge: all of the chapter: the openings and closings (*Αγαπητέ κύριε, Με εκτίμηση, Με φιλικούς χαιρετισμούς, Σας ευχαριστώ εκ των προτέρων*), the vocative of surnames, the letter phrases, both sample letters (written for this course), the vocabulary list and the checklist and summary table (which restate earlier chapters, themselves partly unverified: see the boxes in Chapters 1 to 11, and especially Chapter 6 on conditionals), every stress mark and the respellings. No dictionary or grammar book was consulted. Check a grammar book (for example Holton, Mackridge and Philippaki-Warburton) or a native speaker before relying on any of it, and especially before sending a formal letter.

Course complete. You have now finished all four Greek grammar courses. To keep going: read real Greek (news, song lyrics, children's books), keep a notebook of whole sentences, and check this material against a good reference grammar and a native speaker.