

Εκπαιδευτήριο ΤΟ ΠΑΓΚΡΗΤΙΟΝ - ΓΥΜΝΑΣΙΟ

## English, English ... everywhere ?



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## English, English ... everywhere ?

### Presentation and purpose of the project

This project was conducted by Evangelia Romanou, Eleni Stefanidi, Gianni Orfanoudaki, Shahar Itach, Giannis Vamvounakis, Andreas Tsirakis, Mirka Vasilaki, Anastasia Sifaki, Evi Nioplia, Judy Tsaini and Valeria Koulasova, students of A' and B' classes in our junior high school. The aim of the research was to find out why young Greeks use so much the English language in their everyday life and in which way; also to spot whether this frequent use of English is also affecting their behavior, lifestyle and train of thought in a negative or positive way. Additionally the students tried to prove that Greek culture is still a source of inspiration for other cultures and specifically in the domain of dancing.

### History of the English language.

#### A short history of the origins and developments of English.

For every country its language is a part of the history and the culture of it. English people are proud of their language which they change with the way they spell and pronounce words. English is a charming, beautiful and strict language, as a result, English people have the same characteristics as their language. They are also strict, proud and organized.

The history of the English language started with the arrival of three Germanic tribes who invaded Britain during the 5th century AD. At that time the people of Britain spoke a Celtic language. Most of Celtic speakers were pushed west and north by the invaders. The Angles one of the tribes came from England and their language was called English from which words England and English came from. The invading Germanic tribes spoke similar languages, which in Britain developed into what we now call Old English. Old English did not sound or look like English today. Native English speakers now would have great difficulty understanding Old English. Towards the Middle English a sudden and distinct change in pronunciation started, with vowels being pronounced shorter and shorter. From 16th century the British had contact with many people from around the world. By then, other countries started learning English and one of them is Greece.

#### Why do Greeks learn English?

People had found a way of communication so that they could communicate with other countries without language difficulties. Nowadays, Greeks are learning English, from a very young age at school, because knowledge of English can provide you with a good job; also you can leave or study abroad and you can communicate when you are on holidays. When you learn another language it affects your way of speaking and behaving too. During the past years Greeks have been getting more and more into English culture. They even use English words to express words that they say in their everyday life instead of telling them in Greek. Some reasons are because saying some English words when you are talking in Greek seems more fashionable. This phenomenon has been noticed more in teenagers than adults. Adults usually use words like '*meeting*' and generally terminology that has to do with their business. Teenagers, on the other hand, use English words very often because it has become a habit. They usually use words like "*OK*", "*Whatever*", "*Forget it*", "*Get over it*", "*Yes or No*", "*Anyway*". Also, they write in English at graffiti's and on their notebooks because it is more fashionable than using their mother tongue.

As for the education in England, a lot of foreign people have the question if English student are being taught another language except for their mother tongue. Well, for years now, educationalists, economists and official reports have been bemoaning the poor state of language -learning in British schools and the low level of foreign language ability in general among the British population. The British workforce, say these people, is in danger of being left behind in an increasingly internationalized job-

market. And yet, when the national curriculum was slimmed down in the early years of this century, "modern foreign languages" was one of the subjects that was left out. English children are the only pupils in Europe who are allowed to drop foreign languages completely from their studies after the age of 14. Fewer than ten per cent learn a foreign language beyond the age of 16. Rather than trying to educate the man in foreign languages, the present policy is to train a very small population as language specialists.

In Wales, the situation is different. The provision for a "foreign language" is both English and Welsh until the age of 16.

### British fashion and its international effect

Nowadays the British Flag is really popular all over the world and clothes are decorated with its colours; the Union flag, often known as the Union Jack, is the national flag of the UK. It is a combination of the cross of St. George, the cross of St. Andrew and the cross of St. Patrick.



Also many famous designers we admire are from England. **McQueen's** rise to power is a fashion fairy-tale all of its own. The East End taxi driver's son, born in 1969 also **McQueen** replaced John Galliano as head of Givenchy haute couture. But by 2001 the Gucci group had acquired a controlling stake in McQueen's own label and the designer left both Givenchy.

