

Greek Manual: Language and Culture



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Greek Demographics & Language

Greek, called “el-li-ni-ka” by Greek speakers, is an independent branch of the Indo-European family of languages. Native to the southern Balkans, it has the longest documented history of any Indo-European language, spanning 34 centuries of written records. Its writing system has been the Greek alphabet for the majority of its history. The alphabet arose from the Phoenician script, and was in turn the basis of the Latin, Cyrillic, Coptic, and many other writing systems. The Greek language holds an important place in the histories of Europe, the more loosely defined “Western” world, and Christianity. Greek roots are often used to coin new words for other languages, especially in the sciences and medicine. Greek and Latin are the predominant sources of the international scientific vocabulary. More than 150,000 words of the English language are of Greek origin. Greek is the official language of Greece, where it is spoken by almost the entire population. It is also one of the official languages of Cyprus and is recognized as a minority language in Albania, Armenia, Italy, Romania, Turkey, and Ukraine.

The above information is from: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_language & <http://www.kwintessential.co.uk/language/about/greek.html>

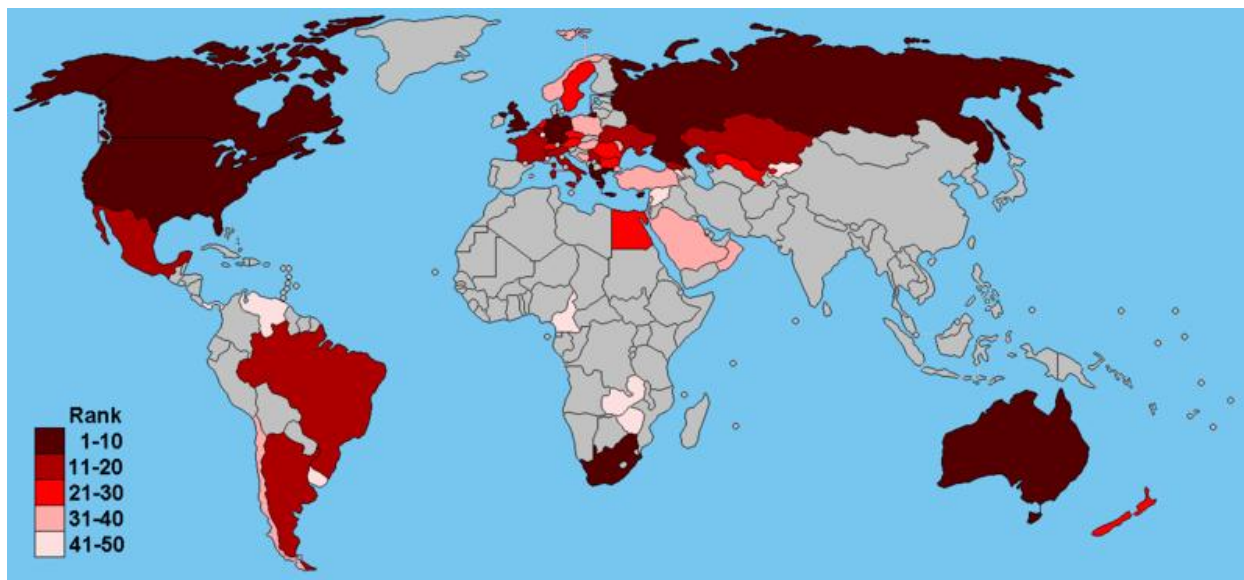
Geographical Distribution of the Greek Language

Currently there are approximately 13 million Greek speakers, with about 10 million in Greece and 500,000 in Cyprus. The remainder Greek speakers are in the modern Hellenic diaspora, which is also known as the Greek diaspora. The Hellenic diaspora refers to the communities of Greek people living outside the traditional Greek homelands, but more commonly in southeast Europe and Asia Minor. Members of the diaspora can be identified as those who themselves, or whose ancestors, migrated from the Greek homelands.

The above information is from: (Joseph, 2001) & http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_diaspora

There are traditional Greek-speaking settlements in the neighboring countries of Albania, the Republic of Macedonia, Bulgaria and Turkey, as well as in several countries in the Black Sea area such as Ukraine, Russia, Romania, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan, the Republic of Macedonia, and around the Mediterranean Sea, Southern Italy, Israel, Egypt, Lebanon and ancient coastal towns along the Levant. The language is also spoken by Greek emigrant communities in many countries in Western Europe, especially the United Kingdom and Germany, in Canada and the United States, Australia, as well as in Argentina, Brazil, Chile and others.

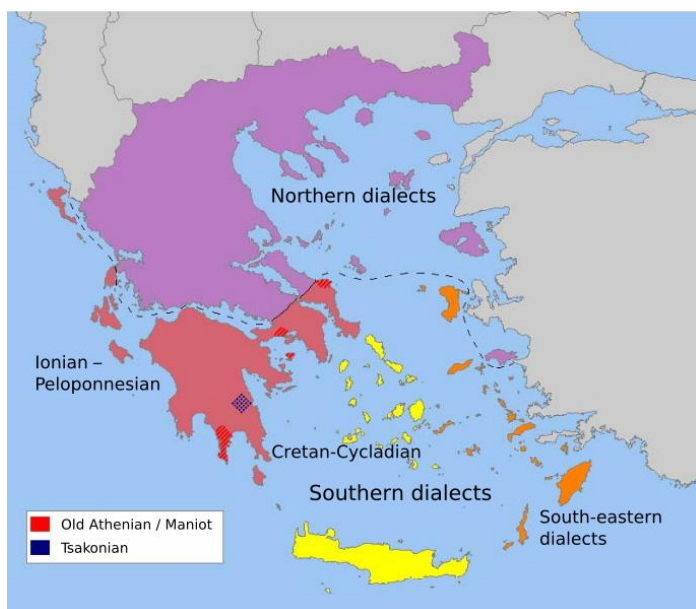
The above information is from: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_language



*This map of the top 50 countries with the largest Greek communities is from:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:50_largest_Greek_diaspora.png*

