

Question 24: It's all Greek to me

Author: Bozhidar Bozhanov

In the table below are some Greek place names, written in the Greek alphabet (without marking stress), together with their pronunciations in both ancient and modern Greek. All you have to do is fill in the blanks (in the answer sheet)

The pronunciations are shown using the International Phonetic Association (IPA). The IPA symbols have their expected values, except as follows:

θ is pronounced like *th* in *think*, ð is like *th* in *then*

x is the *ch* sound in German *Bach*, Scottish *loch*, or in Irish broad *ch* as in *chara*

γ is a voiced x, like the *g* in Spanish *avogado*, or in Irish the broad *dh* in *dhorn*

ç is the softer *ch* sound in German *ich*, or the first sound in the name *Hugh*

ǰ is a voiced ç, like the slender *dh* in *dhearg*

ɔ is like the vowel in *caught*, ε is like the vowel in *fair*

the : symbol after a vowel indicates that it is long

the raised ^h after a consonant denotes that it is aspirated (pronounced with additional breath)

	Ancient Greek	Modern Greek	English
Αθως	/at ^h ɔ:s/	/aθos/	Athos
Θουριοι	/t ^h ourioi/	/θurii/	Thurii
Αργος	/argos/	/arγos/	Argos
Φρεγγελλα	/p ^h regella/	/frejella/	Fregellae
Χρυση	/k ^h ruse:/	/xrisi/	Chryse
Γολγοθα	/golgot ^h a/	/γolyγoθa/	Golgotha
Δελφοι	/delp ^h oi/	/ðelfi/	Delphi
Εφεσος	/ep ^h esos/	/efesos/	Ephesus
Θεοδοσια	/t ^h eodɔ:sia/	/θεoðosia/	Theodosia
Αιγινα	/aigina/	/ejina/	Aegina
Καληδονια	/kale:donia/	/kaliðonia/	Caledonia
Καδμεια	/kadmeia/	/kaðmia/	Cadmea
Σαρδεις	/sardeis/	/sarðis/	Sardis
Φθια	/p ^h t ^h ia/	/fθia/	Phthia
Αχερων	/ak ^h erɔ:n/	/açeron/	Acheron
Χιος	/k ^h ios/	/çios/	Chios
Θυμαйна	/t ^h umaina/	/θimena/	Thymaina
Χαονια	/k ^h aonia/	/xaonia/	Chaonia
Μοσχα	/mosk ^h a/	/mosxa/	Moscow *
Βλαχια	(a)	(b)	(c)
Φλεγεθων	(d)	(e)	Phlegethon
Βηρυτος	(f)	(g)	Beirut
(h)	(i)	/frijiɑ/	Phrygia
Βαβυλωνια	(j)	(k)	(l)

* Note that Moscow was unknown in ancient Greece, but the table shows how the name would have been pronounced at that time.