**Stella McCartney's** stratospheric success story has only a little to do with her fabulous connections. Born in 1971, she graduated from Central Saint Martins in 1995. In 2001 **McCartney** left Chloe and re-launched her eponymous line, this time backed by the Gucci group. The first **Stella McCartney** store opened in New York's meatpacking district in 2003, followed a year later by additional shops in London and Los Angeles. Summer 2005 saw her latest project unveiled, a new collection of keep-fit wear designed in conjunction with Adidas, with a special collection for HM launched later the same year.

**Vivienne Westwood** is a legend in her own lifetime, a designer who inspires many other designers and who makes clothes that delight her loyal customers. Since severing business ties with McLaren, **Westwood** has gone on to become one of the industry's most revered figures.

When the great Cristobal **Balenciaga** closed the doors of his couture house in 1968 he lamented, "There is no one left worth dressing." For decades the house lay dormant until 26 year old Frenchman Nicolas Ghesquire was appointed creative director of **Balenciaga** in 1997 after the departure of Josephus Thimister.

Yorkshire born Christopher Bailey has become something of a household name, thanks to his sterling work as creative director of **Burberry**, the British company he joined back in 2001. Yet Bailey, born in 1971, is far from an overnight sensation, having previously notched up impressive fashion credentials. On completing a Master's degree at the Royal College of Art in London, Bailey worked in New York for **Donna Karan** from 1994 to 1996, before being hired by Tom Ford as a senior designer of women-

swear at **Cucci** in Milan, from 1996 to 2001.

### English On Signs And Products

Apart from words or phrases in our everyday life, we also use English on the signs of the road, on shop signs and almost on everything that has to do with tourism and with the consumption of products. We always see English on the signs of the road, which write the name of the place you are, or add some information about the place you visit; the words are written first in Greek and then in English e.g. "*Ηράκλειο:Irakleio*". That's a way to guide foreign people to your city and to do it you have to give them names of places written in a language you both know. Sometimes, foreign people get confused because the translation from Greek to English is wrong so, they cannot understand it and they sometimes find it funny. Also, shops in Greek cities have English names.

In touristic areas we mostly see English on brochures which give information for a sight you are visiting or at the menu of a restaurant. Also, tourist guides speak basically in English and for most of them it is their mother tongue. Finally, the products in the supermarkets have instructions, information or even recipes written in English.



Greeklish from the words Greek (Greek) and English (English), also known as Grenchish, is Greek language written in the Latin alphabet. It became better known by users on Facebook. It is a kind of transcription.

Greeklish is used on the Internet when the Greek people communicate via e-mail or instant messaging. Also sometimes it is used to type SMS messages on the mobile phone, and among the Greeks who have been living for a long time in English-speaking countries. In the past it was difficult to recognize the Greek character of the computers, or even provide similar support to all computer systems. Today's operating system supports many more languages, including Greek; therefore it is easier to communicate among the Greeks in their native language on the Internet. But many people are still using Greeklish because it is faster to type and there is no need to use correct spelling. This leads sometimes to a debate about its use since it is not easily readable by users who are not accustomed to this way of writing.

Greeklish may either follow the rules of the Greek spelling, or may be vocal, that is to aim at phonetic Greek. Most people, however, use a "mixed" system, which combines the theme of vocal spelling without the typical standardization of the writing.

Around 2004, a movement against the use of Greeklish appeared in many Greek online forums where Greeklish was the main mode of communication. Administrators threatened to oust the users continuing to use Greeklish, making obligatory the use of Greek, but the use of Greeklish failed to become a reason for exclusion from the forum.

The reason for this is that the text written in Greeklish was considered unsavory and difficult to read compared to a text written in the Greek alphabet. It is believed by many that the use of Greeklish threatens the integrity of the Greek language while others disagree and support its use.

There is often the English translation into the Greek alphabet and then converted into Greeklish. For example if a user wants to write "this is hard to read" it becomes "dis iz xarnt tou rint". Thus the alphabet is Latin but the vocal spelling is Greek.

One can argue that this is unsavory, but this is precisely the purpose of such use, keeping ironic distance from the transcription of alphabets. This use is particularly prevalent on the mailing list Hellas.

The widespread use of Greeklish in large texts is now rare. Its use is usually limited to small informal messages between friends.