Linguistic Community

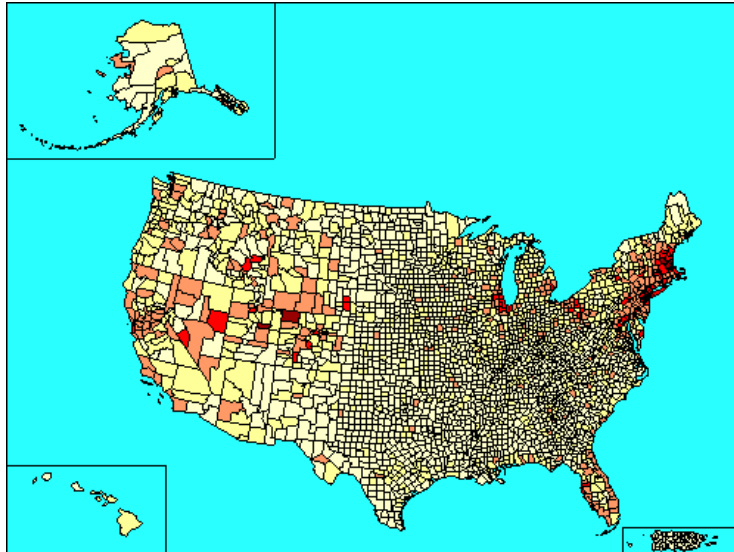
Like many other languages, Greek is divided into a number of dialects. The main modern dialects are: Peloponnesian-Ionian, Northern, Cretan, Old Athenian, and Southeastern (including the islands of Dodecanese and Cypriot Greek). The major features distinguishing these dialects include deletion of original high vowels and raising of the original mid-vowels when unstressed in the Northern varieties, loss of final –n in all but the Southern varieties, palatalization of velars in all but the Peloponnesian-Ionian, use of accusative for indirect objects in the Northern dialects instead of the genitive, among others. Peloponnesian-Ionian forms of the historical basis for what has emerged in the 20th century as Standard Modern Greek, and is thus the basis for the modern Athens, now the main center of population.



*The above information is from: (Joseph, 2001). The map of the dialects is from:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Varieties_of_Modern_Greek*

Greek Population in America

The United States is home to the largest overseas Greek community, ahead of Cyprus and the United Kingdom. There are a total of approximately 1,350,600-3,000,000 people of Greek ancestry living in the United States, which is 0.4%-1% of the total U.S. population. Regions with significant populations are New York City, Chicago, Detroit, Boston, Baltimore, and Cleveland. Tarpon Springs, Florida is also home to a large Greek American community and the highest concentration of Greek-Americans in the country (11%). The 2000 census revealed that Greek was spoken at home by 365,436 people older than five.



The above information & map of the distribution of Greek Americans is from:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_American

Demographic Information of Greece

- Population: 10,760,136
- Median age: 42.5 years
- Population growth rate: 0.083%
- Birth rate: 9.21 births/1,000 population
- Death rate: 10.7 deaths/1,000 population
- Sex ratio: 0.96 male(s)/female
- Life expectancy at birth: 79.92 years
- Nationality: Greek
- Ethnic groups: Greek 93%, other (foreign citizens) 7%
- Religions: Greek Orthodox (official) 98%, Muslim 1.3%, other 0.7%
- Languages: Greek (official) 99%
- Literacy (definition: age 15 and over can read and write): total population: 96%



The above information and map of Greece is from:

http://www.indexmundi.com/greece/demographics_profile.html &

<http://www.greekshares.com/dimographics.php>, respectively



Map of Greece is from: <http://www.lonelyplanet.com/maps/europe/greece/>

Geography of Greece

Greece consists of a mountainous, peninsular mainland jutting out into the sea at the southern end of the Balkans, ending at the Peloponnese peninsula (separated from the mainland by the canal of the Isthmus of Corinth). Due to its highly indented coastline and numerous islands, Greece has the twelfth longest coastline in the world with 8,498 mi.

Greece features a vast number of islands, between 1200 and 6000, depending on the definition, 227 of which are inhabited. Crete is the largest and most populous island. Eighty percent of Greece consists of mountains or hills, making the country one of the most mountainous in Europe. Mount Olympus, the mythical abode of the Greek Gods, culminates at Mytikas peak 2,917 m (9,570 ft), the highest in the country. Western Greece contains a number of lakes and wetlands and is dominated by the Pindus mountain range.

Greece primarily has a Mediterranean climate, featuring mild, wet winters and hot, dry summers. The mountainous areas of Northwestern Greece feature an Alpine climate with heavy snowfalls. The inland parts of northern Greece feature a temperate climate with cold, damp winters and hot, dry summers with frequent thunderstorms. Snowfalls occur every year in the mountains and northern areas, and brief snowfalls are not unknown even in low-lying southern areas, such as Athens.

The above information is from: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greece>

Religion in Greece

According to the Greek constitution, Eastern Orthodox Christianity is recognized as the “prevailing religion” in Greece. The Church is often credited with the preservation of the Greek language, values, and national identity during Ottoman times. The Church was also an important rallying point in the war for independence. The Church of Greece was established

shortly after the formation of a Greek national state. There is a Muslim minority concentrated in Thrace and officially protected by the Treaty of Lausanne. There are also a number of Jews in Greece, most of who live in Thessaloniki. There are also some Greeks who adhere to a reconstruction of the ancient Greek religion.

The above information is from: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greece>

Education in Greece

Greek education is free and compulsory for children between the ages of 5 and 15. English study is compulsory from third grade through high school. University education, including books, is also free, contingent upon the student's ability to meet stiff entrance requirements. A high percentage of the student population seeks higher education. More than 100,000 students are registered at Greek universities, and 15% of the population currently holds a university degree. Admission in a university is determined by state-administered exams, the candidate's grade-point average from high school, and his/her priority choices of major. About one in four candidates gains admission to Greek universities.

The above information is from: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greece>

Languages Spoken in Greece

98% of the 10.6m population of Greece speaks Greek, which, as mentioned above, is the country's official language. The largest minority language is Macedonian, spoken by 1.8% of the population. Others include Albanian, spoken in the centre and the south, Turkish, spoken by Muslim communities around the Aegean, and Arumanian and Bulgarian. None of these minority languages has official status.

The above information is from: <http://www.kwintessential.co.uk/resources/global-etiquette/greece-country-profile.html>

Linguistic Features

Consonants

Greek has 31 consonants including allophones and affricates and is most closely related to Ancient Greek. The voiceless plosives /p, t, k/ are unaspirated, the voiced plosives [b, d, g] are fully prevoiced and sometimes prenasalized in formal speech depending on personal speaking style and dialect. The use of prenasalization appears to be in decline; however, as it was found that younger Athenian speakers produce them only rarely.

