

RULES FOR TRANSLITERATING GREEK WORDS INTO ENGLISH

1. Diphthongs (two vowels that blend into a single sound):

<i>Diphthong</i>	<i>Transliteration</i>	<i>Greek example</i>	<i>English transliteration</i>
αι	ae, e, ai	φαινόμενον ² Αἰθιοπία	phenomenon Ethiopia
αυ	au	αὐτό	auto (self, same)
ει	ei, i, e	χεῖρ	chir (hand)
ευ	eu	εὐλογία ψεῦδον	eulogia (praise) pseudon (false)
οι	oe, i, e, oi	ἀμοιβή	ameba or amoeba (change)
ου	ou, u	Μοῦσα	Musa

2. *upsilon (υ)* is usually transliterated as *γ*:

κύκλος = cyclos (circle)

Αἴσχυλος = Aeschylus³

τύπος = typos (figure, form)

When it is part of a diphthong, however, it is transliterated as a *u*.

Example

τραῦμα = trauma (wound)

ψεῦδον = pseudon (false)

3. If a *gamma (γ)* appears before another *gamma*, *kappa (κ)*, *chi (χ)*, or *xi (ξ)*, the *gamma* is pronounced in Greek, and transliterated in English, as an *n*:

ἄγγελος = angelos (messenger)

φάλαγξ = phalanx (phalanx, body of troops)

ἄγκυρα = ankyra (anchor)

βρόγχος = bronchos (windpipe)

Greek into English

-ter, -tor (-τήρ, -τωρ)	one who does	-ter, -tor
-ma (-μα)	result of	-ma, -me, -m
-sis, -sia (-σις, -σια)	result of	-sis, -sy
-eion, -eon (-ειον, -αιον)	place for	-eum, -aeum (Latinate form)
-iskos (-ισκος)	diminutive	-isk
-ismos (-ισμος)	abstract quality; belief in, theory of	-ism ²

Examples

<i>Greek noun or verb</i>	<i>English meaning</i>	<i>Greek noun</i>	<i>English meaning</i>	<i>English derivative</i>
apologeomai (ἀπολογέομαι)	defend	apologia (ἀπολογία)	defense	apology
polis (πόλις)	city	politica (πολιτικά)	city affairs	politics
gymnazo (γυμνάζω)	exercise	gymnastes (γυμναστής)	exerciser	gymnast
hypocrinomai (ὑποκρίνομαι)	answer, act	hypocrites (ὑποκριτής)	actor	hypocrite
		hypocrisia (ὑποκρισία)	acting	hypocrisy
Musa (Μούσα)	Muse	Museon (Μουσεῖον)	place of the Muses	museum
aster (ἀστήρ)	star	asteriskos (ἀστερίσκος)	little star	asterisk
baino (βάινω)	go	basis (βάσις)	step	basis
tithemi (τίθημι)	put, place	thema (θέμα)	deposit	theme

The following suffixes are Greek in origin, but most often appear in English as learned borrowings.

III. LEARNED BORROWINGS

<i>Greek base</i>	<i>English meaning</i>	<i>Greek suffix form</i>	<i>English combining form</i>	<i>English meaning</i>
logos (λόγος)	word	-logia (-λογία)	-logy	art, science, study of
cratos (κράτος)	power	-cratia or -crasia (-κρατια, -κρασια)	-cracy	rule by
		-crates (-κρατης)	-crat	ruler
		-craticon (-κρατικον)	-cratic	pertaining to rule
arche (ἀρχή)	rule ³	-archia (-αρχια)	-archy	rule by
archon (ἀρχων)	ruler	-archos (-αρχος)	-arch	ruler
grapho (γράφω)	I write	-graphia (-γραφια)	-graph	tool for writing
			-graphy	writing
gramma (γράμμα)	letter	-gramma (-γραμμα)	-gram	thing written
scopeo (σκοπέω)	look at		-scope	tool for viewing
			-scopy	viewing
metron (μέτρον)	measure	-metria (-μετρια)	-metry	science of measuring
			-meter	tool for