### Examples

Καλημέρα, πώς είστε;

Voice Greeklish: kalimera, pos iste

Grammatically Greeklish: kalhmera, pws eiste?

Typing as the keyboard is in Greek, while in reality it is set to English: Kalhm; era, p; vw e; isteq

#### **theta**

Greeklish 1: thita

Greeklish 2: 8hta

Greeklish 3: uita

Typing as the keyboard is in Greek, while in reality it is set to English: U; hta

The use of the number 8 for the letter Θ/ θ is frequent, or u (because u and i are in the same key to Greek keyboards and 8 because of the visual similarity with the Greek letter θ), or it may be th.

#### **For the letter E / ε is used e.**

frequent use of 3 for the letter Ε/ ξ (due to visual similarity). But it can be written as ks or x.

For the Ψ / ψ can be used to combine ps or y or the number 4 or c (because c and y are the same key).

It is easily seen that the lack of early standardization has allowed many alternative forms for some letters, so that every Greek writes his "own" Greeklish, which may be a mixture of voice and spelling. Greeklish now is increasingly used in messages via mobile, online, in ads and even in books. In 2000 the book Exegesis of John Androutsopoulos was one of the first books written in Greeklish and it was mainly used by young people.

### Results from the excessive use of Greeklish

The effect of this phenomenon is that more and more young people write misspelled or have problems in their syntax. The abuse made by young people will lead gradually to forget their language. Users claim that if the only use is on the computer and the mobile phone, it does not affect the written word. They do not understand the seriousness of the problem. Of course this phenomenon has deeper roots. In 1980 many shops and Greek inscription brands had English names. The TV "brought" in the fashion of the English words. This resulted in borrowing English words in Greek. In 2003 the English words cease to be incorporated into the Greek language now written in English. Thus, increasingly used Latin. Also this led many to use the English words against the Greek (e.g. internet instead of the Internet). Then the Ministry of Education decided to fight the problem by adding more ancient Greek to the school curriculum. This move was proved wrong since most students do not like the Greek language because of the difficulty of the Ancient Greek Language.

### Why is everyone panicking about the alteration of the language?

A language is our national identity. The deepest thoughts of a person are expressed through language. Therefore, many people are trying to protect the language, sometimes even by exaggerating. Should people, especially young people, understand the seriousness of the problem? The language of our culture is our history, our national identity. Our language can be saved and we can start with the Greeklish. To sum up, I would suggest that we stop using Greeklish, and let ourselves make spelling mistakes and learn from these mistakes. This will keep our contact with the Greek language alive on a daily basis. So it will not be 'forgotten'. We must finally act against this and not criticize people's views on the protection of the Greek language as extreme nationalist acts. Because, as it has already been said, language is the way people think. Once you 'kill' a language its culture 'dies' with it.

Which are the characteristics of the body language?

Have Greeks been equally influenced in their body language too?

When we speak, we use much more than just words. We also communicate with our face, our hands, and even our whole body. This kind of communication is called "body language" or "non-verbal communication". Non-verbal communication not only includes how we move our body, but also hand gestures, facial expressions including eye contact, and even how we vary the tone of our voice. Psychologists estimate that between 60% and 80% of all of our communication with other people is non-verbal. We communicate a wide range of information non-verbally. We also show our feelings, attitudes, moods, hopes and wishes far better with non-verbal language than with words. That is because many times words do not come easy or they are just not good enough to express what we really want to say. Hence we let the eyes or even the body do most of the talking!

Not only there is a large quantity of non-verbal communication in nature, but the quality of that communication is of a high level as well. For example, if a person says something positive while his face looks negative, which are we more likely to believe? In most cases, we will believe the non-verbal facial expression. In the end, his words will not succeed in getting his message across. If we want to succeed in our everyday conversations, we must just as well learn to "speak" with our body!

Trying hard to use "body language" will make you seem a bit awkward or even sound a bit strange. Instead, you should allow your body language to naturally follow your words. If you say something positive, then your face, body and hands should express that positive feeling too. If you are expressing a sad or worried feeling, then your face, body and hands should change along with that feeling.