Table: Consonants produced in Greek

	Bilabial	Labio-dental	Dental	Alve-olar	Post alv	Retro-flex	Palatal	Velar	Uvu-lar	Phar	Glottal
Plosive	p b (^m p) (^m b)		t d				(ç) (j)	k g (^ŋ g)			
Nasal	m	(ɱ)	n				(ɲ)	(ŋ)			
Trill											
Tap or flap				r							
Fricative		f v	θ ð	s z			(ç) (j)	x ɣ			
Lateral fricative											
Affric				ts dz							
Approx											
Lateral approx				l			(ʎ)				

Black = articulations judged impossible

Based on the International Phonetic Alphabet.

Vowels

Greek has five vowels /i, ε, ɔ, o, u/. Unstressed /i/ and /u/ may be devoiced or elided in casual speech. Furthermore, vowel sequences can sometimes be pronounced as a short diphthong.

Table: Vowels produced in Greek

	Front	Central	Back
Close	i		u
Close-mid			ɔ
Open-mid	ε		
Open		ɐ	

Syllables

The syllable structure of Greek can be described in the formula C(0-3)VC(0-1). Greek, however, has a tendency to have open syllables, and most words tend to be bi-syllabic or multi-syllabic.

The information on this page is from: (Mennen, & Okalidou, 2006)

Consonants & Consonant Clusters

Any consonant can occur in syllable-initial position. Consonants in syllable-final word-final position are restricted to /s/ and /n/, except in loan-words and remnant words from Katharevousa where other final consonants (or clusters) can occur. As a result, many Greek words end in a vowel.

It is recognized as many as 65 clusters in syllable-initial and word-initial position. Clusters can appear in word-initial and word-medial position, but are not allowed in word-final position (except in borrowings from Katharevousa and some loanwords). Homorganic sequences are not permissible in Greek, and there is a tendency to convert a sequence of two voiceless fricatives or stops into a fricative plus stop sequence. In /s/-clusters, the /s/ assimilates to the following consonant and becomes voiced before a voiced consonant. There are also many hetero-syllabic clusters in Greek which can consist of up to four consonant phonemes.

Tones

Greek does not use tones to differentiate meaning.

Stress & Intonation

Greek is a syllable-timed language and its rhythmic characteristics are very similar to those reported for Italian. Main stress falls on one of the last three syllables of a word, and stress placement is mostly determined by morphology. Secondary stress only occurs when words with stress on the antepenult (or penult) are followed by one (or two) enclitic(s) and the additional stress is placed on the penultimate syllable of the word+enclitic group. An enclitic is an unstressed word that is incapable of standing on its own and is phonologically joined at the end of a preceding word to form a single unit. There are several minimal pairs where stress is the only difference between words.

Greek has 5 pitch accents:

- L*+H: Rise from low from the accented syllable to high after the accented syllable; frequently used in nuclear position in calls, imperatives, negative declaratives and wh-questions
- L+H*: Rise from low to the accented syllable, which is high; often used to signal narrow focus
- H*: High level from the accented syllable; often used as the nucleus in broad focus declaratives
- H*+L: A fall from high pitch in the accented syllable, indicating a more nonchalant attitude on the part of the speaker than H*
- L*: Low level from the accented syllable; it appears as the nuclear accent before a continuation rise, in yes-no questions, and in suspicious calls

The most common of these is the L*+H pitch accent. The pitch accents can be combined with three types of phrase accents and three types of boundary tones to form intonation contours.

The information on this page is from: (Mennen, & Okalidou, 2006)

Phonology

Modern Greek has five distinct vowel sounds (/i/, /e/, /a/, /o/, /u/) and the glide /y/, most of which are indicated in Greek orthography in more than one way. The consonant sounds are:

Voicless stops	p	t		k
Voiced stops	b	d		g
Voicless fricatives	f	th	s	kh
Voiced fricatives	v	dh	z	gh
Nasals	m	n		
Liquids		l, r		

Historically, /f, th, kh/ derive from ancient aspirated consonants, and the voiced fricatives /v, dh, gh/ from voiced stops /b, d, g/. Modern /b, d, g/ usually result from the voicing of /p, t, k/ after nasals; thus Ancient Greek pente ‘five’ becomes pénde. They also occur at the beginning of words in place of ancient nasal + stop sequences (boró ‘I am able’ from emporó). Other important consonant cluster changes linking Ancient and Modern Greek include:

- Ancient clusters, whether of stops or of aspirates, become fricative + stop; for example, hepta ‘seven’ becomes eftá, (e)khtes ‘yesterday’ becomes (e)khtés
- Double consonants are simplified except in the southeast, thus thalassa ‘sea’ becomes thálasa
- Nasals assimilate to the following fricatives; thus nymphē ‘bride’ becomes níffi and then (except in the southeast dialects) nífi
- The liquid /l/ may be replaced with /r/ before consonants; for example, adelphos ‘brother’ becomes adherfós
- Before a vowel, /i/ and /e/ change to /y/; thus paidia ‘boys’ becomes pedhyá, mēlea ‘apple tree’ becomes milyá. Except for the simplification of double consonants, these historical changes do not hold for words of Katharevusa origin

With the changes produced in the vocalic system in Koine, the ancient pitch distinction was lost and stress became dynamic (as in English), its place being indicated orthographically by a uniform stress mark; but it remained confined to the three last syllables of a word (the trisyllabic, or window, constraint). Stress placement is largely predictable, depending for nominals on their declensional class marker (e.g., ánthropos ‘man’ versus polítis ‘citizen’ [-o versus -l class]), but for the verb on their tense (e.g., katháriz-a ‘I cleaned’ versus katharíz-o ‘I clean’ [past versus nonpast tense]).

Further stress shift may occur owing to the trisyllabic constraint, as in máthima gives mathímata ‘lesson’ (nominative singular or plural), or as a morphological relic of an earlier long ō-vowel in the genitive plural—e.g., mathímata becomes mathimáton ‘lesson’ (nominative or genitive plural). The addition of clitics (words that are treated in pronunciation as forming a part of a neighbouring word and that are often unaccented or contracted) may provoke further stressing in the host + clitic unit if the trisyllabic constraint is violated, as in máthima: but máthima-mu becomes máthimá mu ‘lesson’ becomes ‘my lesson.’ In some dialects, especially in the north, the tendency to a rhizotonic (stable) stressing extends to the verb, leading either to

violations of the trisyllabic constraint or to an additional stress (as in the case of clitics)—e.g., tarázumasti or tarázumásti ‘we are shaken’ (standard tarazómaste).

