

Intrepid Travel Language Guides

Greek Language Guide Script

Manny: Ya sas! Kalos Orisate!

Scott: Ah, meelate angleeka?

Manny: Ne, of course - welcome, come in!

Scott: Thanks Man, I didn't know if you were open or not.

Manny: We are just opening up now! What can I get for you?

Scott: Is it that early?! I feel like a real tourist now! But, I'm starving and I can't wait until later to eat like you guys do!

Manny: We Greeks do eat much later than most people! I'm Manny, where are you from?

Scott: I'm Scott, I'm from Australia. What did you say when I walked in?

Manny: I said Hello - Ya Sas! Welcome! Kalos Orisate!

Scott: Ya Sas! Kalos Orisate! I don't suppose you could teach me a few other Greek phrases while I sit here?

Manny: Sure. But first you must eat! Let me get some food for you. Shall I put a mezze plate together for you?

Scott: Sounds great. And some wine - are those barrels over there full of wine?

Manny: Ne, many Greek Taverna's have their own wines that are poured straight from the barrel. This is our Retsina, we serve it by the carafe.

Scott: I think I need to sample that too please!

Manny: Sure. Here's lesson number one: say doh-pio for 'local wine'. Or Eine ap to bareli for 'Wine from the barrel'?

Scott: Doh pio - local wine.

Manny: Wine from the barrel Eine ap to bareli

Scott: Eine ap to bareli.

Manny: Very good! Most Taverna's will also have their own Ouzo as well, there are almost as many varieties of ouzo as Greek wine!

Scott: I'm going to love my time in Greece!

Manny: Here you go tzatziki, melitzanosalata, saganaki dolmades and some bread. This should get you started.

Scott: Looks great - I know what tzatziki is but what about the others?

Manny: Melitzanosalata is an eggplant dip, saganaki is fried cheese and dolmades are rice and herbs wrapped in grape vine leaves!

Scott: Fantastic! Ok, so how do I say the basics like Good Morning and Goodbye?

Manny: The basics - ok, Good morning is Kalimera.

Scott: Kalimera.

Manny: Goodbye is Hherete.

Scott: Hherete. What about My name is Scott?

Manny: This is Me 'Lene Scott.

Scott: Me 'Lene Scott. Ne is yes, right? What about no?

Manny: This is ohhi.

Scott: Ohhi. What about please and thank you?

Manny: You say parakalo for please.

Scott: Parakalo.

Manny: And efharisto for thank you.

Scott: This food is great! Do all Greek restaurants serve this kind of food?

Manny: Sort of - Taverna's like this one usually have their own specialities - like seafood near the coast or lamb in the Mountains. But there are other kinds of restaurants - you've probably seen the souvalaki shops?

Scott: LOVE THEM! And I know to ask for a souvalaki sandwich in the touristy areas - I saw one couple get a huge platter of souvalaki rather than the souvalaki roll like they were expecting - then they were charged a bomb for it!

Manny: Yeah this can sometimes happen. You should try an Estiatorio - these specialise in food cooked in magrefta ovens like Mousaka or pastitsio - really good slow cooked food.

Scott: Ok, my mouth is really watering now!

Manny: There are also psistaria's which are grill houses and specialise in spit roasts like lamb and chicken but these are more common outside of big cities because the grills need lots of space. And of course there are founos, bakeries which sell all kinds of bread and great things like tiropitas and spanakopitas really good pies! All Greeks have their favourite founos!

Scott: Right, before I go I'm getting the details of your favourite founos and souvalaki shop! And with all this talk of food I think I'm ready for some more!

Manny: How about some olives, taramosalata - which is kind of like Greek caviar and keftedes - fried meat balls?

Scott: I'm not going to refuse anything you put in front of me! Except maybe the bill - hey I've noticed that there's usually a service charge on my bills - should I also tip?

Manny: If the service has been good then yes, usually 10 or 15% is appreciated by the wait staff.

Scott: Right. Now, how do I say How Much? And Too Expensive?

Manny: Don't worry my friend my food is not too expensive! For How much? you say Posso caani?

Scott: Posso caani?

Manny: Too expensive is polee akrivo.

Scott: Polee akrivo. What about The bill?

Manny: This is To logariasmo.

Scott: What do I need to know about Greek food etiquette?

Manny: Well, there isn't any! For Greeks meals are a time to get together with the family. Family and food are very important to Greeks!

Scott: Yeah, now I think about it, I haven't actually seen a quiet Greek restaurant!

Manny: At a Greek dinner the food is shared by everyone - anything goes really, as long as you are having a good time.

Scott: Sounds perfect! This taramosalata is great - how do I say 'I like this'?

Manny: This is Afto mou aresi.

Scott: Afto mou aresi. What about I don't like this?

Manny: Afto then mou aresi - but you will love all Greek food - except maybe patsa - not a lot of foreigners like this.

Scott: Patsa?

Manny: It's a soup made mostly from intestines. It is tripe - pig or lamb or whatever is around. That's what the meaning of patsa is - tripe.

Scott: Mmm... sounds delicious! Hey what about some numbers - how do I count to ten?

Manny: Aena, thi-o, tri-a, taessera, pende, exi, aefta, octo, enne-a, thaeca.

Scott: Ok, slowly now - in fact how do I say 'I don't understand'?

Manny: This is Then katalaveno.

Scott: Then katalaveno.

Manny: So, counting - aena, thi-o, tria

Scott: Aena, thio, tria.

Manny: Taessera, pende, exi

Scott: Taessera, pende, exi.

Manny: Aefta, octo, enne-a, thaeca

Scott: Aefta, octo, enne-a, thaeca.

Manny: Very good!

Scott: Thank you! How about Please speak slowly.

Manny: This is Parakalo meelate arga.

Scott: Parakalo meelate arga. Hey what's the deal with the siesta's?

Manny: Greeks take this very seriously - don't ever try to call someone between 2 and 5 and try not to make a lot of noise during this time, most Greeks rest or have a sleep in the afternoon.

Scott: I'm all for it! Ok, so I'm heading out of town tomorrow, how do I say 'Have you a Room?'

Manny: This is ehete ena thomiato?

Scott: Ehhete ena thomiato?. How about May I see it?

Manny: This is Boro na to tho?

Scott: Boro na to tho?. Umm, I know, today and tomorrow.

Manny: Today is seemera.

Scott: Seemera.

Manny: Tomorrow is avrio.

Scott: Avrio. Yesterday and now?

Manny: Yesterday is chthes.

Scott: Chthes.

Manny: Now is tora.

Scott: Tora. Ok, how about bus, train and taxi.

Manny: Bus is leoforeeo.

Scott: Leoforeeo.

Manny: Train is treno.

Scott: Treno.

Manny: Taxi is taksi.

Scott: Taksi - and ticket?

Manny: This is eesiteerio.

Scott: Eesiteerio. Oh I know what about ferry?

Manny: Feree mpot.

Scott: Feree mpot. I can only think of three more things I need translated - police, hospital and doctor!

Manny: Lets hope you don't need to use these phrases! Police is asteenomia.

Scott: Asteenomia.

Manny: Hospital is nosokomeeo.

Scott: Nosokomeeo.

Manny: Doctor is yiatros.

Scott: Yiatros. Manny, you've been an excellent teacher but now I think I need another carafe of your excellent Retsina and I should let you do some work!

Manny: It's been my pleasure Scott - enjoy!