

Greek For Gringos Lesson 3 Yes No And Getting By 2026 10 06

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Greek for Gringos Lesson 3: Yes, No and Getting By

Maya: Yiasou, and welcome back to Greek for Gringos, where two gringos teach you the Greek you actually need for Greece. I am Maya.

Devon: And I am Devon. Lesson three: yes, no, and getting by. Today you learn how to agree, disagree, and dither like a pro.

Maya: Seven little words today, starting with the two you will use constantly. Yes is neh.

Devon: Neh. (???)

Maya: Neh. One short syllable, just like it looks. And here is the part that will save you from total confusion: in Greek, neh means yes. It sounds exactly like the English no, but it means the opposite.

Devon: And no is oh-hee.

Maya: OH-hee. (???)

Devon: That was OH-hee. Stress the first syllable, the oh, then hee. Say it firmly, with a smile, and nobody will think you mean yes.

Maya: Maybe is EE-sohs.

Devon: EE-sohs. (????)

Maya: EE-sohs. Rhymes with Jesus, the Texas way. Perfect for when a taverna owner asks if you want more wine and you are thinking about tomorrow morning.

Devon: OK is ehn-dahk-see.

Maya: Ehn-dahk-see. (???????)

Devon: Ehn-DAHk-see, stress the dahk in the middle. It works exactly like OK in English, for everything from restaurant service to fixing the Wi-Fi in your hotel room.

Maya: Three more, because getting by means more than yes and no. Kahl-ah means good, well, fine.

Devon: Kahl-ah. (????)

Maya: Kahl-AH, stress the ah. How are you? Kahl-ah. How is the food? Kahl-ah. It is the Swiss army knife of Greek adjectives.

Devon: Oh-reh-ah means nice, great, beautiful.

Maya: Oh-reh-ah. (?????)

Devon: Oh-REH-ah, stress the reh. Say it when the ferry pulls into a harbor at sunset, or when the waiter sets down a plate of something amazing.

Maya: And tee-poh-teh means nothing.

Devon: Tee-poh-teh. (???????)

Maya: Tee-POH-teh, stress the poh. The shopkeeper asks what you are looking for, you are just browsing, you answer tee-poh-teh, just looking, no pressure at all.

Devon: Quick cultural note. In Greece, no is not always said out loud. Many Greeks

vendor.

Maya: Kahl-ah. Do you want a taste?

Devon: Neh. (???)

Maya: She said yes. Want some more?

Devon: Neh. Neh. (???)

Maya: Do you want a whole kilo?

Devon: EE-sohs. (????)

Maya: Maybe. She is thinking about her suitcase. Are we done?

Devon: Ehn-dahk-see. (???????)

Maya: OK, deal. Now the recap drill. Say them back to me. Number one: yes.

Devon: Neh. (???)

Maya: Two: no.

Devon: OH-hee. (???)

Maya: Three: maybe.

Devon: EE-sohs. (????)

Maya: Perfect. Seven new words, and you already sound like someone who belongs in a Greek market. See you tomorrow for numbers one to ten.

Devon: Kahl-ah.