

LESSON NOTES

Lower Intermediate S1 #1

Have You Done Something Wrong At Your Greek Job?

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#1

DIALOGUE - GREEK

MAIN

1. Αντωνία : Καλημέρα!
2. Ελένη : Καλημέρα Αντωνία. Πώς και έτσι νωρίς σήμερα;
3. Αντωνία : Ήθελα να δω τι έγινε με το κομμάτι που έδωσα εχτές.
4. Ελένη : Ο Γιάννης το διόρθωσε και τώρα έχει πάει στη Σοφία για στήσιμο.
5. Αντωνία : Καλά, θα πάω να δω. Επάνω δεν είναι η Σοφία;
6. Ελένη : Τώρα; Από τις εννιά!
7. Αντωνία : Τι έγινε καλέ; Γιατί χαχανίζεις;
8. Ελένη : Γιατί σκέφτομαι τι μούτρα θα κάνεις όταν το δεις!
9. Αντωνία : Ε! Γιατί; Τι έγινε;
10. Ελένη : Τι κάνει νιάου-νιάου στα κεραμίδια βρε Αντωνία; Το αφεντικό έγινε.
11. Αντωνία : Μη μου πεις! Πάλι;
12. Ελένη : Εχτές το βράδυ γκάριζε μια ώρα για το κομμάτι σου. Και είπε στον Γιάννη να το «φτιάξει».
13. Αντωνία : Ωχ! Πάω!
14. Ελένη : Καλή τύχη!

ENGLISH

1. Antonia : Good morning!
2. Eleni : Good morning Antonia. How come you're so early today?
3. Antonia : I wanted to see what happened with the article I handed in yesterday.
4. Eleni : Giannis corrected it and now it has gone to Sofia for the layout.
5. Antonia : OK, I'll go and have a look. Sofia is upstairs, isn't she?
6. Eleni : Now? Since nine o'clock!
7. Antonia : What's up? Why are you giggling?
8. Eleni : Because I'm thinking of the look on your face when you see it!
9. Antonia : Eh? Why? What happened?
10. Eleni : Oh, come on Antonia! What did you expect? The boss happened.
11. Antonia : Don't tell me! Again?
12. Eleni : Last night he was yelling for an hour about your article. And he told Giannis to "fix it."
13. Antonia : Ouch! I'm going!
14. Eleni : Good luck!

ROMANIZATION

1. Andonía : Kaliméra!
2. Eléni : Kaliméra Andonía. Pós ke étsi norís símera?
3. Andonía : Íthela na do ti éGINE me to komáti pu édosa ehtés.
4. Eléni : O Yánis to diórthose kai tóra éhi pái sti Sofía ya stísimo.
5. Andonía : Kalá, tha pao na do. Epáno den íne i Sofía?
6. Eléni : Tóra? Apó tis eniá!
7. Andonía : Ti éyine kalé? Yatí hahanízis?
8. Eléni : Yatí skéftome ti mútra tha kánis ótan to dis!
9. Andonía : E! Giati? Ti egine?
10. Eléni : Ti káni niáu-niáu sta keramíδια vre Andonía? To afendikó éyine.
11. Andonía : Mi mu pis! Páli?
12. Eléni : Ehtés to vrádi gárizo mia óra ya to komáti su. Ke ípe ston Yáni na to "ftiáxi."
13. Andonía : Oh! Páo!
14. Eléni : Kalí tíhi! (yélia)

VOCABULARY

Greek	Romanization	English	Class	Gender
κάνω	káno	to do, to cost	verb	
στήσιμο	stísimo	setup, layout, setting	noun	
κεραμίδι	keramídi	roof tile	noun	neuter
νιάου-νιάου	niáu-niáu	meow	onomatopoeia	
χαχανίζω	hahanízo	to giggle	verb	
γκαρίζω	garízo	to yell, to bray	verb	
αφεντικό	afendikó	boss	noun	neutral
θέλω	thélo	to want	verb	
γίνομαι	yínome	to become, to happen	verb	
κομμάτι	komáti	piece, part, article, copy	Noun	Neuter

