

G R E E K
BASIC COURSE

Reader

August 1963

DEFENSE LANGUAGE INSTITUTE
FOREIGN LANGUAGE CENTER



A O E I
a o e i

A a

ɑ:

Production: Same as a sound in far,
car, bar.

O o

ɔ:

Production: Same as o sound in corn,
order, long.

E e

ɛ

Production: Same as e sound in end,
extra, red.

I i

i:

Production: Same as vowel sound in eat,
deep, me.

M N T
μ ν τ

M μ

m

Production: Same as /m/ sound in man,
home, almost.

N ν

n

Production: Same as /n/ sound in no,
now, invite.

T τ

t

Production: Similar to American /t/
with the difference that the tip of the
tongue touches the back part of the
upper teeth and not the gum ridge. Also,
there is no aspiration after a Greek
/t/ in initial position.

Α Ο Ε Ι Μ Ν Τ

α ο ε ι μ ν τ



ΜΑΤΙ
μάτι

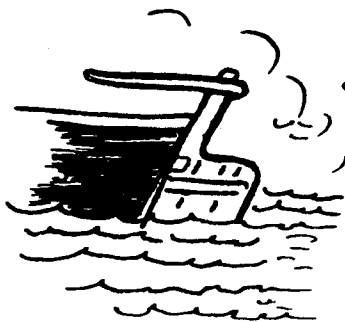


1

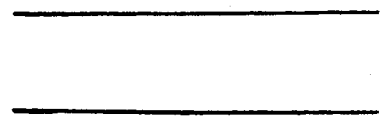
ΕΝΑ
ένα



ΝΟΤΑ
νότα



ΤΙΜΟΝΙ
τιμόνι



R E A D

ANNA	NINA
TINA	KATINA
Νίνα	Άννα
Κατίνα	Τίνα

Κ

Λ

Π

κ (u)

λ

π (ω)

Κ κ

Κ

Production: Same as /k/ sound in car, corn, cool when followed by vowel sounds /a/ , /ɔ:/ , or /u/ . Same as /k/ sound in king, kelp when followed by vowel sounds /i:/ and /e/ . Greek /k/ is not aspirated in initial position.

Λ λ

λ

Production: Similar to English clear /l/ sound as in leave, lend. To produce a Greek /l/ the middle and back part of the tongue should be held up while the air is allowed to escape from the sides.

Π π

ρ

Production: Same as English /p /

sound as in speak, special, leap.

In initial position, Greek /ρ /

is never followed by a puff of air

(aspiration) the way English /p /

is.

Κ

Λ

Π

κ

λ

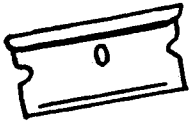
π



ΚΟΤΑ
κότα



ΠΙΤΑ
πίτα



ΛΑΜΑ
λάμα



ΛΕΜΟΝΙ
λεμόνι

R E A D

ΚΑΛΑ ΜΕΛΙ ΠΙΠΑ
ΛΙΜΑΝΙ

Λιμάνι Καλά Μέλι
Πίπα

H
η

B
β

Δ
δ

Σ
σ ς

H η

ι:

Production: Same as Greek vowel sound /i/
or English vowel sounds in leap, deep
eat.

B β

υ

Production: Same as English /v/ sound
in voice, avoid, leave.

Δ δ

θ

Production: Same as English voiced th
sound as in this, that, brother.

Σ σ s *

Ⓢ

Production: Same as English / s / sound
in also, Saturday, this.

* Lower case σ is used initially and in
the middle of a word. In final position
S is used.