The phonology information is from:

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/244595/Greek-language>

Morphology & Syntax

Much of the inflectional apparatus of the ancient language is retained in Modern Greek. Nouns may be singular or plural—the dual is lost—and all dialects distinguish a nominative (subject) case and accusative (object) case. A noun modifying a second noun is expressed by the genitive case except in the north, where a prepositional phrase is usually preferred. The indirect object is also expressed by the genitive case (or by the preposition *se* ‘to,’ which governs the accusative, as do all prepositions). Thus:

<i>o yatroí</i>	<i>ípe tin istoría</i>	<i>s ton adherfó tiz dhaskálas</i>
‘The doctor	told the story	to the brother of the teacher’
(nominative)	(accusative)	(genitive)

The ancient categorization of nouns into masculine, feminine, and neuter survives intact, and adjectives agree in gender, number, and case with their nouns, as do the articles (*o* ‘the,’ *enas* ‘a’). In general, pronouns exhibit the same categories as nouns, but the relative pronoun *pu* is invariant, its relation to its own clause being expressed when necessary by a personal pronoun in the appropriate case: *I yinéka pu tin ídhe to korítsi* ‘the woman *pu* her saw the girl’ (i.e., ‘the woman whom the girl saw’).

The verb is inflected for mood (indicative, subjunctive, imperative), aspect (perfective, imperfective), voice (active, passive), tense (present, past), and person (first, second, and third, singular and plural). The future is expressed by a particle *tha* (from earlier *thé[o] na* ‘[I] want to’) followed by a finite verb—e.g., *tha grápho* ‘I will write.’ Formally, the finite forms of the verb (those with personal endings) consist of a stem + (optionally) the perfective aspect marker (-s- in active, -th- in passive) + personal ending (indicating person, tense, mood, voice). Past forms are prefixed by *e-* (the “augment”), usually lost in mainland dialects when unstressed. There are also two nonfinite forms, an indeclinable present active participle in *-ondas* (*ghráfondas* ‘writing’), and a past passive one in *-ménos* (*kurazménos* ‘tired’).

Aspectual differences play a crucial role. Roughly, the perfective marker indicates completed, momentary action; its absence signifies an action viewed as incomplete, continuous, or repeated. Thus the imperfective imperative *ghráphe* might mean ‘start writing!’ or ‘write regularly!’ while *ghrápse* means rather ‘write down! (on a particular occasion).’ Compare also *tha grápho* ‘I’ll be writing’ but *tha grápsó* ‘I’ll write (once).’ The difference is sometimes represented lexically in English: *ákuye* ‘he listened’ and *ákuse* ‘he heard.’ The passive forms are largely confined to certain verbs active in meaning like *érkhome* ‘I come,’ *fováme* ‘I am afraid,’ and reciprocal usages (*filyóndusan* ‘they were kissing’).

The most common form of derivation is by suffixation; derivation by prefixation is limited mainly to verbs. Compound formation is rich. Three morphological types of compounds can be distinguished, as reflected also in their stressing—thus, stem + stem compounds—e.g., palyófilos ‘old friend’ (o is the compound vowel) or khortofághos ‘vegetarian’; stem + word compounds—e.g., palyofílos ‘lousy friend’ (compare filós ‘friend’); and the newly borrowed formation, word + word compounds—e.g., pedhí thávma as English ‘boy wonder.’ There is no infinitive; ancient constructions involving it are usually replaced by na (from ancient hína ‘so that’) + subjunctive. Thus thélo na ghrápso ‘I want to write,’ borí na ghrápsi ‘he can write.’ Subordinate statement is introduced by óti or pos (léi óti févghi ‘he says that he is leaving’). Unlike English, Greek (because of its inflectional system) shows flexible word order even in the simplest sentences. As in Italian, the subject of a sentence may be omitted.

The Morphology & Syntax information is from:

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/244595/Greek-language>

Vocabulary/Semantics

The vast majority of Demotic words are inherited from Ancient Greek, although quite often with changed meaning—e.g., filó ‘I kiss’ (originally ‘love’), trógho ‘I eat’ (from ‘nibble’), kóri ‘daughter’ (from ‘girl’). Many others represent unattested combinations of ancient roots and affixes; others enter Demotic via Katharevusa: musío ‘museum,’ stikhío ‘element’ (but inherited stikhyó ‘ghost’), ekteló ‘I execute.’ In addition, there are more than 2,000 words in common use drawn from Italian and Turkish (accounting for about a third each), and from Latin, French, and, increasingly, English. The Latin, Italian, and Turkish elements (mostly nouns) acquire Greek inflections (from Italian síghuros ‘sure,’ servitóros ‘servant,’ from Turkish zóri ‘force,’ khasápis ‘butcher’), while more recent loans from French and English remain unintegrated (spor ‘sport,’ bar ‘bar,’ asansér ‘elevator,’ futból ‘football,’ kompyúter ‘computer,’ ténis ‘tennis’).

The Vocabulary/Semantics information is from:

<http://www.britannica.com/Ebchecked/topic/244595/Greek-language>

Writing System

Greek is written in the Greek alphabet, which developed in classical times (ca. 9th century B.C.). The Greek alphabet has 24 letters as well as an accent mark to indicate stressed vowels in bi-syllabic or multi-syllabic words and to disambiguate meaning among homorganic monosyllabic words. Greek spelling is fairly transparent, as in Greek orthography most letters consistently represent the same sound. However, the same sound can be represented by different letters or pairs of letters. For example, there are 5 different spellings for the sound [i], 2 different spellings for the sound [o], and 2 different spellings for the sound [s]. This should make spelling more difficult than reading.

The Writing System information is from: (Mennen, & Okalidou, 2006)

The Greek Alphabet

A α	alpha	N ν	nu
B β	beta	Ξ ξ	ksi
Γ γ	gamma	Ο ο	omicron
Δ δ	delta	Π π	pi
E ε	epsilon	Ρ ρ	rho
Z ζ	zeta	Σ σς	sigma
H η	eta	Τ τ	tau
Θ θ	theta	Υ υ	upsilon
I ι	iota	Φ φ	phi
K κ	kappa	Χ χ	chi
Λ λ	lambda	Ψ ψ	psi
M μ	mu	Ω ω	omega

*This table of the Greek alphabet is from:
<http://www.vtbeta.org/?page=greekterms>*

Greek Language Acquisition

The following table demonstrates the age of acquisition for Greek consonants:

