

So You Want To Learn Ancient Greek Or Latin?

Post by "Don" of December 26, 2024 at 10:50 PM

I have found there's no better way to get to know the alphabet - speaking as middle schooler me - than to try and write English in Greek letters. I literally took notes in junior high in Greek letters.. and that's what eventually put me on the path to try and learn Greek ("Well, if I'm writing in these letters, I should really know some of the language.") It's slow going at first. Write your name, write family members names, write pet names, write short sentences. Try to get "fluent" enough to write your shopping list in Greek letters. Write notes to yourself. Do you "to do" list. The next time you go to the grocery store, try something like:

- μιλκ
- εγγς
- βανανας
- βρεακφαστ σερεαλ
- στραυβερρι πρεσερυες
- κλενεξ

See if you can "decipher" those. 😊

You need to be a little creative. Ancient Greek didn't have c, f (use φ), h, j, q, v, or w, and we don't typically use ps, kh, and other such letters, unless you want to try a sentence like "έρ λιψ υερε κρακκεδ φρομ θε κολδ." Try deciphering that, too.

It becomes a kind of code for awhile, fun to play around with.

If you try this, the letters will become second nature, THEN you can start transliterating actual Greek words much easier... and then on to translation!

NOTE: The video uses "Erasmian" pronunciation. I would recommend looking at Luke Ranieri's stuff on Polymathy, etc. including <https://lukeranieri.com/wp-content/upl...-2021-11-21.pdf>