

# Modern Greek Alphabet And Phonetics

In BLUE: Letters you will rarely see in Karamanlica

In Orange: Letters that make a significantly different sound in Karamanlica than in Greek

*Some of these rules will change in Karamanlica. But it is best to learn Modern Greek phonetics first, and then you will learn the ways it is slightly altered in Karamanlica. Practice learning the alphabet first before learning the more complicated things at the bottom.*

Α α	Άλφα, Alfa	“Aaaah”
Β β	Βήτα, Vita	“V” <b>NOT B!</b>
Γ γ	Γάμμα, Ghamma	“Gh” like Arabic غ , more like “y” in front of “soft” vowels <b>NOT “G!”</b> “Γάτα” “Γειά σου!”
Δ δ	Δέλτα, Ddelta	“Dh” like the “th” in “this,” like Arabic ذ <b>NOT “D!”</b>
Ε ε	Έψιλον, Epsilon	“Eh”
Ζ ζ	Ζήτα, Zita	“Z”
Η η	Ήτα, Eeta	“I” like “ee” in “feet”
Θ θ	Θήτα, Thita	Unvoiced “Th,” like “th” in “think,” like Arabic ث
Ι ι	Ίωτα, Yiota	“I” like “ee” in “feet”
Κ κ	Κάππα, Kappa	“K”
Λ λ	Λάμδα, Lamdha	“L”
Μ μ	Μύ, mi	“M”
Ν ν	Νύ, ni	“N”

Ξ ξ	Ξί, ksi	“X”, “Ks”
Ο ο	Όμικρον, Omikron	“O”
Π π	Πί, Pi	“P”
Ρ ρ	Ρώ, Ro	“R” Don’t get confused! It looks like the English “P”
Σ σ ς	Σίγμα, Sigma	“S” Has two different forms in lowercase: σ in initial/medial position, ς at the end of a word.
Τ τ	Ταύ, Taf	“T”
Υ υ	Ύψιλον, Epsilon	“I” like “ee” in “feet”
Φ φ	Φί, Fi	“F”
Χ χ	Χί, Khi	“Kh” like Arabic ح, softer in front of “soft” vowels.
Ψ ψ	Ψί, Psi	“Ps”
Ω ω	Ωμέγα, Omega	“O”

## Double Letters

Now things get a bit more complicated. There are several additional sounds that can be spelled by combining two vowels or two consonants.

In BLUE: Double Letters you will rarely see in Karamanlica

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## Double Vowels

ει	"i" like "ee" in "feet"	αυ	"af"/"ef" in front of unvoiced consonants, "av"/"ev" everywhere else.
οι	"i" like "ee" in "feet"	ευ	
ου	"u" like in Turkish.	αι	"e," same sound as ε

You can break up the double vowels by putting two dots " on top of the second vowel:

Ex " αι " is pronounced "ay" *This will be important for spelling "ğ" and "y" in Karamanlica.*



This symbol is a remnant of the Byzantine script in which Greek letters were joined together in a complex cursive system involving various ligatures. It is one ligature that has survived, and represents the vowel combination "ou." In Modern Greek it is most common in handwriting, but you will see it in inscriptions. This is from a Karamanlica inscription above a Church in Silile, near Konya. The ligature can be drawn in various ways, from an "o" with a round "u" on top, to something more angular such as in this picture, to even a simple horizontal line on top of the "o".

## Double Consonants

μπ	"b" or "mb"	γκ	"g"
ντ	"d" or "nd"	γγ	"g" or "ng"
τσ	"ts"	τζ	"tz"

*One thing that may be helpful with Karamanlica: Three consonant sounds that exist in Greek but don't have a letter are "b," "d," and the hard "g." In all three cases, these are VOICED consonants, which have an UNVOICED equivalent sound ("p," "t," and "k") which DO have a letter. The double consonant involves that unvoiced letter plus a voiced letter.*

## Sounds that can be written in multiple ways

You may have noticed, there are a few sounds which can be spelled in multiple different ways. For Modern Greek this can make spelling a bit tricky. *Fortunately, most of these will not appear in Karamanlîca, but you should still learn them.*

ι	5 ways of spelling the "i" sound. (Like "ee" in "feet")	ο	2 ways of spelling the "o" sound.
η		ω	
υ		ε	2 ways of spelling the "e" sound.
ει		αι	
οι			