Criterion	75% criterion	75% criterion	75% criterion	75% criterion	90% criterion
p	1;9-2;2	-	2;6-3;0	3;7-4;0	3;7-4;0
b	2;1-2;2	-	2;6-3;0	3;7-4;0	3;7-4;0
m	1;6-1;8	-	2;6-3;0	3;7-4;0	3;7-4;0
n	1;6-1;8	-	3;0-3;6	3;7-4;0	3;7-4;0
^h g	-	-	-	* (4;6)	* (4;6)
j	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
t	1;5-2;0	-	2;6-3;0	3;7-4;0	3;7-4;0
d	1;6-2;2	-	3;0-3;6	3;7-4;0	3;7-4;0
k	-	-	2;6-3;0	3;7-4;0	3;7-4;0
g	-	-	2;6-3;0	3;7-4;0	3;7-4;0
x	-	-	3;0-3;6	3;7-4;0	3;7-4;0
f	-	-	3;6-4;0	3;7-4;0	3;7-4;0
l	1;6-1;11	-	3;6-4;0	3;7-4;0	3;7-4;0
ɜ	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
ʃ	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
ts	-	-	4;6-5;0	3;7-4;0	4;1-4;6
dz	-	-	4;6-5;0	4;1-4;6	* (4;6)
s	-	-	3;6-4;0	3;7-4;0	* (4;6)
z	-	-	3;6-4;0	3;7-4;0	* (4;6)
r	-	-	5;6-6;0	* (4;6)	* (4;6)
v	2;1-2;6	-	3;0-3;6	3;7-4;0	3;7-4;0
ð	-	-	4;0-4;6	3;7-4;0	4;1-4;6
θ	-	-	4;0-4;6	3;7-4;0	* (4;6)
c	-	-	2;6-3;0	3;7-4;0	* (4;6)
tʃ	-	-	2;6-3;0	4;1-4;6	* (4;6)
ç	-	-	3;0-3;6	4;1-4;6	4;1-4;6
ʝ	-	-	3;0-3;6	3;7-4;0	3;7-4;0
ʎ	-	2;6	4;0-4;6	4;1-4;6	4;1-4;6
ɲ	-	2;6	2;6-3;0	3;7-4;0	3;7-4;0

* = Sound was not acquired at age in brackets

- = Sound was not tested

NA = Not applicable, i.e. sound does not occur in Greek

The table is from: (Mennen, & Okalidou, 2006)

Greek/English Bilinguals

Common Errors

One of the most obvious problems native Greek speakers face when trying to speak English is pronunciation. The Greek language contains a few sounds that English doesn't possess, and vice versa. Greek speakers have trouble with the "ch" and "djuh" sounds, and, especially, with the short 'i' (as in 'thin'). This is because their language is lacking in these sounds, and so it is very hard for Greeks to say them correctly. Furthermore, English voiceless stops (p, t, k) are often unaspirated in Greek and vowels and diphthongs are often simplified, or shortened.

Another common area for errors in speaking English is the use of articles. In Greek, a direct article usually goes with the noun, but indirect articles are often skipped. Thus, getting a Greek speaker to understand the precise usage of articles in English can be difficult. A typical mistake of the Greek speaker might be, "I live in the Greece." Articular modification of proper nouns is not used in English, but is in Greek. The lack of an indirect article in Greek comes up occasionally in situations where the Greek speaker means to say 'a' but instead says 'one', or omits the article entirely. For example, "I have computer at home." Another error that may be present is in the use of the continuous tense (i.e. progressive -ing). In Greek, the continuous is an entire conjugation of its own, and has distinct forms in the past, present and future. It is used to indicate something you are doing continuously, that is, on an every-day basis, or repeatedly for a certain time. In an attempt to carry this over into English, the Greek speaker may say, "every Tuesday I am going for swimming." Conversely, the speaker may use the simple tense when he/she means to use the progressive -ing. For example, "I go to the store" (instead of "I am going to the store"). Furthermore, Greeks often say 'of' when they mean to say 'from.' This is because both words are covered by the genitive case in Greek and the single preposition apo.

In Greek writing, the placement of commas often differs from in English. Greek language users may transpose their own phrasings to English. This most commonly occurs when a Greek writer places a comma immediately after the subject. For example, "the cat, likes to drink milk." This is most often caused by the individual's desire to highlight the subject of the sentence, as a comma in Greek writing would do. This tendency can cause problems in the world of defining and non-defining relative clauses, where so much depends on the correct usage of the comma.

Other errors that have been noted in Greeks speaking English include: final obstruent devoicing, r to trill, vowel raising, interdental fricative to stop, and vowel fronting.

The above information is from: <http://www.overseasdigest.com/odsamples/tchgreek.html> & http://accent.gmu.edu/browse_language.php?function=find&language=greek

Pronunciation Differences

The following table provides examples of how Greek speakers may say English words:

Pronunciation Error	Example
p → b	“bit” instead of “pit”
ae → ar	“cart” instead of “cat”
ar → a	“pot” instead of “part”
a → o	“not” instead of “note”
ir → er	“bear” instead of “beer”
ɪ → i	“seat” instead of “sit”
t → d	“die” instead of “tie”
“djuh” → z	“bays” instead of “beige”
“ch” → ts	“wits” instead of “which”

The above information is from: <http://www.btinternet.com/~ted.power/l1greek.html>

Speech Language Pathology & The Greek Language

Assessments

To date the only available test for speech assessment is the Assessment of Phonetic and Phonological Development, which is an adaptation of Grunwell's Phonological Assessment of Child Speech (PACS). However, SLTs in Greece also use informal/homemade single word tests and conversational speech sampling during assessment. No studies have so far documented professional practices on speech assessment. Also, there are no additional speech sampling tools that have been developed for use with Greek children. However, some standardized tests contain sections for speech. Moreover, development of a computerized speech therapy tool, Optical-Logo-Therapy, is in progress by the Institute of Language and Speech Processing (ILSP).

The above information is from: (Mennen, & Okalidou, 2006)

Intervention

No studies have so far investigated the speech intervention practices in Greece. However, some commonly used intervention approaches are:

- Traditional articulation therapy (Van Riper & Erickson, 1996)
- Minimal pair therapy (Weiner, 1981)
- Core vocabulary (Bradford & Dodd, 1997)

The above information is from: (Mennen, & Okalidou, 2006)

SLPs With a Greek Background

Nikoletta Mappouridou, B.A. Speech Therapy

- Nikoletta is a Speech Pathologist from Cyprus. She graduated from University of Greece, which specializes in speech disorders. She was successfully running her own speech therapy centre in Cyprus, prior to relocating to Singapore.
- Nikoletta is a member of the Speech and Hearing Association of Singapore (SHAS) and Autism Society of America.
- She has a proven track record working with hundreds of children with autism, weak phonological awareness, poor oral-motor development, articulation difficulties, dyslexia and Down syndrome. Nikoletta is committed to the improvement of the children under her care and believes in family-centric therapy.
- Nikoletta can provide therapy both in English and in Greek.