More specifically, let's talk about hand gestures. Using our hands, we can emphasize our main points, remind our listener how many main points we have, and let our listener know when we are changing topics. A dramatic movement of the hand or moving our hands wide apart can signal how important something is. We can even use two fingers, either close together or far apart, to show how big something is. To show a very strong feeling we could clap our hands together loudly or make a fist (put our fingers in a ball as though we want to hit someone) and hit a table or desk. To show that we welcome someone, on the other hand, we can hold our hands out with the palms up, and maybe move them towards a chair to invite someone to sit next to us. Some hand gestures that are popular are waving to someone as a greeting or holding your index finger and thumb into a circle to mean "okay". However, there are some countries where these can have bad meanings! It's important to be careful when using certain common gestures. Don't assume that everyone in the world understands one gesture in the same way. Still, you can use basic gestures most of the time, and then when you see a strange reaction from your listener, you can make sure to emphasize what you really wanted to say by using words and a different hand movement.

Facial expressions are a very common way that we use to communicate every day. When **speaking English**, it's generally good to smile at your listener from time to time, especially when he or she has

made an interesting comment. Also nod your head up and down to show you are really interested. From time to time, you can add a sound of agreement, such as "Uh huh" or even just "mmm", to show you are listening. Above all, it is important to maintain eye contact while listening. Sometimes it is okay to move your eyes away when you are speaking, because you do have to think about what you want to say. However the listener should almost always look at the speaker without moving the eyes away.

If, instead of standing, you are speaking to someone while talking, you can show your friendliness and "openness" by leaning a little bit toward the speaker. But do not forget to keep your distance and do not get too friendly because British people like to have their own private space. Try to avoid folding your arms in front of your chest. Many people consider folding your arms as a cold, "protective" gesture. Instead, you could have your hands on your knees or one hand on your knee and the other at your side. You can fold your arms sometimes if you wish, but don't hold them there for a long time. As long as your hands move from time to time, the listener will not think that you are unfriendly.

Although Greeks don't seem to have been influenced in their body language by the British, since they are not reluctant to use their body to convey any kind of message, we have to admit that English people have made popular to all of us "*Lovely weather we are having*" which they say in order to fill the gap when they have nothing left to say. This well-known stereotype that the British are always talking about can be explained in the combination of the demands of both privacy and informality. Unlike many others, this stereotype is actually true to life but constant remarks about the weather at chance meetings are not the result of the polite conventions. They are not obligatory. Rather, they are the result of the fact that, on the one hand, personal questions would be rude, while at the same time, silence would also be rude. The weather is a very convenient topic with which to fill the gap.

To conclude, we would like to emphasize that:

1. The importance of a good knowledge of body language in terms of human relationships. In order to avoid instances of misinterpretation and of a communication gap, one should know how to correctly use one's body so as to transfer the right message to his/her interlocutor.
2. English atmosphere is all around us, from the signs on the road to the language and the way we communicate. However, I believe, we are involving our selves more in the English culture than it's necessary because things like Greeklish is something that can even make us forget who we really are. If it keeps going like this, there will not be Greece, Greeks and the Greek history and culture. They will all be gone. So we have to make ourselves think: *do we really want something like this to happen?* If not let's do our best and know this beautiful and rich country as necessary without forgetting who we really are.

## Modern dance influences (Greece -England)

### Introduction:

Dance is a form of expression that uses bodily movements that are rhythmic, patterned, and usually accompanied by music. One of the oldest art forms, dance is found in every culture and is performed for different purposes - from tribal ,ceremonial, magical to theatrical, social, and simply aesthetic.

In Europe, tribal dances often evolved into folk dances, Dance that has developed without a choreographer and that reflects the traditional life of the common people of a country or region. The term was coined in the 18th century and is sometimes used to distinguish between dances of the people and those of the aristocracy (like ballet – and other forms of ballroom dances).

Courtly and formal dances of the 16th – 20th centuries often developed from folk dances; these include dance types like : the gavotte, gigue, mazurka, minuet, polka, samba, tango, and waltz.

"Circle dance" is the most common folk dance name for a style of traditional dance , and one of the most common in Greek traditional dance .



**Greece** is one of the few countries in the world where folk dances are as alive today as they were in ancient times. Dance has always played an important role in the life of a Greek.