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Δεν ξέρω τι να κάνω. <i>Den xéro ti na káno.</i> "I don't know what to do."</p>	<p>Κάνω ό,τι μπορώ. <i>Káno ó,ti boró.</i> "I do what I can."</p>
<p>Μου αρέσει να κάνω μπάνιο στη θάλασσα. <i>Mu arési na káno bánio sti thálasa.</i> "I like bathing in the sea."</p>	<p>Το στήσιμο της σκηνής μου πήρε μια ώρα <i>To stisimo tis skinis mou pire mia ora</i> "The setting up of the tent took me an hour."</p>
<p>Τα κεραμίδια της στέγης έχουν σπάσει <i>Ta keramidia tis stegis echoun spasei</i> "The roof tiles have broken."</p>	<p>Η γάτα κάνει νιάου <i>I gata kanei niaou</i> "The cat goes 'meow'."</p>
<p>Ο γάιδαρος γκάριζε όλη νύχτα. <i>O gáidaros gárizε óli níhta.</i> "The donkey was braying the whole night."</p>	<p>αφεντικό της εταιρείας <i>afendikó tis eterías</i> company boss</p>
<p>Το αφεντικό κατηγορεί τον εργάτη. <i>To afendikó katigorí ton ergáti.</i> The boss is blaming the worker.</p>	<p>Τώρα που γνώρισα το αφεντικό μου, κατάλαβα γιατί διαχειρίζεται την εταιρεία έτσι όπως τη διαχειρίζεται. <i>Tóra pu gnórisa to afendikó mu, katálava yatí diahirízete tin etería étsi ópos ti diahirízete.</i> "Now that I met my boss, I understand why he runs the company the way he does."</p>
<p>Το αφεντικό μας δεν μας πληρώνει τις υπερωρίες. <i>To afendikó mas den mas pliróni tis iperorías.</i> "Our boss does not pay us our overtime."</p>	<p>Το αφεντικό θα έρθει στις 10. <i>To afendikó tha érthi stis 10.</i> "The boss will come at 10."</p>
<p>Το αφεντικό κατηγορεί τον εργάτη. <i>To afendikó katigorí ton ergáti.</i> "The boss is blaming the worker."</p>	<p>Θέλω να κοιμηθώ νωρίς σήμερα. <i>Thélo na kimithó norís símera.</i> "I want to go to sleep early today."</p>
<p>Δεν θέλω τα παιδιά μου να τρώνε πολλά γλυκά. <i>Den thélo ta pediá mu na tróne polá gliká.</i> "I don't want my children to eat many sweets."</p>	<p>Θέλει κανείς τίποτα από το περίπτερο; <i>Théli kanís típota από to períptero?</i> "Does anybody want anything from the kiosk?."</p>
<p>Ήθελα να τη δω αυτήν την ταινία <i>Íthela na ti do aftí tin tenía</i> "I wanted to see this movie."</p>	<p>Κάτι έγινε στον δρόμο και έχει πολύ κόσμο. <i>Káti éyine ston drómo ke éhi polí kósmo.</i> "Something happened on the street and there are a lot of people."</p>
<p>Θα φάω ένα κομμάτι κέικ σοκολάτα. <i>Tha fáo éna komáti kéik sokoláta.</i> "I will eat a piece of chocolate cake."</p>	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

κομμάτι (*komáti*) "piece, part, article, copy"

The word κομμάτι actually means "piece" (as in "I'll have a piece of cake") or "part" (as in "When he left he took a part of me"). In a journalistic context it also means "article" or "copy": a text or a video that is anywhere in the publication or broadcasting chain (pre-editing, editing, pre-production, production, publication etc). Another use of the word κομμάτι is in music. When most people discuss music, they often use κομμάτι (i.e. "piece of music") instead of the word "song."

νιάου-νιάου (*niáου-niáου*) "meow"

We have an expression: Τι κάνει νιάου-νιάου στα κεραμίδια;
This hasn't been exactly translated in our dialogue. Its literal meaning is "What is meowing up on the roof tiles?" and it is used when we want to make someone else realize something that is glaringly obvious. An English equivalent would be: "Is the sky blue?"