The above information is from: <http://www.dynamics.com.sg/speech-therapists.html>

Catherine Zoumboulakis

- Catherine is a Greek-Canadian speech-language pathologist (S-LP) working for the English Montreal School Board (EMSB).
- At 28, she has managed to remain true to her Greek heritage while establishing a successful professional career.

- She learned to speak, read and write Greek by attending after-school Greek classes and Saturday school during primary and secondary, respectively.
- In 2007, she acquired her Master's of Arts, major in Speech-Language Pathology and is now licensed in the Canadian Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists, Ordre des orthophonistes et audiologistes du Québec, American Speech and Hearing Association and New York Speech-Language-Hearing Association. She returned to Montreal after graduating in hopes that being an S-LP of Greek origin would increase her chances of building a loyal Greek-based clientele.

The above information is from:

http://www.saecanadayouth.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=84%3Anewsletter-1&catid=40%3Anewsletter&lang=en

Other SLPs found on the ASHA website, <http://www.asha.org/proserv/>, include:

- Olympia Barmakelli, MSc., CCC- SLP in Athens, Greece
- Dean Loumbas BS, MS- SLP in California
- Cornelia Koniditsiotis M.A., Ph.D – SLP in Louisiana
- Konstantina Konstantinidis; Jim Tsiamtsiouris; & Hetty Kintiroglou, BS, MS- SLPs in New Jersey
- Anna Weber; Vickie Bageorgos; Dionysia Alexandropoulou, M.S.; Konstantina Konstantinidis; Chrisafo Madimenos, M. S.; Catherine Papoutsakis, Ed.D.; AnnMarie Karoutsos, M.S.; Vasilikie Paris, M.A.; Vasiliki Markou; Nicoletta Stagias-Coulianidis, M.A.; Helen Papapostolou, M.A.; Theodora Anagnostakos, M.A.; Laura Primis; Nadezda Markovic, M.A.; Anastasia Glikakis; Ekaterini Melitsopoulou; John Amato, M.S., Ed.D; Robert Marinello; Peter Rahanis, M.S.; Vicky Sorros-Verivakis, M.A.; Irene Christoforou-Gioules, PhD- SLPs in New York

Social Aspects of Greece

Culture & Society

Greece is the most homogeneous country in Europe and one of the most homogeneous countries in the world, with a majority of citizens sharing the same national identity, religion (Greek Orthodox Christians), language and race. As a result, there are few major social and political disturbances. Greek society is very coherent and the Greek family, which is a basic social institution, appears strong enough to support its members even at the most difficult times. As a result, the high rate of unemployment does not spawn problems like homelessness or a high criminality rate. Greeks are proud of their cultural heritage and their contribution to world civilization. In fact, a recent study found that Greeks' pride in being Greek surpassed the ethnic satisfaction of every other European nation.

The above information is from: <http://jurist.law.pitt.edu/world/greececor3.htm> & <http://www.kwintessential.co.uk/resources/global-etiquette/greece-country-profile.html>

Family

The family is the basis of the social structure in Greece. Family members, even extended family, offer both financial and emotional support to each other. Family members are expected to help relatives in times of need, even to the point of assisting them to find employment. Thus, nepotism is accepted in Greece. Nepotism is favouritism shown to relatives or close friends by those with power or influence. It usually takes the form of employing relatives or appointing them to high office (definition from <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/nepotism>). Furthermore, in Greece, the wrongdoing of one family member brings dishonor to the entire family.

The above information is from: <http://www.kwintessential.co.uk/resources/global-etiquette/greece-country-profile.html>

Traditions & Customs

- **Name Day Celebration**- This is often more important than birthdays. People who have names of religious saints have designated days to celebrate their name. Here, family and friends visit the person to offer wishes and presents.
- **Marriage**- In some parts of Greece, the bride has a dowry made by her mother, grandmothers and aunts, consisting of sheets, towels and hand made embroideries. The father of the bride offers a furnished home to his daughter and son-in-law as a wedding gift. However, today, in Athens and other big cities, the bride doesn't have a dowry anymore.
- **Baptism**- One of the most important days for the Greek orthodox religion. Sacrament of Baptism usually occurs the first year after the baby is born.
- **Carnival**- Called "Apokries." Here, Greeks feast for 2 weeks. It begins on Sunday of Meat Fare and ends at the start of Lent (which is called Clean Monday, or Kathari Deutera).

- Easter- Easter is the more important celebration for the Greeks, even more than Christmas.
- Greek Independence Day- Is celebrated on March 25th. On 3/25/1821 Greece was liberated from Ottoman domination.
- Greetings- If you are meeting someone for the first time, it is customary to shake hands, smile, and give direct eye contact. For those who know each other, it is common to embrace and kiss on the cheek. Male friends slap each other's arm at the shoulder when greeting.
- Giving Gifts- Gifts need not be expensive. Since gifts are generally reciprocated, giving something of great value could put a burden on the recipient since they would feel obligated to give you something of equivalent value.
- Dining
 - If invited to another home, arriving 30 minutes late is considered punctual. Dressing well shows respect to host. It is polite to remain standing until invited to sit down. The oldest person is usually served first. Meals are used as a time for socializing. It is common for people to share food off each others' plates. It is seen as respectful to finish everything on the plate. Evening meals often don't begin until 9pm.
 - If a single person is sitting at a taverna, he/she may wait quite a long time for the waiter to show up. In Greece it's very unlikely that anybody eats alone. It is often assumed that he/she must be waiting for someone. For the waiter it will be very impolite and bumptious, to ask for the order before all the guests have arrived. This has changed in the major tourist places, and especially for tourists, but this phenomenon is still seen in villages of Crete and Greece.
- Relationships & Communication- Relationships are the key player of business dealings since Greeks prefer to do business with those they know and trust. They often have a web of friends and family to call upon for assistance. Greeks prefer face to face meetings (vs phone or writing). It is customary that under no circumstances should someone publicly question another person's statements. Greeks do not like people who are pretentious or standoffish. If a Greek business colleague becomes quiet and withdrawn, something may have been said or done to upset them. Lastly, forming personal relationships is important to Greeks.
- Meetings- Appointments are necessary and should be made 1 to 2 weeks in advance, although it is often possible to schedule them on short notice. It is important to confirm meetings one day in advance by telephone. Many businesspeople eat lunch between 1 and 3 p.m., so this is not the optimal time for a meeting. Quite often it is not until the third meeting that business is actually conducted. During the first meeting Greek business colleagues will want to get to know something about the person they are meeting with. The second meeting is used to develop trust and mutual respect. By the third meeting, business may begin. Several people may speak at the same time during meetings. Greeks will deviate from agendas. They view agendas as starting points for discussions and will then follow the discussion to the next logical place

