

100 Essential Greek Words

These are the most common words in Ancient Greek. They make up some 50% of the running words in typical Greek text. The short glosses for nouns, adjectives, and verbs give the most common meanings; for particles, any gloss is only approximate.

Pronouns, pronominal adjectives, article

αὐτός she, he, it
ἑαυτοῦ herself, himself, *reflexive pronoun*
ἐγώ I
ὁ the, *definite article*
ὃς who, *relative pronoun*
ὅστις whoever, anyone who
σύ you
τις who, *indefinite*
τίς who, *interrogative*

Conjunctions, adverbs, particles

ἀλλά but
ἄν *particle used in some conditional or generalizing clauses*
γάρ for
γε *emphasizes previous word*
δέ and, but, *mild, unemphatic sentence connective*
δή *similar to δέ but stronger*

ἐάν if
εἰ if
ἐπεὶ when
ἔτι yet, still
ἢ than, whether
ἵνα so that
καί and
μᾶλλον rather, more
μέν *adversative or contrastive, with δέ, or expressing certainty*
μή not
νῦν now
ὅτι that
οὐδέ nor, not
οὐ not
οὖν therefore, really
οὔτε nor, not
οὕτως thus
πάλιν again, back
τε and
ὥς as
ὥσπερ just as, just like, just so
ὥστε in order to, therefore

Prepositions

Many of these are also used as verb prefixes.

ἀνά up
ἀπό from
διά through
εἰς into
ἐκ out from
ἐν in

ἐπί **on**
κατά **down**
μετά **behind, with**
παρά **beside, along**
περί **around**
πρός **toward, at the side of**
ὕπο **under**

Verbs

βούλομαι, βουλήσομαι, -, -, βεβούλημαι, ἐβουλήθην **wish, be willing**
γίγνομαι **or** γίνομαι, γενήσομαι, ἐγενόμην, γέγονα, γεγένημαι, - **become, come into being**
δείκνυμι, δείξω, ἔδειξα, δέδειχα, δέδειγμαι, ἐδείχθην **show, point out**
δίδωμι, δώσω, ἔδωκα, δέδωκα, δέδομαι, ἐδόθην **give**
δοκέω, δόξω, ἔδωξα, - δέδογμαι, ἐδόχθην **expect, imagine**
δύναμαι, δυνήσομαι, -, -, δεδύνημαι, ἐδυνήθην **be able**
εἶμι, ἔσομαι, -, -, -, - **be**
εἶπον **say, see** λέγω
ἔρχομαι, ἐλεύσομαι, ἦλθον, ἐλήλυθα, -, - **come**
ἐρώ **ask, see** λέγω
ἔχω, ἔξω **or** σχήσω, ἔσχων, ἔσχηκα, ἔσχημαι, - **have**
καλέω, καλώ, ἐκάλεσα, κέκληκα, κέκλημαι, ἐκλήθην **call**
λαμβάνω, λήψομαι, ἔλαβον, εἴληφα, εἴλημμαι, ἐλήφθην **take**
λέγω, ἐρώ **or** λέξω, εἶπον **or** ἔλεξα, εἶρηκα, εἶρημαι **or** λέλεγμαι, ἐλέγχην **or** ἐρρήθην **say**
οἶδα, εἴσομαι, -, -, -, - **know**
ὁράω, ὄψομαι, εἶδον, ἑώρακα **or** ἑώρακα, ἑώραμαι **or** ὤμμαι, ὤφθην **see**
ποιέω ποιήσω, ἐποίησα, πεποίηκα, πεποίημαι, ἐποιήθην **make**
φημί, φήσω, ἔφησα, -, -, - **say**

Nouns and adjectives

ἀγαθός, -ή, -όν **good**

ἄλλος, -η, -ον **other**
ἄνθρωπος, -ου, ὁ **person**
ἄρχή, -ῆς, ἡ **beginning, power, rule**
βασιλεύς, βασιλέως, ὁ **king**
γυνή, γυναικός, ἡ **woman**
δύναμις, δυνάμεως, ἡ **power**
δύο **two**
εἷς, μία, ἓν **one**
ἕκαστος, -η, -ον **each**
ἐκεῖνος, -η, -ο **that one**
ἕτερος, -α, -ον **other**
θεός, θεοῦ, ὁ or ἡ **god, goddess**
καλός, -ή, -όν **beautiful**
κύριος, -ον, ὁ **lord, master**
λόγος, -ον, ὁ **word, thought, reason**
μέγας, μεγάλη, μέγα **big**
μόνος, -η, -ον **alone, only**
οἷος, -α, -ον **such as**
ὅσος, -η, -ον **as much as**
οὐδείς, οὐδεμία, οὐδέν **no one, nothing**
οὗτος, αὕτη, τοῦτο **this**
πᾶς, πᾶσα, πᾶν **all**
πόλις, πόλεως, ἡ **city, city-state**
πολύς, πολλή, πολύ **much**
πρότερος, -α, -ον **first**
σῶμα, σώματος, τό **body**
τοιοῦτος, τοιαύτη, τοιοῦτο **such**
υἱός, υἱοῦ, ὁ **son**
χρόνος, -ου, ὁ **time**
ψυχή, -ῆς, ἡ **soul**