

MEGA GREEK

7. Entertainment



= discussion point



= written exercise



= game



= hands-on activity

Running time

Language segment: 25-30 minutes

Cultural segment: 30-35 minutes

The theme of this lesson is entertainment, and opens up with an entertainment-themed game of Word Roots Challenge. The pupils then extend their language learning by pairing nouns with verbs to create simple sentences in Greek. The cultural segment looks at the Greek theatre, with the pupils making a character mask.

Slide 1

Introduction.

[mouse click] Your guide for today...

[mouse click] (picture of Homer)



He's holding a tablet for jotting down ideas - in fact, he looks like he's reciting some of his work out loud. He's an Ancient Greek poet called...

[mouse click] ...Homer, who wrote down the epic poems the Iliad and the Odyssey, stories based around characters and events during and after the Trojan War. These stories existed before Homer wrote them down, passed down from generation to generation as spoken (oral) poems.

[mouse click] Homer is saying "Chairete!" (*khy-ray-tay*) which means "Hello!" Students can say hello back, but have to say, "Chaire!" (*khy-ray*) because they are greeting one person (singular), whereas Homer was greeting all of us (plural).

Slide 2



Word Roots Challenge, with entertainment-related words. Over the last few weeks, the pupils have done exercises to get them thinking of English words that have Ancient Greek roots, so they should now be familiar with this concept. The game of Word Roots Challenge will be used frequently as a lesson starter from this point on in the course. Pupils can work individually or in pairs with whiteboards and markers to transliterate and then find English derivative words. All five words featured have been previously encountered.

[mouse click] μυθος - can you transliterate (use your alphabet sheets if you like)?

[mouse click] muthos/mythos, story. What English words do you think come from this? [myth, mythological, mythology]

[mouse click] μελος - can you transliterate (use your alphabet sheets if you like)?

[mouse click] melos, song (pronounced zoh-on). What English words do you think come from this? [melody, melodic, melodrama]

[mouse click] κριτης - can you transliterate (use your alphabet sheets if you like)?

[mouse click] krites, judge. What English words do you think come from this? [critic, critical, criticise]

[mouse click] μιμος - can you transliterate (use your alphabet sheets if you like)?

[mouse click] mimos, actor. What English words do you think come from this? [mime, mimic, pantomime]

[mouse click] ποιημα - can you transliterate (use your alphabet sheets if you like)?

[mouse click] poiema, something written or made. What English word do you think comes from this? [poem]

[mouse click] θεατρον - can you transliterate (use your alphabet sheets if you like)?

[mouse click] theatron, a place for seeing things. What English words do you think come from this? [theatre, theatrical]

Slide 3

A reminder of what we learned about Ancient Greek verbs last lesson.

The Ancient Greeks did have pronouns, but really didn't use them as much as we do in English. They had a much neater trick to show who was doing the action of the verb. They simply used a 'verb code' at the end of the verb, using different verb endings to show who is doing the action. As the endings come up, get the class to repeat the sound back after you.

[mouse click] If I am doing the action, the ending is ω (o)

[mouse click] If you (just one of you) are doing the action, the ending is εις (eis)

[mouse click] If he, she or it is doing the action, the ending is ει (ei)

[mouse click] If we are doing the action, the ending is ομεν (omen)

[mouse click] If you (more than one) are doing the action, the ending is ετε (ete)

[mouse click] If they are doing the action, the ending is ουσι (ousi)

[mouse click] The 'Oh!' face 🤔 appears, leading to...



The 'Oh!' game, a game designed to help the class remember the verb endings. Here are the rules:

(1) Get the pupils to all stand up behind their chairs.

(2) Appoint a leader on each table or row (depending on how your classroom is laid out).

(3) Starting with the teacher, and followed by the leader on the first table, the class recite, "ω," "εις," "ει" etc. in order, each pupil taking an ending. When a table finishes, the leader on the next table picks up, so you'll have something a bit like this:

Teacher: ω!

Table 1 Primus pupil: εις!

Table 1 pupil b: ει!

Table 1 pupil c: ομεν!

Table 1 pupil d: ετε!

Table 2 Primus: ουσι!

Table 2 pupil b: ω!

Table 2 pupil c: εις!

etc. etc. until all the pupils on the last table have had a go, then it goes back to the leader on the first table.

(4) **HOWEVER!** The rule is that if you're the one who says, "ω!" you're out of the game (the "ω!" becomes a noise of disappointment!). You have to sit down. This continues until you have only two players: then it's a face-off to see who wins!

Slide 4



Using the knowledge about verb endings, we now play the game of Quick-Fire Verbs. The class will see a series of verbs. Working in pairs and using whiteboards and markers, they need to decode each verb, looking at the beginning of the word to see what is happening and the end of the verb to see who is doing it. Pupils can transliterate into Roman characters if it helps, but by this stage they may be comfortable working with the Greek directly.