Β
β

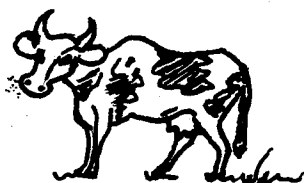
Δ
δ

Σ
σ

Η
η

10

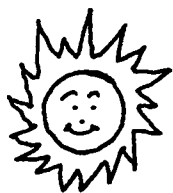
ΔΕΚΑ
δέκα



ΒΟΔΙ
βόδι



ΣΑΚΑΚΙ
σακάκι



ΗΛΙΟΣ
ήλιος

R E A D

ΗΛΙΟΣ ΒΟΔΙ ΣΙΜΑ

ΔΑΣΟΣ

Σιμά 'Ηλιος Δάσος
Βόδι . Τό βόδι . Τό δάσος.
Τό γεμόνι . 'Η τιμή . 'Η κότα .
'Η πίπα . 'Η γάμα . 'Ο ήλιος .

ο

ω

γ

γ

θ

θ (θ)

φ

φ (φ)

ο

ω

ο:

Production: Identical in production as the Greek vowel ο. Same as vowel sound in English words cork, fork, forth.

γ

γ

ι

Production: When followed by one of the front vowels /i:/ or /e/ this letter is pronounced the way y is pronounced in the words yeast, yellow, yesterday.



Production: When followed by the central vowel / a / or the back vowels /ɔ:/ and / u / the production of this sound requires that the back part of the tongue should almost--but not quite--touch the back part of the soft palate, while allowing the air to go through. The vocal cords should be vibrating. No equivalent sound exists in English and even in phonetic transcription this same Greek letter /γ/ is used as a symbol. It might help to keep in mind that this sound is produced further back than the / g / sound in go, goose, etc.



Production: Identical as the unvoiced th sound in think, thought, theater.



Production: Identical as the / f / sound in fire, afraid, roof.

Ο
ω

Γ
γ

Θ
θ(θ)

Φ
φ(φ)



ΟΜΟΣ
ώμος



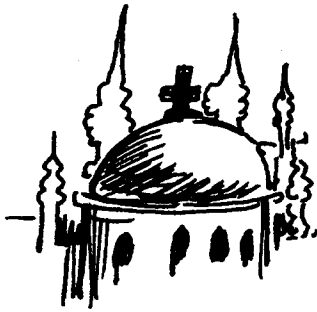
ΓΙΔΑ
γίδα



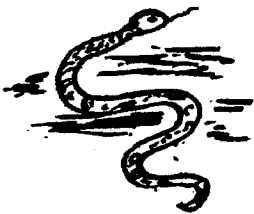
ΓΕΝΙΑ
γένια



ΓΑΤΑ
γάτα



ΘΟΛΟΣ
θόλος



ΦΙΔΙ
φίδι

R E A D

ΓΑΛΑ ΘΕΟΣ ΟΜΟΣ ΓΕΛΟ

ΘΑΛΑΣΣΑ ΦΩΝΗ ΘΗΚΗ

Ὁ θεός. Ὁ ὦμος. Τό φῶς.

Τό γάλα. Ἡ γίδα. Ἡ φωνή.

Ἡ θάλασσα. Ὁ γαλατάς.

Υ

Ρ

Ξ

υ

ρ

ξ

Υ υ

ι:

Production: Another vowel /i:/ sound pronounced the same way as Greek vowels ι and η.

Ρ ρ

ζ

Production: The Greek/ζ/ sound is a trilled sound, sounding very much like the Spanish ζ. It is produced by stretching the tip of the tongue toward the upper teeth and producing enough tension for the air to set it into rapid vibration.

≡ 5

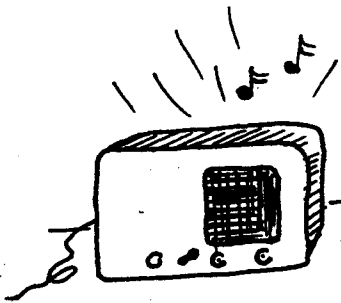
KS

Production: This sound consists of the combination of sounds /k/ plus sound /s/. It is a fairly common combination in English, but never in initial position. In Greek it is frequently found in initial position. It is pronounced like the x sound in lax, flax, mixer.