It is an expression of human feelings and everyday life. The Greeks danced at religious festivals and ceremonies; they danced to ensure fertility; to prepare for war and to celebrate victories; they danced at weddings; to overcome depression and to cure physical illness.



Almost every dance has a story to tell. Dance was regarded as one of the highest forms of art. Plato agreed with his mentor Socrates that every educated man should know how to dance gracefully by which he meant the manly exercises that kept the body strong and healthy and ready to do its duty on the battlefield. The Pyrrhic, or weapon dance (a form of mock combat) taken from Crete and perfected in Sparta, was the ideal.



*“The dance, of all the arts, is the one that most influences the soul. Dancing is divine in its nature and is the gift of the gods” ... Plato*

### The development of modern dance

What started in ancient Greece as a “god dance” that had no choreography and structure for the movement, with time turned into tribal dances with basic choreography. The tribal dances



Fig. 104.—Representation of a Ballet before Henri III. and his Court, in the Gallery of the Louvre.—Fac-simile of an Engraving on Copper of the “Ballet de la Reine,” by Balizant de Beaujeu (Paris, Renard Peleman, 1592.)

often evolved into folk dances, and in the 15<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> century developed in to court display of aristocratic weddings in the Italian renaissance , improved in time developed into Ballet.

The ballet spread all around Europe from the court dances and became refined by innovations in choreography and technique, with the formation of new companies, including London's Royal Ballet (1931).

In the 20th century, modern dance introduced a new mode of expressive movement, who took ancient Greek art as the inspiration for their free style of dancing and natural movements which were inspired by the classical Greek arts of folk dances.

Connection can be seen clearly in the work of Isadora Duncan  
Considered to be the most influential figure in developing modern ballet.



## Isadora Duncan

**She was a dancer, considered by many to be the creator of modern dance.**

Born in the United States, she moved to London at the age of 22 trying to perfect her ballet.

She rejected the conventions of classical ballet steps and based her technique on improvisation, emotion and the human form.

She believed that classical ballet, with its strict rules of posture and formation, “was ugly and against nature”.

So she used natural Conventional dance costumes, Greek tunics.



Inspired by the freedom of the body movement in ancient Greek dance she gradually developed parallel in Greece and England the characteristics of modern ballet. Living here life between Greece and England ( at some point spent also time in Paris and Russia) dedicating here life to the research of

dance , teaching and spreading her new technique all around Europe .



Duncan became so famous that she inspired artists and authors to create sculpture, jewelry, poetry, novels, photographs, watercolors, prints and paintings of her.

## Her Legacy

Duncan restored dance to a high place among the arts. Breaking with convention, she traced the art of dance back to its roots as a sacred art. She developed within this idea, free and natural movements inspired by the classical Greek arts, folk dances, social dances, nature and natural forces as well as an approach to the new American athleticism which included skipping, running, jumping, leaping and tossing. With free-flowing costumes, bare feet and loose hair, Duncan restored dancing to a new vitality using the solar plexus and the torso as the generating force for all movements to follow. Her celebrated simplicity was oceanic in depth and Duncan is credited with inventing what later came to be known as modern dance.



### CENTER FOR DANCE "ISADORA DUNCAN AND RAYMOND" HALL OF DANCE

Center "Isadora Duncan and Raymond," Research Center of Dance, was founded in 1980 by the City of Byron. It is located in a historic building Kopanas hill in Athens.

This building was conceived, designed and built in 1903 by Isadora Duncan's brother Raymond, who based his plans on the model of the Palace of Agamemnon at Mycenae. It was intended to house the dream of Isadora Duncan "a Temple of Dance" in the cradle of the civilization that has so influenced and inspired.

With a view of the Acropolis and the Saronic Gulf, Hill Kopanas (height equal to that of the Acropolis) was chosen as the ideal place.

City Hall Vyronas, paying tribute to the work and contribution of Isadora Duncan in history and Greek culture, started to restore the building, work done in 1992.

**Isadora Duncan Hall of Dance:**

Nowadays the Isadora and Raymond Duncan Dance research center has as a priority to advance knowledge, information, experimentation and creativity in the field of dance and provide support and inspiration to young artists by collaboration and cultural exchanges with international artists. **Supported financially by the British council**, it is also expanding towards creating a center of research and choreographic creation, in order to support young artists.

