

USEFUL CLASSROOM EXPRESSIONS IN ATTIC GREEK

We will use spoken Attic in the classroom extensively for a few days, and then as much as we can conveniently use for the rest of the semester. We start out with spoken Greek because (a) you must learn to pronounce it and comprehend it in order to talk about it, and to read it out loud; (b) you must have a Greek voice in your head in order to read the written language; and (c) it's fun. Unfortunately, the amount and complexity of information we must master in order to progress rapidly toward translating Greek soon outstrips by far our ability to communicate that information in Greek. But we can still use it for simple phrases.

Note: if you want to look up the ancient Greek equivalent of an English word, there is an English-Attic dictionary, called *English-Greek Dictionary: A Vocabulary of the Attic Language*, by S. C. Woodhouse, Taylor & Francis, 1972 (list \$245.00). There is a copy in the Zimmerman reference section, call number PA445 E5 W6. A digitally indexed graphical version is available at: <http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/efts/Woodhouse>, a link to which is on the class website under "Ancient Greek Online" in the sidebar.

<u>Ἑλληνική</u>	<u>English</u>	<u>literal meaning (if different)</u>
<i>Greetings and introductions:</i>		
χαῖρε	greetings! farewell! (singular)	rejoice!
χαίρετε	greetings! farewell! (plural)	rejoice!
ὦ φίλε	my friend (masculine)	o friend
ὦ φίλη	my friend (feminine)	o friend
ὦ φίλοι	my friends (collective plural)	o friends
τὸ ὄνομα	name	
μου	my (unemphatic)	of me
ἐστί	is ("are" with neuter plurals)	
τὸ ὄνομά μου ἐστί . . .	my name is . . .	
τί	what?	
σου	your (unemphatic)	of you
τί ἐστί τὸ ὄνομά σου;	what is your name?	
γινώσκω	I know	
οὐ	not	
οὐ γινώσκω τὸ ὄνομά σου	I don't know your name	

<u>Ἑλληνική</u>	<u>English</u>	<u>literal meaning (if different)</u>
<i>Our subject:</i>		
ἡ γλῶττα	language	tongue
ἡ Ἑλληνική (γλῶττα)	Greek (language)	
ἡ διάλεκτος	dialect	
ἡ Ἀττική (διάλεκτος)	Attic (dialect)	
κοινή	common	
ἡ κοινή (διάλεκτος)	koine (dialect)	common (dialect)
ἡ τέχνη	art, skill, craft, system, method	
τὸ γράμμα	letter; drawing, picture	something drawn/written
τὰ γράμματα	the alphabet; writing, records	letters
τὰ μικρὰ γράμματα	lower case letters ¹	small letters
ἡ γραμματική (τέχνη)	grammar	grammatical art/skill
ὁ φθόγγος	sound	
ἡ δίφθογγος	diphthong	
λέξις	pronunciation	speech
εἰς	for the purpose of; with regard to	to, towards
εἰς τὴν γραμματικὴν	for the purpose of/with regard to grammar	
εἰς τὴν λέξιν	for the purpose of/with regard to pronunciation	
ἡ ἑρμηνεία	translation, interpretation	

Other languages:

¹There is no concept of "lower case" in Attic. The lower case letters which we use today are a medieval invention. For better or worse, we are stuck with the medieval script.

<u>Ἑλληνική</u>	<u>English</u>	<u>literal meaning (if different)</u>
ἡ Ἀγγλική (γλῶττα)	English (language) ²	
ἡ Ῥωμαϊκή	Modern Greek ³	Romaic, Roman (of the Eastern Roman Empire)
ἡ Λατίνη	Latin	
ἡ Ἰνδική	Indian (Sanskrit)	

Classroom items:

τὸ διδασκαλεῖον	classroom	teaching place
ἡ βίβλος	book, textbook	
ἡ σελίς	page	
ἡ χάρτη	sheet of paper	
ὁ μαυροπίναξ	blackboard ⁴	
ὁ δίφρος	chair	
ἡ ἐξέτασις, -εως	exam	
τὸ ἐξετασίδιον	quiz ⁵	small exam

Grammar:

²The ancient Greeks were not specifically familiar with the Germanic tribe which we call the "Angles," who gave "English" its name. For words with no ancient equivalent, one must either use a circumlocution, coin a word using ancient principles of word formation, or (as in this case) use the Modern Greek word, adjusted to Attic morphology if necessary.

³Obviously, there can't be an ancient Greek word for Modern Greek. But contemporary Greeks sometimes use this word to denote their modern language, even though it harks back to the time when Greece was the heart of the eastern Roman Empire, hence "Romaic."

⁴The ancient Greeks used a whiteboard (τὸ λεύκωμα) as a notice board, but not, to my knowledge, any sort of slate or blackboard. This is the Modern Greek word for blackboard, adjusted back to Attic morphology. It is composed of legitimate Attic roots: μαυρόω, to darken, and πίναξ, "plank," a tablet for writing or panel for painting.

⁵I made up this word as the diminutive of ἐξέτασις.