Υ Ρ Π
υ ρ π



ΥΠΝΟΣ
ύπνος



ΡΑΔΙΟΦΩΝΟ
ραδιόφωνο



ΞΥΡΑΦΙ
ξυράφι

R E A D

ΥΓΡΟΣ ΥΠΟ ΡΟΔΟ ΞΥΔΙ

ΔΟΞΑ ΡΑΦΙ ΞΕΝΟΣ

Τό ξύδι. Ἡ ὥρα. Ἡ Ρένα.

Τό ρόδο. Τό ξυράφι.

Τό φανάρι. Τό ξύλο.

Z

X

Ψ

ζ

χ

ψ (γ)

Z ζ

Z

Production: Same as English /z/ sound,
as in zoo, zone, zero.

X χ

xj

Production: When followed by one of the
front vowels /i:/ or /e/ this sound is
produced by making the back part of the
tongue almost touch the soft palate,
while the middle part of the tongue is
actually touching the hard palate.
The position of articulation for this
consonant sound is the same as that
for /ɣ/ in yeast, yes, with the differ-
ence that the vocal cords are not
vibrating.

X

Production: When followed by the central vowel / a / or the back vowels /ɔ:/ and / u / the production of this sound is identical with the production of ɣ under similar circumstances. (Back part of tongue almost touching soft palate, air going through). The only difference is that for /ɣ / the vocal cords are vibrating while for / x / they are not.

ψ ψ

ps

Production: This letter is the symbol for the combination of sounds / p / plus / s / . Again, it is a fairly common combination in English, but never in initial position. In Greek it is frequently found in initial position and an effort should be made to pronounce both the / p / and the / s / of this cluster at all times. The / ps / combination in lapse, lips, props, produces the same sound as Greek ψ.

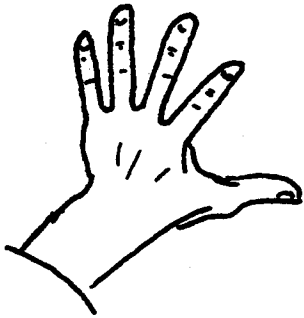
Ζ
ζ

Χ
χ

Ψ
ψ (γ)



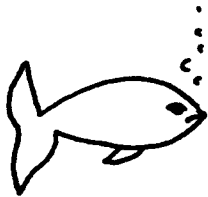
ΖΟΝΗ
ζώνη



ΧΕΡΙ
χέρι



ΧΑΡΤΗΣ
χάρτης



ΨΑΡΙ
ψάρι

R E A D

ΖΑΚΕΤΑ ΧΑΠΙ ΨΟΜΙ

ΨΥΧΗ ΔΙΨΟ ΧΑΡΤΙ

ΧΩΡΑΦΙ ΕΧΕΤΕ

‘Η ζακέτα. ‘Η ζώνη. Τό ζάρι.

Τό βάζο. ‘Ο ψαράς. ‘Ο ψωμάς.

‘Η ψιψίνα. Τό ύψος. Τό χῶμα.

Τό χαλί. Τό χωράφι. ‘Η χήνα.

ΟΥ ΟΙ ΑΙ ΓΚ ΓΓ
ου οι αι γκ γγ

ΟΥ ου u

Production: A digraph (combination of two letters pronounced as one sound) denoting the pronunciation of the English vowel sound /u/ as in food, rude, loot.

ΟΙ οι i:

Production: Another digraph pronounced as the single vowel sound /i:/ as in machine, marine, lean.

ΑΙ αι e

Production: A digraph pronounced as the single vowel sound /ε/ as in led, bed, keg.

ΓΚ γκ

g

Production: When this digraph appears initially it is pronounced as the single consonant sound /g/ as in go, great, goose.

ΓΓ γγ

g

Production: When the above digraph γκ or the digraph γγ appear anywhere else in the word but in initial position, they are pronounced like the combination ng as in England, fungus, longer. It should be remembered that no Greek word ever starts with a double consonant of the same letter.