We'll be increasing complexity slightly this lesson, working with three verbs, one of which is new. Check the class remembers them...



What does **σκοπειν** (skopein) mean? [To look at]



What does **'ακουειν** (akouein) mean? [To hear/listen]



φιλειν, (philein) is a new verb. Can you guess from the picture clue what it means? [To love, which is where we get words like philosophy (love of knowledge)]

The following verbs will appear on mouse click. There is an endings reference guide on screen, to help the class (for now!). As the pupils write their translations (what's happening, who's doing it) on their whiteboards, give them a countdown, and on zero, get them to hold up their answer, word by word. The verbs are:

[mouse click] ἄκουομεν - akouomen - we hear
[mouse click] σκοπουσι - skopousi - they look at
[mouse click] φιλει - philei - he/she/it loves
[mouse click] φιλεις - phileis - you (singular) love
[mouse click] φιλετε - skopete - y'all/you (plural) love
[mouse click] ἄκουω - akouo - I hear/listen

To increase the challenge slightly...

[mouse click] the endings reference box will fade away, so pupils can try to decode the verbs endings from memory.

[mouse click] σκοπω - skopo - I write
[mouse click] φιλουσι - philousi - they love
[mouse click] ἄκουετε - akouete - y'all/you (plural) hear/listen

Slide 5

Using click-by-click animations, this slide builds on the learning about verbs by adding a noun to make simple sentences.

[mouse click] We start by seeing the verb ἄκουει, which the pupils should have no problem with, given that they've just been playing Quick Fire Verbs.

[mouse click] he/she/it hears. But let's add...

[mouse click] Ποσειδων [Poseidon] to our sentence.



What does this two-word sentence mean?

[mouse click] he/she/it disappears

[mouse click] 'Poseidon hears' is our new sentence.

Two more examples are modelled in the same way.

[mouse click] We start by seeing the verb σκοπει.
[mouse click] he/she/it looks at. But let's add...
[mouse click] 'Αρτεμις [Artemis] to our sentence.



What does this two-word sentence mean?

[mouse click] he/she/it disappears
[mouse click] 'Artemis looks at' is our new sentence.

[mouse click] We start by seeing the verb φιλει.
[mouse click] he/she/it loves. But let's add...
[mouse click] 'Αδης [Hades] to our sentence.



What does this two-word sentence mean?

[mouse click] he/she/it disappears
[mouse click] 'Hades loves' is our new sentence.

Slide 6



This slide is a snapshot of today's written exercise (mg7 noun verb.pdf), where pupils translate and illustrate simple Greek sentences. Answers appear on mouse click for in-class marking, or can be found in mg7 noun verb answerkey.pdf.

Slide 7

A visual overview of some aspects of Ancient Greek entertainment.

[mouse click] Here's Homer.

[mouse click] He was a ποιητης (poietes). Can you guess what that means?

[mouse click] A poet

[mouse click] ποιημα: this is what a poet writes - what is it?

[mouse click] [a poem]

[mouse click] This is the name of one of his works - 'Ιλιας

[mouse click] Ilias, which we know as the Iliad, the story of the Trojan War

[mouse click] This is the name of another of his works - 'Οδυσσεια

[mouse click] Odusseia, which we know as the Odyssey, the story of Odysseus and his attempts to get back home after the Trojan War.

Poetry tended to be read out loud as a form of entertainment. Performance of poetry could also be staged as plays.

[mouse click] θεατρον This is where a play would take place - what is it?

[mouse click] Theatre

[mouse click] A μιμος works in a θεατρον . What is a μιμος?

[mouse click] An actor

[mouse click] Some of the actors would form the χορος. Can you work out what this is?

[mouse click] Chorus. In modern culture, this means a refrain between verses of a song. This is because the Greek theatrical chorus used to do their 'bit' in between the main scenes of the play.

[mouse click] Actors used to wear a προσωπον, a mask, to signify their characters in the play.

[mouse click] [Picture of a mask] These had highly exaggerated features to denote the characters being played such as a grumpy old man, a scheming slave, a beautiful young woman.

So, as this lesson's cultural activity, we're going to make Greek theatre masks.

Slides 8-15



These slides guide the class through the steps of making a Greek theatre mask. The instructions are also available as a handout in mg7 masks.pdf.

Slide 16

The plenary, with Homer asking two questions related to this lesson's learning, one language-related and the other cultural.



[mouse click] 'ακουετε ? [A direct question to the class! It may take a few moments for the penny to drop. The pupils have been used to translating ακουετε as 'y'all listen', but once they've done that, they have to think of how English turns it into a question, i.e. "Are you all listening?"]

[mouse click] What English word comes from **μῖμος**, meaning 'actor'? [mime, mimic, pantomime]