<u>Ἑλληνική</u>	<u>English</u>	literal meaning (if different)
ὁ παράγραφος	paragraph	mark indicating change of parts in a play
τὸ ῥῆμα	sentence; verb	
ὁ λόγος, τὸ ὄνομα	word	
ἡ συλλαβή	syllable	
μακρὰ συλλαβή	long syllable	
βραχεῖα συλλαβή	short syllable	
ὁ τόνος, ἡ προσῳδία	pitch-accent	a stretching, musical pitch
ὁ ὀξύς (τόνος)	acute (accent)	sharp
ὁ βαρύς (τόνος)	grave (accent)	heavy
ἡ περισπωμένη (προσῳδία)	circumflex (accent)	
τὸ παράδειγμα	paradigm	pattern, model
κλίσις	declension or conjugation ⁶	inclination
ἡ ὀρθογραφία	correct spelling	

Instructions and expressions:

εἰ δοκεῖ	please	if it seems right
εὖ	well (adverb) [cf. Eng. prefix <i>eu-</i>]	
εὖγε	well done! (interjection)	well + emphatic particle
εὖ ποιεῖς	thank you (singular)	you are doing well
εὖ ποιεῖτε	thank you (plural)	you are doing well
οἶμοι	ah me! (surprise, pain, fright, pity, anger, grief, etc.)	

⁶Neither the ancient Greeks nor the Romans differentiated, as we do, between the terms for declension and conjugation. The Romans called them both *declinatio*, a translation of the Greek word κλίσις, while *coniugatio* meant an etymological connection.

<u>Ἑλληνική</u>	<u>English</u>	<u>literal meaning (if different)</u>
φεῦ	alas! <i>or</i> ah! (grief, anger, astonishment, admiration)	
πάντες	everyone, everybody	all (collective plural)
ἅμα	at the same time, together	
πάντες ἅμα	everyone together	
λέγετε	say/speak (plural imperative)	
λέγετε μετὰ με·	say after me:	
λαμπρώς	clearly, loudly	brightly
κατὰ μέρος	in turn, by turns	according to the part
ἀνάστητε	stand up (plural imperative)	
ἐπιστρέψατε	turn towards (plural imperative)	
ὁ παρασταθεῖς	person next to you; neighbor	the one standing beside
ἐπιστρέψατε εἰς τὸν παρασταθέντα	turn to your neighbor	
ἐκμελετᾶτε	practice, learn perfectly (pl. imp.)	thoroughly attend to
σὺν ἀλλήλοις	with each other	
καθίσασθε	sit down (plural imperative)	
ἐφορᾶτε	observe, watch, look	
ἀκούσατε	listen	
ἀναγιγνώσκετε	read (out loud) ⁷ (plural imper.)	know again
γράφετε	write (plural imperative)	
ἐκμανθάνετε	learn thoroughly (plural imper.)	
ἐξερμηνεύε	translate (singular imperative)	do the Hermes thing thoroughly
ἐξερμηνεύε εἰς τὴν Ἑλληνικὴν / Ἀγγλικὴν	translate into Greek/English	

⁷Silent reading was rare in ancient Greece and Rome; writing, including literature, was meant to be read out loud, even by yourself. Literary authors often read their works out loud to audiences.

<u>Ἑλληνική</u>	<u>English</u>	literal meaning (if different)
μεταγράφετε	transcribe (plural imperative)	write after
καταλέγετε	recite in order (plural imperative)	speak down along
προσέχετε τὸν νοῦν	pay attention (plural imperative)	hold your mind towards
λαμβάνετε	take (plural imperative)	
ἐπαναλαμβάνετε, εἰ δοκεῖ	repeat, please (plural imperative)	take up again after

Questions:

τοῦτο	this (thing)	
τί ἐστὶ τοῦτο;	what is this?	
ταῦτα	these (things)	
τί ἐστὶ ταῦτα;	what are these?	
δύναται	means (third person singular)	has the power/ability
τὶ δύναται _____;	what does _____ mean?	
πῶς λέγει _____ ἐν Ἑλληνικῇ;	how does one say _____ in Greek?	
γινώσκεις	you know (singular)	
γινώσκεις;	do you know? (singular)	

Answers:

ναί	yes
πάνυ γε	by all means, no doubt, certainly
οὐχί	no
οὐ πάνυ	by no means, not at all
οὐ γινώσκω	I don't know
παρίημαι	I beg your pardon
τοῦτο ἐστὶ . . .	this (thing) is . . .
ταῦτα ἐστὶ	these (things) are . . .

Ἑλληνική

English

literal meaning
(if different)

Conjunctions & adverbs:

καί	and
ἢ	or
ἀλλά	but; but rather
ὁμοίως	like
παρομοίως	nearly like
εἶτα, ἔπειτα	next

Time:

ἀεί	always
νῦν	now
ὑστερον	later, afterwards
μετά	after
πρό	before
πρότερον	previously
ἐξῆς	next
ἦδε ἡ ἡμέρα	today (noun)
τήμερον, ἐν τῆδ' ἡμέρα	today (adverb)

Place:

ποῦ	where?
ἐνθάδε, ἐνταῦθα	here
ἐκεῖ, ἐνταῦθα	there
αὐτοῦ	in this very place, on the spot