ΟΥ
ου

ΟΙ
οι

ΑΙ
αι

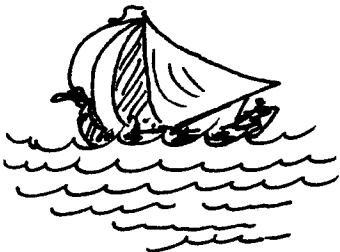
ΓΚ
γκ



ΟΥΡΑ
ούρα



ΟΙΚΟΔΟΜΗ
οικοδομή



ΑΙΓΑΙΟΝ
Αιγαῖον



ΓΚΑΡΣΟΝΙ
γκαρσόνι



ΦΕΓΓΑΡΙ
φεγγάρι

R E A D

ΟΥΡΑΝΟΣ ΟΙΚΟΝΟΜΙΑ
ΑΙΜΑ ΧΑΙΡΕΤΕ ΑΓΓΛΟΣ
ΓΚΕΜΙ ΜΑΓΚΑΣ ΦΕΓΓΟ
Ὁ οὐρανός. Ἡ οἰκογένεια.
Τό φεγγάρι. Τό αἷμα. Ἡ οὐρά.
Ἡ οἰκοδομή. Ἡ Αἴγινα. Τό γκέμι.
Τό γκαρβόνι. Χαίρετε.

ΕΙ

ει

ΜΠ

μπ

ΝΤ

ντ

Αϊ

αϊ

ΕΙ / ει

ι:

Production: Yet another digraph pronounced as the single vowel sound /i:/ as in machine, marine, bean. With this we conclude the five different ways in which one and the same vowel sound /i:/ can be spelled in Modern Greek (ι, η, υ, οι, ει).

ΜΠ

μπ

β

Production: Identical as for the English consonant sound /b/ as in bed, boy, bashful when the digraph is in initial position.

Production: The digraph μπ is pronounced like the consonant combination /mb/ as in somber, amber, imbecile when it occurs anywhere else but in initial position.

mb

NT ντ

Production: Identical as for the English consonant sound /d/ as in dog, day, diamond when this digraph is in initial position.

d

Production: The same digraph ντ is pronounced like the consonant combination /nd/ as in industry, independence, fender when it occurs anywhere else but in initial position.

nd

Diphthongs

To indicate that each vowel of a vowel combination (digraph) retains its own pronunciation, the diacritical sign '·' is placed over the second vowel. Thus, the combination αι - pronounced /e/ - is pronounced αῖ /αῖ/ because of the diacritical sign over the i. All six vowel combinations αι, ει, οι, ου and αυ, ευ conform to this rule. Examples: αῖμα /'ema/ μάιος /'maios/.

ΕΙ
ει

ΑΙ
αι

ΜΠ
μπ

ΝΤ
ντ



ΓΑΪΔΑΡΟΣ
γάιδαρος

20

ΕΙΚΟΣΙ
εΐκοσι



ΜΠΑΝΑΝΑ
μπανάνα



ΛΑΜΠΑ
λάμπα



ΝΤΟΜΑΤΑ
ντομάτα

5

ΠΕΝΤΕ
πέντε

ΜΠΑΚΑΛΗΣ, ΜΠΑΙΝΟ,
ΜΠΑΛΑ, ΡΟΛΟΪ, ΛΑΜΠΑ,
ΕΜΠΟΡΟΣ, ΝΤΟΥΖΙΝΑ, ΝΤΑΛΙΑ,
ΜΑΝΤΗΛΙ, ΦΑΝΤΑΡΟΣ, ΕΙΝΑΙ,
ΦΑΝΤΑΣΙΑ.

Ὁ μπακάλης. Ἡ μπάλα. Ἡ γάμπα.
Ἡ ντάλια. Τό μαντήλι. Ὁ φαντάρος.
Ὁ ἔμπορος. Ἡ φαντασία. Εἶμαι.
Εἶσαι. Εἶναι. Ρολοῖ. κεραϊδῶ.

