

Transliteration of Greek into English

NB.

A α	→	A a
B β	→	B b
Γ γ	→	G g
Δ δ	→	D d
E ε	→	E e
Z ζ	→	Z z
H η	→	Ē ē
Θ θ	→	Th th
I ι	→	I i
K κ	→	K k
Λ λ	→	L l
M μ	→	M m
N ν	→	N n
Ξ ξ	→	X x
O ο	→	O o
Π π	→	P p
Ρ ρ	→	R r
Σ σ, ς	→	S s
Τ τ	→	T t
Υ υ	→	Y y or U u
Φ φ	→	Ph ph
Χ χ	→	Ch ch
Ψ ψ	→	Ps ps
Ω ω	→	Ō ō

1. Greek has two 'e's, a long and a short.
The long is transliterated with a macron ('-'):

E ε → E e
H η → Ē ē

2. Greek has two 'o's, just as two 'e's:

O ο → O o
Ω ω → Ō ō

3. Greek has two small 's's, depending on the position within the word.

σ occurs within the word or at the beginning.
ς occurs at the end of the word.

e.g. σολ = soi
ἀστρα = astra
but ἀγρός = agros

4. All Greek words that begin with a vowel have a breathing mark, rough or smooth. Rough breathings are transliterated as 'h'

c rough e.g. ὑδωρ → hudōr or hydōr

' smooth ολιγός → oligos

(smooth breathings are not transliterated)

5. When a 'γ' is followed by κ, χ, μ, or another γ, the (first) γ is transliterated as an 'n'

e.g. γκ → nk

γχ → nch

γμ → nm

γγ → ng

so, ἄγγελος → angelos

6. Greek has pronunciation accents (/ \ ~). You need not transliterate these.

2. THE GREEK ALPHABET

LETTER	NAME	PRONOUNCED LIKE	EXAMPLE	
			THE boldface LETTER(S)	
<i>A</i>	<i>a</i>	alpha (long: <i>ā</i>) father (short: <i>a</i>) drama	δράματικός	
<i>B</i>	<i>β</i>	beta	bit	βιβλίον
<i>Γ</i>	<i>γ</i>	gamma	get	λόγος
<i>Δ</i>	<i>δ</i>	delta	den	δημοκρατία
<i>E</i>	<i>ε</i>	epsilon	(always short) get	σκεπτικός
<i>Z</i>	<i>ζ</i>	zeta	adds, gadzooks (= dz)	βαπτίζω
<i>H</i>	<i>η</i>	eta	(always long) wait, bait	Δημοσθένης
<i>Θ</i>	<i>θ</i>	theta	thought	θέατρον
<i>I</i>	<i>ι</i>	iota	(long: <i>ī</i>) meet (short: <i>i</i>) bit	κίνητικός
<i>K</i>	<i>κ</i>	kappa	kit	κῶμα
<i>Λ</i>	<i>λ</i>	lambda	lit	λωτός
<i>M</i>	<i>μ</i>	mu	meet	μέτρον
<i>N</i>	<i>ν</i>	nu	neat	νέκταρ
<i>E</i>	<i>ξ</i>	xi	coax, except, taxi (= ks)	Ξέρξης
<i>O</i>	<i>ο</i>	omicron	(always short) thought, bought	χορός
<i>Π</i>	<i>π</i>	pi	pen	περίμετρον
<i>P</i>	<i>ρ</i>	rho	drama (slightly rolled)	βάρβαρος
<i>Σ</i>	<i>σ</i> <i>ς</i>	sigma	set (<i>ς</i> replaces <i>σ</i> at the ends of words)	σύνθεσις
<i>T</i>	<i>τ</i>	tau	ten	πεντάγωνον
<i>Υ</i>	<i>υ</i>	upsilon	(long: <i>ū</i>) boot (short: <i>u</i>) put	ψυχή γυμναστική
<i>Φ</i>	<i>φ</i>	phi	fit	φιλοσοφία
<i>X</i>	<i>χ</i>	chi	backhand, lunkhead (or German lachen)	χαρακτήρ
<i>Ψ</i>	<i>ψ</i>	psi	flaps, upset (= ps)	Ψύλλων
<i>Ω</i>	<i>ω</i>	omega	(always long) total	Σωκράτης