- Sense of Time- Greeks have a different attitude than Americans when it comes to time. Greeks live by the Greek Maybe Time, or GMT. This means that they do not live by the clock. The Greeks also have a different opinion about when it's morning, afternoon and evening. Greeks say Good Morning until 12. If two people have agreed to meet in the 'afternoon', the earliest meant by this will be 6.00 p.m. Also, no one will think anything of it if someone calls at 10.00 p.m. in the evening.
- Siesta- The Greeks do partake in a siesta time, which is from 2-5 p.m., but it especially important after 3 p.m. There is a law against making noise during this time. However, sometimes construction workers are allowed to make noise during siesta if that is the only time they can get the work done that is needed to get done. The law against making noise is rarely enforced in Athens, Greece.
- Plate Smashing- There are several beliefs about how this tradition came about. One belief is that this practice started when a rich family invited a much poorer family to dinner and to make them feel better invited them to break the plates. They were proving that friendship is everything. Another belief is that there was an ancient custom of ritually "killing" the ceramic vessels used for feasts commemorating the dead, which was to help in dealing with the deaths of their loved ones. Also, back in the '30s Greeks used to throw knives, a sign of respect and manhood, at dancers' feet. Due to countless injuries, that tradition gradually changed to plate-throwing. Now, Greeks smash glasses and dishes when beautiful girls dance the zeibekiko or the hasapiko on the dance floor.

*The above information is from: <http://www.greeka.com/greece-traditions.htm>,
<http://www.kwintessential.co.uk/resources/global-etiquette/greece-country-profile.html>,
<http://www.explorecrete.com/mycrete/customs/greek-customs.html>,
<http://www.greeceathensaegeaninfo.com/traditions-lifestyle-siesta.htm>,
<http://www.athensinfoguide.com/gengreeklife.htm>,
<http://gogreece.about.com/cs/folkloreevents/a/smashingplates.htm>, &
<http://www.zorbasdancerestaurant.co.uk/plate.smashing/>*

Superstitions

- Bread- Is seen as a gift from God. Bread should be blessed before it is sliced.
- The Evil Eye- It is believed that you can catch the evil eye (matiasma) from another person's jealous compliment. To avoid this, you wear a charm of a blue marble glass that has an eye painted on it or you can wear a blue bracelet. You can also avoid it with garlic.
- Knives- It is believed to be bad to hand knives to people. Instead, you are to set it down on a table and then let the person who needs take it. Otherwise, it is believed that the two people will have a fight with one another.
- Spitting- Some people believe that this chases the devil and any misfortune away.
- Tuesday the 13th- like our Friday the 13th just on Tuesday.
- The expression "Piase kokkino" (touch red) - You are supposed to say this when you and another person say the same thing at the same time. Then both people have to touch something red. The Greeks believe that saying the same thing along with someone else

is an omen that those two people will have a fight with one another, unless they touch something red.

The above information is from: <http://www.greeka.com/greece-traditions.htm>

Food

- Olive oil- The most characteristic and ancient element of Greek culture, made from olive trees in Greece.
- Vegetables- Tomato, eggplant, zucchini, okra, green beans
- Olives, nuts, honey- The best place to buy olives is in the Athens central market in the shops that specialize in them, where you can taste them all before you buy.
- Filo/phyllo bread- Thin pastry bread that is often used.
- Pita bread- Is usually served with appetizers.
- Greek coffee- Is made by boiling finely ground coffee beans, and is served thick and strong, and often sweetened. It is always unfiltered, with the coffee sediment at the bottom of the cup. *(see picture below)*



- Terrain and climate tends to the breeding of goats and sheep.
- The busiest shop in any Greek village is the local bakery. Bread was at one time the staple food of Greece and is still eaten at every meal, large hunks dipped in remaining sauce and olive oil, or coated with tsaatziki (garlic-cucumber-yogurt dip), tarama salata (fish roe salad) or melitzana salata (eggplant salad).
- Some popular Greek foods include:
 - Ouzo- flower-flavored wine. Usually take it “neat” (straight) or mixed with carbonated water. Thought to stimulate appetite before a meal.
 - Moussaka- eggplant casserole *(see picture below)*



- Souvlakis- “Gyros.” The hamburgers of Greece. It is usually meat: beef, lamb, pork or 'unknown combination' that is on a giant vertical rotisserie. Put it on a round pita bread with lettuce, tomato, onions, cucumber-yogurt-garlic sauce. *(see picture below)*



- Tzatziki- cucumber yogurt dip
- Kourabiethes- sugared cookies with almonds & cinnamon *(see picture below)*



The above information is from: <http://www.greecetravel.com/greek-food.htm> & http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Greek_cuisine

- Local Restaurants include:
 - Cedars Restaurant:
 - <http://www.cedarssanmarcos.com/>
 - El Greco:
 - <http://www.elgrecoaustin.com/>
 - Flyin’ Falafel & Po’ Boys:
 - http://www.yelp.com/biz/flying-falafel-and-po-boys-austin#hrid:x5Kj6kOe_8PFzblsaBq61w
 - Tom’s Tabooley
 - <http://www.yelp.com/biz/toms-tabooley-austin#hrid:YawYzmoyfyuDUKDT2wcZGw>

Music

Greek music and dance are an expression of the national character and are appreciated by people of all ethnic backgrounds. As Marilyn Rouvelas stated in *A Guide to Greek Traditions and Customs in America* "[...] For the Greeks, the sounds and rhythms express their very essence:

their dreams, sorrows and joys. Add dancing and nothing more need be said." There are many different types of music styles in Greece. To name a few, there is Dimotiko Tragoudi, Cantadha, Nisiotika, Rebetiko, and Late 20th Century music. One style of dance that is very popular in Greece, and is danced almost everywhere in Greece, is known as Greek tsifteteli. This got established as the most popular and most common Greek dance together with Zeimbekia, which is a Greek solo improvised dance. The Greek tsifteteli is a Greek belly dance and is meant to be a social dance. It is danced mostly in pairs.

- An example of this dance can be seen here: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RVi-Brs2A6I&feature=player_embedded
 - In the above video, you will see a well known Greek belly dancer, Chryssanthi. She is dancing the traditional Greek tsifteteli to a song called "Tha spaso kouples", which is sung by a popular artist in Greece named Eleftheria Arvanitaki.
 - For more videos of Chryssanthi, go here: <http://www.chryssanthi.com/en/videos/index.html>

The above information is from: <http://www.greeka.com/greece-music.htm> & <http://www.chryssanthi.com/en/01ba16959003ef101/index.html>

To listen to Greek music, go here: <http://www.greeksongs-greekmusic.com/c/greek-music/>

There are several popular festivals held in various parts of Greece each year.