AY
av

EY
EV

TΣ
Tσ

TΖ
Tζ

AY av

af

Production: The combination av is pronounced like the consonant combination /af/ as in after, rafter when preceding a voiceless consonant. The Greek voiceless consonants are θ, κ, ξ, π, τ, φ, χ and σ.

av

Production: The combination av is pronounced like the consonant combination /av/ when preceding a vowel or a voiced consonant. The Greek voiced consonants are β, γ, δ, ζ, λ, μ, ν.

EY ευ

ef

ev

Production: The combination ev is pronounced like the combination /ef/ when preceding a voiceless consonant and like /ev/ when preceding a vowel or a voiced consonant.

TΣ τσ

ts

Production: This combination of sounds occurs frequently in English as in that's, lets, forgets, but not in initial position. It occurs in Greek in initial position as well.

TΖ τζ

dz

Production: This combination of sounds also occurs in English as in leads, adze, needs, but never in initial position. In Greek it occurs in initial position as well.

ΑΥ

αυ

ΕΥ

ευ

ΤΣ

τσ

ΤΖ

τζ



ΑΥΤΙ

αὐτί



ΑΥΓΟ

αὐγό

Thank you.

ΕΥΧΑΡΙΣΤΟ

εὐχαριστῶ



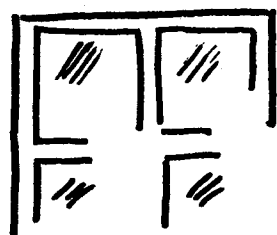
ΕΥΡΩΠΗ

Εὐρώπη



ΤΣΕΠΗ

τσέπη



ΤΖΑΜΙ

τζάμι

R E A D

ΤΣΕΚΟΥΡΙ, ΤΣΑΜΠΙ, ΤΖΑΜΑΡΙΑ,
ΑΥΛΗ, ΑΥΡΙΟ, ΕΥΖΩΝΑΣ,
ΕΥΩΔΙΑ, ΦΕΥΓΩ, ΔΟΥΛΕΥΩ,
ΕΥΤΥΧΩΣ

Τό τσεκούρι. Τό τζάικι. Τό τσαμπί.

Ἡ αὐλή. Ἡ τζαμαρία. Ἡ εὐωδία.

Ὁ εὐζωνας. Αὐριο. Δουχεύω.

Φεύγω. Εὐτυχῶς.

CONSONANT CLUSTERS

Certain consonants appear frequently in groups. Such groupings are called clusters. Whenever any unfamiliar groupings of consonants occur students are likely to find them hard to pronounce, even when the individual sounds comprising the cluster may be familiar. A few of the more troublesome consonant clusters appearing in initial position will be given in subsequent pages. Selection has been made from the standpoint of frequency of occurrence. Such clusters as Ψ, Ξ, ΤΣ, and ΤΖ have already been taken up.

ΣΒ ΣΜ ΓΛ ΧΤ (χτ) ΧΡ

ΣΒσβ

z v

Production: This combination -- or cluster--of consonants appearing in initial position requires some practice. The trick is to pronounce the /z/ sound and immediately after to proceed into the articulation of /v/ without putting a vowel in between. The vowel follows the /v/ sound. In Greek orthography whenever letter σ precedes a voiced consonant it is automatically pronounced like a /z/.

ΣΜ σμ zm

Production: Pronounce the / z / sound and immediately proceed into the articulation of / m / without allowing a vowel sound to go in between.

Γλ γλ gl

Production: Articulate the / γ / sound and immediately proceed into the articulation of / λ /.

Χτ χτ xt

Production: Articulate the / x / sound and proceed immediately into the articulation of / t /.

Κτ κτ kt

Production: This cluster could be a variant of / xt / or it could be an independent cluster. Follow principles already explained.