στήσιμο (*stísimo*) "set up, lay out"

The word στήσιμο means "set up," but in the publishing field it means "lay out." Incidentally, στήσιμο also means "to get stood up on a date"! This word belongs to a family of nouns showing actions that are derived from verbs expressing the particular act. In this case the verb στήνω (to set up). We won't get into this in detail now, but in later lessons of this series, where we will focus on this type of word creation. However, it is good to remember that there is a whole family of these nouns, all related to corresponding verbs. A few other examples are βάψιμο meaning "painting" (i.e a wall), which comes from βάφω ("to paint"), βράσιμο ("boiling") which comes from βράζω ("to boil") and γδύσιμο ("undressing") which comes from γδύνω ("to undress").

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Onomatopoeic Words in Greek (ονοματοποιία).

Γιατί χαχανίζεις;

Yatí hahanízis?

"Why are you giggling?"

As we will see in this series, words in Greek are created in many ways. This is true of all languages but because of its long history, Greek has a vast vocabulary, so understanding how words are created, instead of just memorizing endless lists of words, will really help you improve your language skills and make great strides with this approach!

One of the ways to create words in Greek is through onomatopoeia. Onomatopoeia is the process of imitating the sound they express. This construction is artificial, but the words are used as normal Greek words, either in the form of nouns, or in the form of verbs. And even though Greek doesn't make such an extensive use of onomatopoeic words, as languages such as Japanese do, there are many words of this kind used both literally and metaphorically.

In our dialogue there were three such examples:

χαχανίζεις ("you are giggling")
 νιάου-νιάου ("meow")
 γκάριζε ("he/she/it brayed")

The verb χαχανίζω comes from the sound χα χα ("ha ha"), which is the sound of someone laughing. The noun νιάου-νιάου, or the verb νιαουρίζω comes from the sound cats make (meow) and the verb γκαρίζω comes from the sound donkeys make, which Greeks hear as γκα, γκα ("gah, gah"). Most of the time, onomatopoeic verbs end in -ίζω. You can find some more examples of onomatopoeic words in the following table:

Greek	Romanization	English	Class	Gender
νιαουρίζω	<i>niaurízo</i>	to meow	Verb	
γαυγίζω	<i>gavgízo</i>	to bark	Verb	
γκαρίζω	<i>garízo</i>	to yell /to bray	Verb	
χαχανίζω	<i>hahanízo</i>	to giggle	Verb	
μπουμπουνητό	<i>bubunitó</i>	thunder	Noun	Neuter
βροντή	<i>vrondí</i>	thunder	Noun	Feminine
τζιτζίκι	<i>jjíki</i>	cicada	Noun	Neuter
τριζόνι	<i>trizóni</i>	cricket	Noun	Neuter
γρύλος	<i>grílos</i>	cricket	Noun	Masculine
καρακάξα	<i>karakáxa</i>	magpie	Noun	Feminine
φάπα	<i>fápa</i>	slap	Noun	Feminine
γαργάρα	<i>gargára</i>	gargle	Noun	Feminine
ζουζούνι	<i>zuzúni</i>	insect/bug	Noun	Neuter
κακαρίζω	<i>kakarízo</i>	to cluck	Verb	
τουρτουρίζω	<i>turturízo</i>	to shiver from cold	Verb	
τσιρίζω	<i>tsirízo</i>	to shriek	Verb	

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Greek Newspapers

It is often said that Greece has too many newspapers for its size and a glance at any περίπτερο (kiosk-newsstand) in any Greek city will confirm this. For a population of nearly eleven million people, twenty political dailies are being published in Athens and at least two are being published in each of the country's 51 prefectures. Five financial dailies and fourteen sports dailies add up to a huge number of copies each day and one would think it is absolutely impossible for all of them to be viable! Especially after 1989, when private TV was allowed in Greece and at least six major national channels started operating alongside the three state-owned ones, it seemed that this would be the end of newspapers—or at least some of them. Still, newspapers have managed to survive and continue to play an important role in the lives of many Greeks. Especially on weekends when people have enough leisure time to drink their coffee, they enjoy reading their favorite publications.