



Lesson 3: Please

Παρακαλώ



LESSON NOTES

Today's phrase will help you take matters into your own hands! In today's lesson we'll take a look at the word "Please", which will be very important when you need to ask for something.

In Greek "Please" is "Parakalo". Let's break it down by syllable "Pa-ra-ka-lo".

The easiest way of using "Please" is to point at something while saying "Parakalo", but let's try and build this up a bit, shall we? Let's start with the expression, "This please." which in Greek is "Afto" "Parakalo". In English, "This" comes before "please" in Greek the order is the same. So we have "Afto" "Parakalo."

Let's take a look at the word for "This". In Greek "This" is "Afto." Let's break it down by syllable "Af-to".

Looking at the word for "This", warrants a look at the word for "That" which is "Ekino". The phrase "That please." is "Ekino parakalo". Let's break it down by syllable "E-ki-no-pa-ra-ka-lo".

Please remember that it's also a little rude to point at things and especially at people in Greece. If it is necessary to point to something in order to better explain what one wants then it is accepted, however pointing at the direction of someone and especially to a person's face is a very aggressive stance. Furthermore when pointing it is better to have one's arm, hand and finger pointing in a relaxed way. Pointing with a stiff finger may seem intimidating.

Just as when thanking someone more formally in Greek, the subject "Sas" is used. "Sas parakalo" which literally means I beg you. Let's break it down by syllable "Sas pa-ra-ka-lo."

PHRASES

Greek	Romanization	English
Παρακαλώ.	Parakalo	Please.
Σας παρακαλώ.	Sas Parakalo.	Please. (Formal or plural)
Αυτό παρακαλώ.	Afto Parakalo.	This please.
Εκείνο παρακαλώ.	Ekino parakalo.	That please.

QUICK TIP

A final use for the word “parakalo,” is when you answer your phone. Answering the phone with “parakalo” is one of the most common ways. In English, one would answer the phone with a simple “hello.” However, in Greece we would not use the word for “hello,” “gia sou.”

QUICK TIP 2

In some cases, the word “parakalo” can be used as “excuse me.” For example, if you go to a shop and no clerks are around, you can say “parakalo” in hope that someone will come out and serve you.