XP xp



Production: Follow instructions for the production of /x / and move the tongue rapidly into the right position for the production of /r /. The vowel sound follows the articulation of the whole cluster.

ΣΒ ΣΜ ΓΛ ΧΤ(κτ)



ΣΒΟΥΡΑ
σβούρα



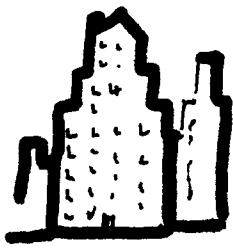
ΣΜΗΝΑΓΟΣ
σμηναγός



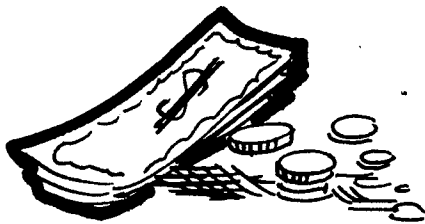
ΓΛΑΣΤΡΑ
γλάστρα



ΧΤΕΝΑ
χτένα



ΚΤΙΡΙΟ
κτίριο



ΧΡΗΜΑΤΑ
χρήματα

READ

ΣΒΗΝΟ ΑΣΒΕΣΤΗΣ ΣΜΑΡΟ

ΓΛΑΡΟΣ ΓΛΕΝΤΟ ΧΡΥΣΑΦΙ

ΚΟΣΜΟΣ ΧΤΕΣ ΧΤΕΝΙΖΟ

ΚΤΗΝΟΣ ΚΤΗΜΑ ΧΡΩΜΑ

Ὁ γλᾶρος. Ὁ κόσμος. Σβήνω.

Ὁ ἀσβέστης. Ἡ χτένα. Ἡ Σμαρῶ.

Γλεντῶ. Τό σμῆνος. Τό χρυσάφι.

Τό κτίριο. Τό κτήνος. Τό κτήμα.

Τό χρῶμα. Τό χρήμα.

ΒΡ ΔΡ ΒΛ ΒΓ ΘΛ ΧΛ
 βρ δρ βλ βγ θλ χλ

Production: Follow directions given in lesson 10 concerning the articulation of clusters in general.

Remember: There are no silent consonants in Greek.

Each individual consonant of a cluster retains its basic pronunciation. No vowel sound should be allowed to intervene between the consonant constituents of a cluster.

ΒΡ βρ

βρ

ΒΡΙΣΚΟ

βρίσκω

ΔΡ δρ

δρ

ΔΡΟΜΟΣ

δρόμος

ΒΛ βλ

βι

ΒΛΕΠΩ

βλέπω

ΒΓ βγ

βγ

ΒΓΑΖΩ

βγάζω

ΘΛ θλ

θλ

ΘΛΙΒΕΡΟΣ

θλιβερός

ΧΛ χλ

χλ

ΧΛΟΗ

χλόη

R E A D

ΒΡΕΧΕΙ ΒΡΟΧΗ ΔΡΟΣΙΖΩ

ΒΛΑΒΗ ΒΛΗΜΑ ΒΓΗΚΑ ΧΛΩΡΟΣ

ΘΛΙΨΗ ΘΛΙΒΕΡΟΣ ΧΛΙΑΡΟΣ ΔΡΑΜΑ

Ἡ βροχή. Ἡ βροντή. Τό βρέμμα.

Ἡ χλόη. Τό βγῆμα. Βγαίνομε.

Βγῆκα. χλιαρός. θλιβερός. Βρίσκω.

Βγῆτε. Τό χλώριο. Δροσερός.

ΓΝ ΘΝ ΚΝ ΜΝ ΠΝ ΧΝ
 γν θν κν μν πν χν

Production: Follow principles given in
 pages 38 to 46.

ΓΝ γν

γν

ΓΝΟΜΗ
 γνώμη

ΘΝ θν

θν

ΘΝΗΤΟΣ
 θνητός