- The Sani Festival
 - An international festival in Greece
 - Held since 1993
 - Local and foreign artists- to celebrate the arts around the world
 - Regular events: Jazz on the Hill, Sounds of the World, concerts of Greek music, Sani Classic, dance performances and visual arts event.
 - Greek Concerts include:
 - Stavros Ksarhacos, Eleni Karaindrou, Giorgos Dalaras, Alkistis Protopsalti, Haroula Alexiou, Loukianos Kilaidonis, Dimitra Galani, Dionisis Savopoulos are just some of the most eminent personalities of the Greek music spectrum
 - One of Greece's most eminent singers, Manolis Mitsias played a leading role in new musical developments in the 60's and 70's.
 - Eleftheria Arvanitaki
 - <http://www.arvanitaki.gr/index.cfm?ln=en>
 - For more information on this festival, go here: <http://www.sanifestival.gr//En/sani-festival>
- The Greek Festival
 - Athens and Epidaurus Festival
 - Festival for theatre, music, dance, etc
 - For more information on this festival, go here: http://www.visitgreece.gr/deployedFiles/StaticFiles/Programme_eng_greekfestival.pdf

- Music & Cultural Festival: Ancient Olympia 2011
 - 250 artists from 40 countries in this festival
 - Music range from ethnic to dnb, dubstep, trance, progressive, ambient, dub and reggae
 - For more information on this festival, go here:
<http://www.mcfav.com/index.php>

Resources

Web Resources

- Videos of the culture of Greece
 - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cHyMeU4DTFk>
 - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kb7dKas1shk>
 - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZTpAgAcbgSk>
- For Greek translations
 - <http://www.kwintessential.co.uk/translation/greek/translation-service.html>
- Linguistics researcher in Athens, Greece
 - <http://users.uoa.gr/~abotinis/botinis/index.htm>
- European Federation of speech therapists CPLOL
 - <http://www.cplol.eu/eng/index.htm>
- The main speech therapy professional association in Greece is PSL
 - <http://www.cplol.eu/eng/SLTinGreece.htm>
- Website for SLPs in Greece
 - <http://translate.google.com/translate?hl=en&sl=el&u=http://www.logopedists.gr/&ei=wYAsTpS1CdO4tgfUsaTXAg&sa=X&oi=translate&ct=result&resnum=6&ved=0CFQQ7gEwBQ&prev=/search%3Fq%3DPanhellenios%2BSyllogos%2BLogopedikon%2B%28PSL%29%26hl%3Den%26client%3Dfirefox-a%26hs%3D2F6%26rls%3Dorg.mozilla:en-US:official%26prmd%3Divns>
- This website has how many SLPs there are in Greece
 - <http://www.cplol.eu/eng/SLT.htm>
- The speech language organization in Cyprus
 - <http://www.speechtherapy.org.cy/>
- The international association of logopedics and phoniatrics
 - <http://www.ialp.info/>
- The association of scientists of speech pathology- speech therapy of Greece
 - <http://www.selle.gr/>
- A reference to find places in Greece for speech therapy
 - <http://dir.forthnet.gr/1344-0-en.html>
 - **Note- some of the websites provided here are in Greek, however you can type them into Google and get the web pages translated to English

Research Articles

- Very important article for SLPs about Greek Language!
 - <http://eresearch.qmu.ac.uk/153/1/wp-11.pdf>
- Article discussing SLI and acquired disorders, with specific emphasis on aphasia and dementia, in Greek language users
 - <http://web.ebscohost.com.libproxy.txstate.edu/ehost/pdfviewer/pdfviewer?sid=3fcf9471-84e3-457f-a691-18cbb380d93f%40sessionmgr15&vid=6&hid=12>
- Article discussing SLP services in Greece

- <http://ajslp.asha.org/cgi/content/abstract/4/1/5>
- Journal specific to Greek Linguistics
 - <http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/brill/jgl>
- Article on SLPs and Greece
 - <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20590509>
- Article on the acquisition of Greek
 - <http://eresearch.qmu.ac.uk/153/1/wp-11.pdf>
- Compilation of articles
 - http://users.uoa.gr/~abotinis/botinis/Publications%202007/ExLing%202010%20proceedings_final.pdf
 - Article “Perceptual cues for sentence intonation in Greek”
 - pg. 31-34
 - Article “Text punctuation and prosody in Greek”
 - pg. 35-38
 - Article “Evaluating languages functions in a trilingual setting”
 - L1 Albanian, L2 Greek, L3 English
 - Pg. 63-66
 - Article “Production of inflectional morphology in a child with moderate hearing impairment”
 - Study conducted on a Greek speaking child with hearing impairment; compares findings to other similar studies conducted on English speaking children
 - Pg. 67-70
 - Article “Boundary-related durations in Modern Greek”
 - Pg. 79-82
 - Article “Action and object naming in mono- and bilingual children with language impairment”
 - Cypriot Greek-speaking children
 - Pg. 83-86
 - Article “The effect of cochlear implants on phonological acquisition”
 - Two 12 year old Greek children with profound hearing loss
 - Pg. 99-102
 - Article “Metalanguage or bidialectism? Acquisition of clitic placement by Hellenic Greeks, Greek Cypriots and binationals in the diglossic context of Cyprus”
 - Pg. 107-110
 - Article “Phonetic factors influencing /l/-rhoticisation in Greek”
 - Pg. 127-130
 - Article “Perception of “tonal focus” in Greek”
 - Pg. 131-134
 - Article “Acoustic structure of fricative consonants in Greek”
 - Pg. 135-138

- Article “Narratives in Cypriot Greek mono- and bilingual children with SLI”
 - Pg. 195-198
- http://www.phil.uoa.gr/~abotinis/Workshop_2006.pdf
 - Article “On the properties of VSO and VOS orders in Greek and Italian: a study on the syntax information structure interface”
 - Pg. 10-17
 - Article “Production and perception of Greek vowels in normal and cerebral palsy speech”
 - Pg. 98-101
 - Article “The influence of second language learning on speech production by Greek/English bilinguals”
 - Pg. 134-137
 - Article “Towards empirical dimensions for the classification of aphasic performance”
 - Greek speaking men with aphasia
 - Pg. 214-217

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